

# Overseas Outreach

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May 2015

## Sanctified Dreaming Produces Sanctified Praying

The title of this brief introductory article to our May Prayer Letter is just as true if I turn the wording around - "Sanctified Praying Produces Sanctified Dreaming". The ministries that God has opened to us through many years were birthed in specific answers to specific prayers. Overseas Outreach and Northwest Science Museum are no exceptions.

## Overseas Outreach

During the summer of 1997, when Della and I were serving with a congregation in Gresham, Oregon, (now named River Hills Church), we both sensed that God was getting us ready to make a change, but we didn't know what change, so we talked it over and decided to make it a definite focus of our prayers. That summer I spent some time in fasting with prayer as I was seeking to understand God's leading in our lives.

Since we were already serving as Northwest Representatives for Victor and Evelyn Knowles' One Body Ministry (now named Peace on Earth Ministries), we decided to go to Joplin, Missouri, in September for the "Convocation," celebrating 5 years of full time service. (Victor had already long served as editor of "One Body") while also serving as preaching minister of local churches. One morning at the Convocation, we had the privilege of getting personally acquainted with Reggie Thomas at breakfast. After breakfast, as we were standing in a hallway, I mentioned to Reggie about sensing that God was getting us ready to make a change. As I recall, I

brought up the subject as a prayer request. Reggie's immediate response was to say, "We need a preacher for Estonia, and you may be the answer to our prayers!" As he said this, he was pointing directly at me. I distinctly remember thinking, "It doesn't sound like anyplace I want to go!" - but I gave him the polite Christian answer: "I will pray about it." The last evening of the Convocation, as I was walking toward the outside door following the service, I heard a voice behind me calling my name. Turning, I saw Reggie pointing at me and heard him saying, "You will be hearing from me!"

A few days after our return to Gresham, a letter from White Fields Overseas Evangelism showed up in our mailbox. It was Reggie Thomas' letter of invitation for us to join them in reaching Estonia for Christ. Della and I knelt together with the open letter on our bed in front of us and asked God what we should do now. As we were praying, it occurred to me that the next step would be to take this letter to our leadership team and describe to them the circumstances surrounding it. When I did that, they told me that this is God's leading and that they wanted to be our sponsoring church. The next summer (June 1998) I was teaching Christian Evidences in youth camps in Estonia, and God continues to lead us step by step.

In reality, Overseas Outreach is a branch of White Fields Overseas Evangelism, and we function under their 501(c)(3). We praise God for opening this door of ministry to us. Next month I plan to share with you the beginnings of Northwest Science Museum.

## **Another Amazing Answer to Prayer –**

You may remember that we had "A Matter of Faith" scheduled only for February 6, 7 and 8 in the huge Edwards 21 Theater, but they carried it another 11 days beyond that first weekend. Definitely an answer to prayer!

Michael Lehosit, owner of Overland Park Cinema, gave Rich Christiano an exceptionally good offer for each showing of "A Matter of Faith", so Rich called me about it late in February. Since we had three donors who covered the theater rental costs for four showings, and after talking it over with Rich and praying about it, I decided to promote the movie for four more showings at no charge for those who would attend. We would instead announce a freewill offering to be divided between Northwest Science Museum and Christiano Film Group. The four showings were scheduled for Sunday, April 12, at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening was our best attendance - 232 people who came for "A Matter of Faith" that evening. I asked one of the employees of Overland Park Cinema how many were there for the movies in the other two theaters. There were 12 total for both of those two movies! The total income for Northwest Science Museum from the movie showings both in February and in April was about \$1,800.00. Praise God!

The income was not high pay for the amount of hours Stan Lutz and I put in for these showings (pretty low actually) - but the return on investment cannot be measured merely in dollars. We made many good contacts who may be very interested in becoming co-workers in our huge NWSM project, and we are currently gathering an advisory council and resource pool of interested individuals. Some of these came from the movie showings.

Perhaps the greatest return on investment will only be shown in eternity in the lives of Christians who were inspired by this powerful movie to become bold witnesses for Jesus and the doubters and unbelievers who were impacted by the truth brought vividly before their eyes. Here are some examples:

1. One man on his way out of the theater told Stan that he is an atheist - but the movie really gave him something to think about.

