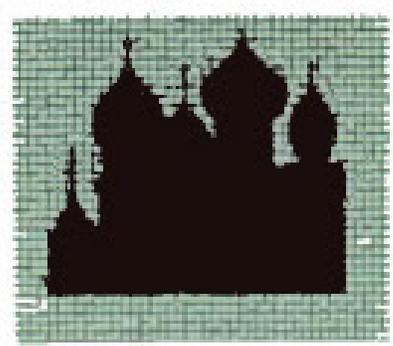


The Russian Bible Society
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Giving the Pure Word of God to the Language Groups in the Commonwealth of Independent States

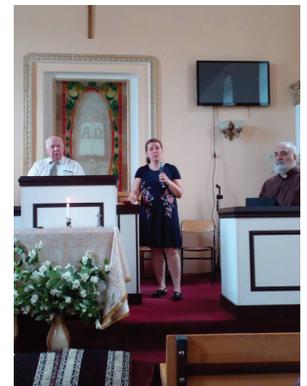


Trip to Republic of Georgia

I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for the safety and leadership during a 9½ day (including travel) trip to meet with our valued friends and co-laborers in the Republic of Georgia.

What a privilege to speak on the Saturday evening of my arrival at a house meeting north of Grace Baptist Church with a group of about ten precious souls. The burden of my heart was to speak to these women about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pastor Arutiunov interpreted for me, and after 1½ hours, we made our way back to the home of Pastor Arutiunov, which is located next to the church building with a paved yard in between.

On Sunday I joined the congregation of between forty and fifty (not including the children and youth) in prayer and praise. With this opportunity to preach again, my burden was to preach the gospel. What a joy to have our long-time friend, Eliso Beradze, translate for me. What a joy to see many of the members which I knew from previous visits. Afterwards I spent some time with the widows (about 15). I also met and talked briefly with two of Pastor Arutiunov's daughters-in-law, one from Georgia and the other from Belarus, and then had a delicious meal in Maria's Kitchen (Pastor Arutiunov's wife).



Eliso Translating for Me

My body clearly told me it was time to retire to my beautiful sleeping quarters attached to the Arutiunovs' house and next to Sunday school rooms and the church office, where several of our printing projects (books in Georgian, Bibles in Russian and Georgian, Georgian New Testaments, etc) are stored.

We left on Monday as early as possible, as we had to go through the capital city of Tbilisi (1.3 million souls) to get to the main road going to Batumi. After the city boundary we traveled on interstate-like highways until we got to the mountain area with only single lane winding roads. This road is the main road between Turkey and Tbilisi, and semis slow the journey down to a crawl on both sides of the mountain. We arrived in Batumi, got gas (which is very expensive), got a clean and very reasonable hotel (about \$40.00 a night), checked in and found a Turkish restaurant with great food.

We then met with Brother Arkadi Movsesyan at the Grace Baptist Mission and spoke together for about three hours. As you know from our previous *Bible Journal*, Brother Movsesyan resigned January 1st and asked to live in the apartment connected with the church building until the end of May so his boys could complete the school year. Pray for the Lord to supply suitable housing for them immediately, as the family had no accommodations arranged when I left Georgia. We enjoyed a delicious meal with Arkadi, Milena, Daniel and Michel. Afterwards, back at the hotel, I met Alexi, a faithful brother who attends the services at the mission. Then Pastor Arutiunov met further with Alexi and another attender, Alexander.



*Widows
Grace Baptist Church*

continued on page 2

Trip to Georgia (continued from page 1)

Pray for Pastor Arutiunov, as he plans to go to Batumi, perhaps in June, and spend a week (two Sundays in preaching and visitation). In the meantime, Brother Arkadi has agreed to help with Sunday preaching and Alexi with Sunday teaching. There is a desperate need for a Baptist church in the growing town of Batumi. We left early Tuesday morning for the arduous trip back to Tbilisi, not stopping for meals or gas, and again feasted in Maria's Kitchen.

