

## CALVARY CHAPEL OMSK, RUSSIA

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear brothers and sisters,

As I write this letter, my heart is burdened and many hearts are troubled. I could never imagine that it would go that far between Russia and Ukraine. We have so much in common, many mixed marriages and many people have relatives in Ukraine. We're praying as never before as ordinary people are victims of the whole situation on both sides. Today is the second meeting between our countries to try solving the conflict. We thought COVID-19 was bad – within a week it seems like not that big anymore. Please be in prayer for believers in the churches to continue in unity, that they won't be divided as satan is right there to sow it and some don't really think through before they talk or express their opinion.

In the middle of January covid has hit me hard as well as my mom. I've run away from it for almost two years. The hardest was having no appetite and no desire to do anything. That was gone as soon as the treatment was changed due to the fever that I had. I was so thankful to the Lord that my mom went through it better than I did! Since then many have had omicron in our church and are doing good, though some are still treating the consequences.

We continue to meet and conduct our regular services, praying more for peace and looking up to Jesus! This Sunday will mark the 25 years of Calvary Chapel in Omsk. We are thankful and grateful to many who had invested into our church and are still praying and taking care of us! Alexey Mironov from CC Novosibirsk and Misha Andronov from CC Sochi will be our guest speakers as they were the ones who were in Omsk back in 1997 helping to start our church! What a special treat! Please be praying for this service – we would love to see those whom we haven't seen for a while.

### Christmas

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December 26 - Roma, one of the leaders in our church, invited everyone he could among his relatives and friends and we did see many come for the Christmas service! Some of them heard the Christmas story from the Bible for the first time in their lives! There was a new guy, Ivan, who really liked the church and keeps coming every Sunday. He is only 15 and we are praying that he will receive Jesus into his heart as well as others! Ivan, who does evangelism, is praying about meeting one on one with him for a Bible study which the guy is interested in.

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### Youth conference

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January 3-6 in St.Petersburg - Sasha and Masha went there to help lead worship and serve the youth. And we were blessed to send several from our youth as well. They all came refreshed and shared with the church the important things they heard from the Lord through the teachings!



Winter 2021-2022

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### Ivan&Sophia's engagement

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January 1 – Ivan proposed and Sophia said “yes” and they shared their joy with the church! We are taking them through a counseling course and they want to get married in June!



Winter 2021-2022



### Evangelism

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Here's what Ivan writes:

"One day I received a note from a guy through on-line evangelism. We have been staying in touch since then. It took many hours and prayers to help him with continuous thoughts about committing suicide. He told me that those thoughts are gone. We are still in touch and I often talk about spiritual matters with him. I believe he has really felt the Lord's presence in his life!

Another story is also connected with on-line evangelism. It was a girl this time. We have talked about the things that troubled her heart and I was able to invite her to our first meeting this semester at our Intervarsity group. So when she came she told us that she was at a meeting like that 2 years ago and she was able to remember the familiar faces. I could tell that the Lord was knocking at her heart! She also came to our second meeting for the Bible study. It's great to see how the Lord works in a person's heart to hear the Gospel.

February 17<sup>th</sup> was an International day of spontaneous kindness. Our pastor suggested that we use that day to bless people and share the Gospel. We decided to start our conversations with people through some kind deed - in our case we decided to visit coffee shops and pay for somebody's drink. We came to the first coffee shop, prayed with our pastor and I went inside. Within a few minutes two ladies came in and I was able to tell them about the special day and pay for their coffee. They were surprised. I gave them the New Testaments. Then we went to a different place. There were 2 coffee shops there. I went into one of them and spent there 5 or 7 minutes. One lady came and her order was free for her due to a coupon that she had. Another one was in hurry, you can tell. So I decided to visit the second one, praying to talk to the right person from the Lord. The girl came in and wanted to get a sandwich. I started the conversation about the special day and wanted to pay, but she has already tried to pay and it didn't work somehow and I was able to bless her with paying for her sandwich. I was shocked how the Lord makes things

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possible. I gave her the New Testament and suggested to talk about it. She agreed and we talked for a while. She asked questions about the Lord, the Bible, the church and I could see that she was really interested. During our conversation she asked what was I doing there and I was able to tell her that I was there to share the Good news. It turned out that at first she was at the first coffee shop as well and then decided to get a sandwich in the second one! How wonderfully the Lord can make things work! That conversation was worth it! I have told her about God's love, about Christ's sacrifice and told her several stories from the Bible. At one point she said that it might be what she was looking for at the moment. I gave her my phone number at the end and here's what she wrote last Sunday:

«Ivan, good morning. I want to thank you for the meeting that we had and everything we were able to discuss! It was a real sign for me in my life and I like what is happening in my life now. A lot has changed since our conversation. I believe that Jesus loves us 100%. I wish you joy and happiness»

I was blessed to read it. I'm so thankful that I can be an instrument in God's hands and He trusts me people and their lives"

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### Women's conference

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January 28-30 - Our ladies have attended this conference again this year. Tanya was asked to lead one of the main sessions. It was a great time to be away and hear from the Lord!

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### Men's retreat

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February 23 - CC Novosibirsk hosted a one day retreat! We were blessed to be a part of it and serve there by teaching, doing worship and ministering through fellowship!

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### Upcoming events:

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- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CC Omsk - March 6;
  - Easter service - April 24;
  - Our annual church conference in Omsk - April 30 - May 2;
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### Please, pray with us for:

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- Russia and Ukraine...;
- Everything the Lord has for us this spring;
- Strength and peace;
- The men's and women's Bible study groups;
- Roma and Vika - he was called February 13 by his company to attend a workshop in Turkey and they were able to go there all together with their children - with a current situation they have to make a choice now and decide whether they come back and Roma has no job, or go to Bulgaria and work from there;
- All the new people and for them to receive the Lord;
- Ivan - the ministry of evangelism;
- Our own church building;

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

In His grace, Max.

*If God puts it on your heart to support us in any way, please read the information below:*

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 -

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