

March 13, 2008

To: All the churches in the Lord's recovery  
From: The coworkers and all the saints in the Russian-speaking churches  
Content: Concerning fellowship and prayer related to the Russian-speaking saints, the churches, and the work

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that we can share with you how the Lord has been leading the churches in this part of the earth and the progress we have made endeavoring to enter into the fresh burden of our Lord as part of the Body of Christ: That the Lord would gain a strong foothold in Western and Eastern Europe and that we would cooperate with the Lord to see a shining testimony being built up in the major cities in every European country.

Our immediate responsibility in helping to carry out this burden was to free up, by at least fifty percent, the funds being sent to Russia from LME so that these funds could be used to carry out the work in Western Europe. To arrive at this goal the churches in the Russian-speaking world needed to bear the greater percentage of the financial responsibility of supporting the work in Russia and the Confederation of Independent States (CIS countries).

Beginning January 1, 2008, we spent two months fellowshiping and sharing this burden with the coworkers and responsible brothers in the Russian-speaking churches. We used the remainder of January and February to fellowship with the church clusters and to spread the fellowship to the saints in all the districts of the former Soviet Union. We concluded on the weekend of February 23-24, with representatives from all the areas coming together to bring their promised blessings and pledges from the churches.

The response from the saints in the churches, and even the newly raised up churches, was overwhelming. They did beyond what we could expect, ask or think. They first consecrated themselves to the Lord and to His recovery to bear this burden. The churches began once again to take the morning revival fellowship on **Material Offerings and the Lord's Move Today.** (We highly recommend the churches all over the earth to get into this material again. It is truly a salvation to the saints to be delivered from mammon and to open a heavenly account where nothing can break through and steal or corrupt or destroy).

**One testimony selected from many:** One older sister pensioner with heart problems asked the Lord how she could participate in giving for the Lord's move, as she has very little income from her pension. She decided to take a job delivering papers with her little strength in the mornings and give the proceeds of her labor to the Lord for His move. She testified in the Lord's table recently about a twofold blessing from her desire to be in the

fellowship unto the gospel: first, that she could give to the Lord's need, and second, that by walking and delivering papers her heart was strengthened and her health improved!

**The result of the fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel:** From the areas where our labor is focused—churches from 1. the Baltic countries; 2. four localities in Russia: Moscow, St. Petersburg, (including Kaliningrad and Belorussia), Yekaterinburg, and Rostov; 3. Ukraine; 4. Armenia and Georgia; and 5. Kirgizia and Kazakhstan—the total amount pledged for the support of the Russian-speaking work in caring for the needs of the Russian-speaking coworkers stands now at \$52,977 per month, or 1,271,448 Russian rubles. **Yearly this amounts to \$635,724.00, or 152,537,376 Russian rubles.**

Due to this outpouring of the saints on the Lord with their love offerings, the churches here will be able to supply the financial support for most of the approximately 108 native Russian-speaking coworkers, including wives, who will labor on numerous campuses and will work and serve in the following churches:

#### **Russia/Kaliningrad; Baltics; Belorussia**

Moscow—1 team of 14; St. Petersburg—1 team of 9; Yekaterinburg—1 team of 5; Rostov—1 team of 5; Riga, Latvia—1 team of 4; Kaliningrad—2 coworkers; Belorussia—2 coworkers. A total of **48 coworkers**, including wives. (Both Kaliningrad and Belorussia lack support.)

#### **Ukraine**

Kiev—1 team of 8; Zaporozhye—1 team of 3; Donetsk—1 team of 4; Vinitza—1 team of 4. A total of **24 coworkers**, including wives.

**Yerevan, Armenia; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Bishkek, Kirgizia:** These localities are still under consideration as to whether the coworkers there can be supported. The church in Yerevan has promised \$1000 per month for support of their coworkers. They have 8 coworkers that need support; Tbilisi has 4 that need support and Bishkek has 6 that need support. A total of **23 coworkers**, including wives.

