

My Dear Fellow Pastors,

April 28, 2011

I am usually about the business of encouraging you in one way or another. This time I am asking you to encourage me. Not that I am discouraged with you or my circumstances. I am asking for the encouragement that only comes by prayer. Specifically, I am asking you to pray as Lois and I prepare for a strategic trip to Russia. The strategy is not just about Russians; it is about teaching Sabbath-rest to believers within many countries of the world. Please continue to read.

***IN THE AIR AGAIN!***

Yes, another short-term mission trip is in the making. In fact, it is almost upon us! Lord willing, Lois and I will leave for Russia Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. It has been four years since our last visit to that vast land of spiritual need. This time our travel is limited in scope and our purpose is very specific.

We will fly to Moscow. Two days later we will travel by train to the city of Kursk, which is about three hundred miles south of Moscow. Most of our time in Kursk will be spent in recording sessions presenting lectures regarding *The Theology of Rest*, taken from my book *For God's Sake, Rest! Discovering the Pleasure of His Rest*. The recordings will be made into a high quality DVD course and send throughout Eurasia.

*...Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,<sup>16</sup> so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you . . .*  
*<sup>niv</sup> II Corinthians 10:15-16*

Once the class is taught in English, various languages will be dubbed over the recordings and sent to countries where those languages are spoken. Our readiness to go to Kursk is a response to the persistent request of Vitaliy Petrov, Director of The Distance Learning Program, an arm of the Evangelical Free Church.

Dear Brother Jim,

We are looking forward to your coming to Kursk to teach your course. I am sure it is planned by God for all of us to hear about God's rest and better learn His word and commandments. Many pastors and Christian leaders in Russia and beyond need to hear this truth. I am sure we can spread this video course to the thousands of people in Russia and other countries. So, I am very excited and looking forward for your coming and teaching in Kursk. Thanks again for all your faithfulness and care for ministries in Russia and other places in the world.

May God bless you!!!

Because of HIM,  
president of TEC/TVS, Kursk, Russia  
Vitaly Petrov

The following comments are from Sasha Spichak, the academic dean in Kursk.

I have read your book in English and also a part of it in Russian translation. I even found it so valuable that I gave the Russian copy to read (as a must reading!) to all elders of Immanuel church which I attend. As I understand the commandment of the Sabbath has two parts. One part is to work six days and there are many people who fail here just not working as they should. And of course there is a second part - have rest on the seventh day. And there are growing numbers of other people who fail with the second part. And at Immanuel church we have more such people.

One elder was so inspired with your book that he even preached on the need to rest and he got almost all his sermons from the book! So, the material you present brings changes in lives of people and we would be happy to participate in spreading it. The level of recording we have now have improved dramatically during last five years so we hope we can produce high quality video now which will be watched.

***PLEASE PRAY!***

**The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. <sup>NIV</sup> James 5:16b**

During World War II, Kursk was the site of one of the largest tank battle in history. Today, Kursk is a spiritual battle ground. One of the reasons I say this is because Trinity Equipping Center (TEC) is no longer a school with students on campus. A few years ago the school was shutdown by the local government. As a result, Theological Video Seminary (TVS) was born. Please examine the TVA website, [www.russiadistancelearning.com](http://www.russiadistancelearning.com).

Please pray:

- 1) That we will indeed get to Kursk and be able to complete the fifteen hours of lecture
- 2) For the video technicians as they engage in the tedious tasks of recording and editing
- 3) For our safety and health as Lois and I travel and serve as a team.
- 4) For the continuation of TVS as this ministry provides theological training for thousands of ministry leaders who do not have access to a Bible College or seminary.
- 5) Finally, pray for our families, as we leave behind aging parents, adult children and busy grandchildren and fly to the former Soviet Union.

Thanks you for taking the time to read my request and praying accordingly.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Jim Anderson,  
Pastoral Care