I spoke again on Wednesday at 12:00 at the church on "The Power and Influence of One Person" using Caleb, Nehemiah, Esther and Christ as illustrations. This was followed by questions and answers on various topics. In the evening we visited the garages which we rent for the main warehousing of Bibles, New Testaments and books. I met the two Georgian men from whom we rent the garages, both older than I, one 86 and the other 84. Pastor Arutiunov translated for me, and I established a good rapport with them and invited them to the Thursday 12:00 meeting at the church. Again, that meeting room was filled and just as we were getting ready to sing, both of these men walked in. It was my privilege to again preach the gospel and teach on the benefits of Christ's resurrection in justification and sanctification. This meeting was again followed by a question and answer period. Before the men left to be taken home by Pastor Arutiunov, I exhorted them to repent of their sins and receive Christ as Lord and Savior and meet me in heaven.

Friday I met with Pastor Arutiunov, discussing finances and projects. Later we met with an American missionary and a brother from the church where he serves as mission pastor. They had been paying \$25.00 a copy for Russian and Georgian Bibles. We agreed to supply them with a total of about 500 Georgian Bibles, Russian Bibles, English-Georgian New Testaments and various Georgian books. We simply asked them not to sell them, as American Christians had already paid for their printing.

On May 18th I awoke at 1:00 am with problems with my breathing machine (C-PAP). I finished packing, got to Tbilisi Airport at 3:00 am, flew at 5:00 am to Munich and then on to Washington DC, arriving in Asheville May 18th at 7:32 pm. What a long day.

Hallelujah for safety and journey mercies and for two other divine appointments to witness to a medical doctor and two boys from USA visiting Germany. One was very interested and received a tract.

The Battle for the Estimated 4½ Million Precious Souls in Georgia

The Georgian Orthodox Church has the whole country in spiritual darkness. "To be a Georgian is to be Georgian Orthodox" is an oft-repeated phrase heard over and over.

The American missionary illustrated this vividly. They had a Bible club or Sunday school which five children from the same public school class attended. When the teacher heard about them going to a Baptist church, she told the girls to stand and said to the other children, "These children are attending the church of Satan. Have nothing to do with them."

On the trip to Batumi, we passed through and by hundreds of villages — all without a gospel witness.

The major sin is drunkenness. Pastor Arutiunov, who was converted from drunkenness, has a special ministry to men held by Demon Drink.

Also, as far as I know, in my study of revival there has never been a cultural changing revival in that part of the Lord's vineyard. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Our Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 16:18, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Pray that the remnant church in Georgia will have personal revival and start an invasion into the spiritual darkness throughout Georgia.

Pray that each born-again pastor will know a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:17-18). Pray that each one will get suited up and become wrestlers and overcomers.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

— Ephesians 6:10-17

PERSONAL REVIVAL by A.W. Tozer

Committing to Personal Revival

One consequence of our failure to see clearly the true nature of revival is that we wait for years for some supernatural manifestation that never comes, overlooking completely our own individual place in the desired awakening. Whatever God may do for a church must be done in the single unit, the one certain man or woman. Some things can happen only to the isolated, single person; they cannot be experienced en masse. Statistics show, for instance, that 100 babies are born in a certain city on a given day. Yet the birth of each baby is for that baby a unique experience, an isolated, personal thing. Fifty people die in a plane crash; while they die together they die separately, one at a time, each one undergoing the act of death in a loneliness of soul as utterly as if he alone had died. Both birth and death are experienced by the individual in a loneliness as complete as if only that one person had ever known them.

Three thousand persons were converted at Pentecost, but each one met his sin and his Savior alone. The spiritual birth, like the natural one, is for each one a unique, separate experience shared in by no one. And so with that uprush of resurgent life we call revival. It can come to the individual only. Though a visitation of divine life reaches seventy-five persons at once (as among the Moravian Brethren at Dusseldorf), yet it comes to each one singly. There can exist no collective body of believers that can be revived apart from the units that compose the body.

Understood aright these are truths full of great encouragement and good hope. Nothing can hinder you or me from experiencing the revival we need. It is a matter for God and the solitary heart. Nothing can prevent the spiritual rejuvenation of the soul that insists upon having it. Though that solitary man must live and walk among persons religiously dead, he may experience the great transformation as certainly and as quickly as if he were in the most spiritual church in the world.