2. We had a display for Northwest Science Museum with books, DVDs, tracts, and "Acts & Facts" magazines, which gave us the opportunity to enhance the message of the movie with lots of confirmation materials for interested individuals.

3. Just before one of the showings, I saw two guys at the back of the next building, taking a smoke break, so I took them flyers about the movie plus about NWSM and invited them to come to the movie. After going to my van for something, I turned around in time to see them going into the Cinema. Please pray for God to water the seeds sown.

## **The Lord will Provide!**

Most of you realize that I am bi-vocational and that our income should be from our lighting business (but we have been depending on our inadequate Social Security funds because our business income has been way down). Since the week after Christmas I've invested lots of time in promoting "A Matter of Faith", which normally would have been invested in Deighton Lighting. Anyway, God has blessed in that each month from January through April our business volume has increased. "Seek ye first His kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." We praise Him and are very thankful for His blessing!

## **From Our Mailbox**

"I received the books you sent. Thank you. I've already passed 3 of them out, and I'll do more. I appreciate the sound Biblical teaching and easy-to-read style you write with....." Your friend in Christ, Gwen (Eichel)

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Concerning the movie "A Matter of Faith" showings at the Overland Park Cinema in Boise: "I was SO pleased to hear that the Holy Spirit moved so wonderfully in making sure the showings resulted in the number of people attending a success! I know how hard you worked to make this happen – and I am thrilled that so many seeds of faith were sown. Bless you for your faithful service to evangelism. Well done! – Carol" (Peart)

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"Thank you for the newsletter. We praise God that Rick's book has been published. We pray God will use it in multiple ways. We hope you had a good trip and received our latest update. Some of my grafted branches began to grow.....We need to pray for peace during this week as our country is re-evaluating the outcome of the victory day. The reaction is diverse to that. – Blessings, Zhenya" (Molodchy)

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"Thank you very much for the offering, that Inga passed to me yesterday. She said it was for the church so I will pass them to our treasurer on Sunday. I hope you received our letter from 22 April.

'Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.' (2Cor.9:10,11)

In His Ministry, Yuri" (Krocha)

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"Dear Della, Please tell Rick that Volodya Lipov is attending our regular meetings on Sundays. He is open to receive Christ. Pray for his baptism..... I will be out of town May 16-22 working with village churches of our area in evangelism. Please, keep me in prayers..."( Note: Volodya was one of my first two students for World English Institute in the city of Kharkov, so this is wonderful news! - RD)

"Our prayers with you, Zhenya" (Molodchy)

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".....Straining toward what is ahead is Lord's calling for us. Ahead is His coming and that is the main thing for us.

As a church we are doing well. Nobody went to the mainland anymore. The Lord gives wisdom to talk with different people and to lead them in the situations, where tensions have arisen or can arise. In fixing our spiritual eyes on Jesus is healing from many damaged relationships, so far is my experience. In these times we continue to meet with our men on Mondays, with our worship or prayer group on Thursdays and with our youth group on Fridays. On Mondays I meet with Sasha who preaches short sermons on Sundays, so we have training together. Right now I am preaching on Philippians and find a lot of encouragement for myself in the situation we live and serve.

There is a lady who comes to our church. She is a Christian and came from Donetsk region where the war zone is. She has three small children and a husband that doesn't believe in God. So we care for their family, give them registration here and help with different things. Otherwise they can be deported from Crimea to Siberia.

In the building where we gather for services we let come a group of kids aged about 3-6 years old. They come 5 days a week and stay there from 9 to 1 p.m. A Christian lady looks after them, plays with them and presents Bible stories and messages for them. Some parents of the children are believers, but most of them are unbelievers. The parents are glad to have free time in the mornings and that their children can spend time with other children. Sometimes I have meetings with the parents and we talk about God. Last meeting was on Friday before celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.....

So pray please for:

- wisdom and strength from the Lord in our ministry
- growth of our church in faith and practical ministry

- sharing the Word of God in our groups for unbelievers and in "the kindergarten"

- new registering of our congregation.

Thank you for all prayers!

In Him, Yuri and Alyona with children" (Krocha)

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"Thank you very much for your care, support and prayers! With great joy I present to you the Christian Center for Science and Apologetics April 2015 newsletter.