Since these localities are newer in the work than the others, and the economic situation is not as healthy as in other places, we feel more time is needed before we can fully turn over the financial responsibility to the local saints. We hope the churches in the Lord's recovery would have the desire to temporarily fill this financial shortage.

#### **Foreign Coworkers**

There are 23 English-speaking coworkers, including wives, of which 12 are supported by churches in the U.S.A.

There are 7 Chinese-speaking coworkers, 5 in Bishkek and 2 in Rostov, who are supported by the work in Taiwan.

There are now 11 Korean-speaking coworkers, including wives, all of whom will return to Korea by the end of May after serving over 2.5 years in Russia. Four additional Korean-speaking coworkers have returned already.

A total of **30 foreign coworkers remain, including wives.**

### **FTTM**

There are 13 Russian speaking coworkers, including wives, serving in the Full-time Training in Moscow. LME provides the financial support for the Full-time Training in Moscow.

### **The total numbers that will remain to serve after all the reductions:**

Native Russian-speaking coworkers — 108, including wives

Foreign coworkers — 30, including wives.

Number of churches to have a campus work —14

### **Steps taken to reduce the budget**

The reduction in offerings to LME caused us to make certain drastic steps of our own.

1. We sent almost all of the Ukrainian and Armenian saints serving in Russia back to Ukraine and Armenia, saving travel and registration costs that were incurred four times a year.
2. We limited some countries and regions to two candidates to FTTM per semester, including Armenia, Georgia, Middle-Asia, Mongolia, etc.
3. We began to increase the donation that the saints pay to attend the different conferences and trainings sponsored by the work. This will lessen the burden borne by LME. We also realize this will reduce the number of saints able to come to the conferences and trainings.
4. We gave up all of the rental houses paid for by the work. (Praise the Lord for the apartments that some of the brothers purchased for the work to use. We will continue to use them to meet the needs in the work.)
5. We sent back from the work over 52 Russian-speaking coworkers, including their wives, who after much prayer and fellowship were led of the Lord to take jobs or return to finish their higher education. Many of them moved back to their former locality or to one of the 50 new churches to help strengthen the saints in those places.

6. We have reduced and limited the coworkers travel to the 50 new cities, hoping that the local saints and churches will fully care for these cities and blend together.

7. The churches began to support 66 of the 108 native Russian-speaking coworkers, including wives, on March 1, 2008, including monthly support and rent.

**The giving of the Russian-speaking churches plus the cost-saving measures named above should result in about 1.3 million dollars per year in savings to LME.** This will leave approximately 1.5 million dollars in expenses to be covered by LME for the work in the Russian-speaking world. To supply this remaining amount, we hope that the churches in the Lord's recovery will continue their faithful giving to support the work in the Russian-speaking world. Our hope is that through increased participation of the Russian-speaking churches, a greater part of the offerings from outside the Russian-speaking world can be directed toward the Lord's move in other parts of Europe. We hope and pray that this will speed up the Lord's move into all of Europe.

The churches here with all the saints, and the coworkers whom you have helped to raise up, are so thankful and indebted to all the saints in the churches in the Lord's recovery. You have, for over 16 years, faithfully prayed, materially supported, and directly participated by sending saints to labor with us to raise up over 200 churches as the Lord's testimony in 12 of the 15 countries of the former Soviet Union, and at least 120 additional groups meeting together but not yet breaking bread. We are greatly indebted to you all.

What treasures you have laid up in the heavenlies! Many will greet you in the kingdom age because of your participation in this marvelous move of the Lord. May the Lord greatly bless your families and churches for His name's sake.

Please continue to faithfully pray for the continuation of the work of the Body of Christ in the Russian-speaking world on this earth.

Glory be to Jesus Christ our Lord!

The saints in the churches and the coworkers in the Lord's recovery in the Russian-speaking world.

**Attachment:** Letter to all the churches in the Russian-speaking world that was sent to all the churches in the Russia-speaking world in February 2008.