



Rejoice in HIM!



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Bringing News of Richard & Judy Grout & Vyborg, Russia since 1993



Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Even in winter, life goes on in Russia! We see positive proof that the hearty Russian people are not intimidated by the deep snows of winter in this photo of a bride and her groom celebrating their wedding with him carrying her across the bridge by the castle in front of our Christian Center! (It is hard to brighten up this photo, as the weather is cloudy and the sun is seldom seen.) This month we have been very busy helping with Sea Breeze Camp in Hobe Sound, Florida. Believers

gather from all over the U.S. and many places around the world to worship the Lord together for ten days in sunny south Florida. We have enjoyed many photos of winter in both Russia and America, while here in Florida winter is like summer.

We are thrilled to report God has faithfully supplied the support needed to carry forward the ministries in Vyborg Christian Center. As we wrote in a prayer letter twenty-four years ago, we go by these principles:

(1) The Lord always provides. Over and over again Paul testified, “God is faithful!” GOD NEVER FAILS! Sometimes we think like Martha, “Lord, if You would have come earlier, things wouldn’t be like this!” But God never fails. He is accomplishing His unseen, eternal purposes.

(2) Never own anything. This principle comes from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and from A.W. Tozer, George Mueller, and H. Robb French. Everything we have is a gift from God for which we are thankful and from which we must always be willing to part. We should never be so attached to material things that they keep us from eternal realities. We are stewards and messengers who are not here to keep things but to give them to others.

(3) Never owe anyone anything. Romans 13:8. If we surrender all to Christ, then we must be content with what He provides. Debts are below the Biblical standard for God’s children. Whether buying buildings or investing in education or publications, we refuse to go into debt. That would contradict principle #1. On the other hand, when it comes to the gospel ministry, “We are debtors to all.”

4) We are accountable. This is God’s work, and we are accountable to Him. We are all in this together and need one another. Together we must give all the glory to Jesus. The Lord of the Harvest shares the rewards of the harvest with each one who invests according to His evaluation. Not only are we accountable to God, but we are also accountable to people. We are accountable to our churches, to our American Mission Board (HIM), to our Russian Board, and to all the authorities God has ordained.



the summer cottage of our friends



Here is a recent photo of Pastor Valera (front, left) in a meeting of Russian pastors and leaders in the Christian Center.



The church we attend—“The Church on the Rock”—in Vyborg.



A big Russian bear on the side of a nine-story building in Moscow.

Please pray for Pastor **Aleksei Ferdinand** and the leaders of “The Church on the Rock.” It took eleven years to build this church, and for the past fifteen years local authorities have tried to take it away from the congregation that rightfully owns it. Supporters of the church in America, Norway, Sweden, and Finland joined in prayer for the protection of their investment in this towering church which stands on a high hill overlooking the west entrance to Vyborg. Also continue to pray for Pastor **Valera Tolkachev**, his church, and the young men he is mentoring to become pastors. And please remember in your praying the **thirty volunteers** who are corresponding with prisoners all over Russia.

All for Jesus,

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