

CALVARY CHAPEL OMSK, RUSSIA

*"Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who alone works wonders"*

Psalm 72:18

Dear brothers and sisters,

It's about time to give you an update on what's been happening this winter. We appreciate all your prayers and support of the Lord's work in Calvary Chapel Omsk.

We still get snow showers but spring has started showing its face in our region as well☺.

I want to thank all of you for keeping my back and my knee in your prayers. I have ways to go on treating it but I can surely say it's much better than it was a year ago. I was trying to see a doctor who specializes in treating the knees, but there was no time in his schedule to be able to make it. Back in December while looking at his schedule I saw that there was a spot the following day and sure enough when I called the clinic they said that I could come the next day. I did visit him and he told me that there was no need for another operation which was a great relief as there was coming a lot on my hands. One of God's wonders as He leads us - He opens doors which seem to be closed!

On December, 22 we welcomed Mia as she came into this world and became a blessing to her parents, Ilya&Natasha! They had to stay in the hospital for a month as she was a little earlier and it turned out that she needs to take meds for her life to treat whatever was broken in her gene and caused her adrenal not to work properly. We hope to see her in church this month and pray for God's miracle in her body!

Christmas

As a church we had our Christmas service on December, 29. It was a special time as we had new people joining us. The children were playing and singing a song while the little ones played a skit. We had time in the Word and worship and then it was followed by a great Christmas lunch!

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Conferences

January 14-16 – we had our first gathering in the new year. We got together with pastors and also some of the church leaders in Ramenskoe (Moscow region) and spent 3 days in God's Word, worship, prayers and fellowship with each other. It was a blessing to have Joe Guglielmo with us again from the US. Retreats like that encourage you in the ministry so much! I was asked to share one of the sessions as we discussed "Discouragement" and we also led one of the worship nights with Sasha.



Right after the conference was over we led a church service in CC Kashirskaya in Moscow and did a worship night in CC Ramenskoe on Saturday and then led the church service in CC Ramenskoe on Sunday! What a privilege to serve God's people in spite of all!

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February 6-8 - a team of ladies from our church was blessed to join 180 women at the annual women's conference in Ramenskoe at the Christian retreat center they've used for the last several years. Tanya did a workshop and Masha led worship. It was a really wonderful time for all the ladies and God's Word was powerful!



February 16-22 - I was invited by Far Reaching Ministries (Wes and Vicky Bentley) to join a leadership conference which took place in Tbilisi, Georgia! Much needed time to be with fellow workers and friends, listening to God's wisdom and being encouraged by fellowship with so many who came. I haven't seen Gary Malkus for 6 years, so it was a blessing to catch up! FRM is surely a blessing and is used powerfully to help so many who are in need around the world!

It was our 3rd and final trip to get the blessing for our future house! So many have helped us. There will be an additional update coming - we are in the process, but it's a miracle and our hearts are in awe!

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Darya (Dia) Butakova

She started her second semester at the Bible college in Tbilisi in February. She continues to serve in Calvary Chapel Tbilisi and I was blessed to see her and attend the church (right before we left) to meet the pastors and some of her friends there. The college plans two outreach trips this semester, but one may be cancelled due to all the things around Iran in that area - so, please pray for God's leading and protection.

Sasha and Tanya couldn't even believe it, but they were able to see her twice this winter during all our trips and consider it a wonder which the Lord blessed them with!

We are still looking for support for her studies - it's 3900\$ a semester. Grateful to all the blessings you have sent to cover her first and second semesters. Her parents and our church cover her food and other expenses. If the Lord puts it on your heart to bless Dia - please send it using the info below!

winter 2025/2026

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Upcoming events

- Workshops on creationism – March 28-29;
 - Outreach concerts with Rodrigo Rodrigues – April 10-12;
 - Resurrection Sunday service – April 12;
 - Our annual church conference in Omsk – May 1-3.
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Please, pray with us for:

- Russia/Ukraine/Iran/Israel...;
- All the upcoming events the Lord has for us this spring;
- Dia Butakova – her studies at the Bible college, outreaches and her ministry in the church;
- Slava&Veronica – a new young couple in our church – their spiritual growth;
- Ivan and Sofia – their spiritual renewal and their little daughter's health problems with the genitourinary system;
- Our own church house.

Thanks again for taking time to read, pray and support us! Blessings to you and your families!

In His grace, Max.

There are two ways of sending the support to us:

1. You can send it straight to Maxim Gorbunov, account #888764 at Adelfi Credit Union

2. Make Checks Payable To – Calvary Chapel of Phelan
On memo portion of check, write – Omsk, Russia
Mail To – Calvary Chapel of Phelan, P.O. Box 291149,
Phelan, CA 92329-1149

(Any Questions, Contact – Ann Litch 760-868-5102 ext. 119)