A Formula for Personal Revival

- Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself. Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual progress. The contented soul is a stagnant soul.
- Set your face toward a sweeping transformation of your life. We must throw our whole soul into our desire for God.
- Put yourself in the way of blessing. To desire revival, and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotion, is to wish one way and walk another.
- Do a thorough job of repenting. Hasty repentance means a shallow spiritual experience. Let godly sorrow do her healing work. Our habit of toleration of sin keeps us in our half-dead condition.
- Make restitution wherever possible. If you owe a debt pay it. If you have quarreled with anyone, go as far as you can to achieve reconciliation. As fully as possible, make the crooked straight.
- Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount and other such New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct in the way of righteousness. An honest man with an open Bible and a pad and pencil is sure to find out what's wrong with him quickly.
- Be serious minded. There must be a radical change in your habits, or there will not be any permanent improvement in your interior life.
- Narrow down your interests. Too many projects use up time and energy without bringing us nearer to God. Open the doors of your heart to Christ and close it against the world and sin.
- Begin to witness. Find something to do for God, and your fellowman. Make yourself available. Do anything you are asked to do. Learn to obey.
- Have faith in God. Begin to expect. Look up toward the throne. All heaven is on your side. God will not disappoint you.

These suggestions constitute a formula for personal revival. When personal revival is experienced, there is no knowing how far it may spread. The Church is in desperate need of a spiritual resurrection and it can only come through the revived individual.

“Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.” (Psalm 138:6-8)

RESPONSE COUPON

YES, HERE IS MY GIFT OF SUPPORT TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF PRECIOUS SOULS

_____ \$25.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ \$150.00 _____ \$300.00 _____ OTHER

_____ Georgian Projects

_____ Georgian University Student Ministry

_____ Georgian Widows

_____ Ukrainian Translation

Prayer Needed — Future Projects

We discussed needs for future projects in the Republic of Georgia with Pastor Arutiunov. They are almost out of complete Georgian Bibles. The Russian Bibles they have are printed on thick paper and not easy to handle. We've also been asked to consider printing the Goetze Russian Bible, as Christians love this first study Bible even though it has two letters used in an older Russian alphabet.

Another need is to translate and typeset the Georgian New Testament from the Greek Received Text, as the most recent Georgian New Testament was translated from the *Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece, Stuttgart*.

I'm aware of a group which have translated the four Gospels and have a Georgian comparing the translation with the Russian Synodal and King James Version. At this time, I know

little of the translation and if they intend to do the entire New Testament. Providentially, I met a fine educated young Georgian man who understands the text issue and said he would be willing to arrange for qualified Georgian translators and to oversee the entire project. This, of course, would be a project of several years.

We're also considering printing our projects on a Webb press in Belarus which will, of course, add shipping and import duties to the cost. Please pray for the Lord's clear leading in consideration of all projects.

Rejoice that the Lord continues to provide the funds for our current projects. God willing, we will wire or send checks for the ongoing third quarter projects July 1st. See in the table below the present status of our projects.



“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” (Psalm 85:6)

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The Lord's Treasury for Third Quarter 2019

	Total Need	In Hand
Georgian Projects	\$2,405.00	\$1,503.00
Georgian University Student Ministry	\$675.00	\$706.27
Georgian Widows	\$1,125.00	\$602.11
Ukrainian New Testament	\$75,000.00	completed
Ukrainian Translation	\$3,150.00	\$3,118.36
Scripture Projects	---	\$13,093.53

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

RUSSIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

THE RUSSIAN BIBLE SOCIETY has been at the frontline of providing Bibles for Russia and its people since 1944. We believe the greatest gift we can give to any people is the pure Word of God in their native tongue. Therefore, we are committed to continually providing word for word translations based on reliable manuscripts, such as the Received Greek Text. Thus, the Bibles we publish are the “Synodal Translation” of the Russian Bible and its accurate translation into the minority languages of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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BIBLE JOURNAL

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