It is always amazing to see how the Lord always (from Acts to our days) provides new opportunities in the midst of troubles and uses them for the Kingdom multiplication! We have quite a progress with Russian churches on incorporating our Crimean ministry into their network. That provides legal safety for the ministry at occupied territories, protecting it in a sight of local occupational rulers. We also got some arrangements with Russian churches for the training retreats at the Nieuwenhuis Training Center in summer. One of them is even from Khabarovsk (Far East, next to the most Eastern point of China). We also are starting to plan a youth camp there for evangelism through language teaching. Ministry to Russia is gaining momentum in new conditions. Praised be the Lord! Please pray with us for these projects proper planning.

Also we made a record this month in sending resources to Russia. 1000 lb of books were shipped from Crimea for the homeschooling conference at St Petersburg! No customs inspections and hectic paperwork, no international shipment expenses, no customs fee! God uses everything for the Kingdom! Please pray with us for that seeds will be planted properly and bring abundant fruit!

A Reliable Foundations apologetics online club Easter session was devoted to the resurrection of Jesus historic veracity and had a great attendance and feedback. As for the topic of the season, we decided to go on with the issue of Biblical Foundations for Civil Society. More questions come up, more people eager to study the Bible for getting proper answers in the area of rebuilding the country after the crisis. As a result of fruitful discussions we are developing a training course, a book and online resources on the issue. Please keep this development in your prayers.

But the greatest opportunity of the month was not planned ahead. A group of teachers of Christian schools from Eastern Ukraine, who had to move to the Western part of the country, got settled at a historic city of Dubno (known from 1100 AD) and decided to start a new Christian school there. They called for help and we immediately went there to run a conference for equipping and encouraging these devoted servants of Jesus, to supply them with our resources, to motivate a local body of believers to care and support that strategically important initiative.

The conference was a great blessing and encouragement for everyone as well as great evidence that nothing can stop children of God in their desire to pass His truth to the next generation which did not know the Egypt of communism and has to build on the foundation of His Word! Together with three headmasters of Christian schools from Eastern Ukraine we were motivating, encouraging and equipping teachers, parents, youth and all believers of entire region not only to start a Christian school, but also to build proper biblical foundation for their families and communities. The conference was a great balance of practical workshops and of

seminars on fundamental issues of biblical ways for building family, raising children, developing their worldview and changing society according to the God's design as it revealed in the Scripture. Praised be the Lord! Please pray with us for this initiative, for the seeds planted there, as well as for the national Christian school teachers conference we plan for July.

Please keep praying for our ministry, for our team, for our families, for God's guidance and protection in everything we do. You are in our prayers as well.

Yours in the love and grace of Christ Jesus – Sergei" (Golovin)

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## **The Lord Provides Rest & Refreshment**

My chiropractor, Dr. Wendell Nelson, is a godly man who reaches out to hurting people. Recently he told me that a mission team he works with is planning a 4-day all-expense-paid retreat in Krakow, Poland, for Christian workers in eastern Europe. The only expense for those who come will be their own travel expense to get to Krakow. What a generous offer! What a blessing for those who need some rest and renewal time. Below are a couple of responses.

"Dear Dr. Wendell Nelson, greetings in the precious name of Jesus!

My dear brother in Christ, great friend and the ministry partner, Rick Deighton, has shared about the retreat opportunities your ministry provides. Could you please share some more - the dates, the terms, etc.

I am Sergei Golovin, a founder and president of apologetics ministry in Ukraine (<http://scienceandapologetics.org/engln.html>). We had quite a hectic year with being displaced from our home in Crimea, starting a new office at Kiev and reformatting the ministry at the occupied territories. We would be interested in having some rest and spiritual refreshment if the Lord allow.

Yours by the grace of Jesus – Sergei"

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"Thank you very much for thinking and taking care about us. Thanks for the information about the opportunity to have some rest in Poland.....

We are looking what place God has for us to live at, because the owner of the house where we used to live came back and asked us to leave his house. So please, pray about it. Blessings to your family, –

Sergei and Vera" (Yurevich)

## **Conclusion**

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." 1 Timothy 1:17 (NKJV).

"And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." Revelation 19:6-7 (NKJV).

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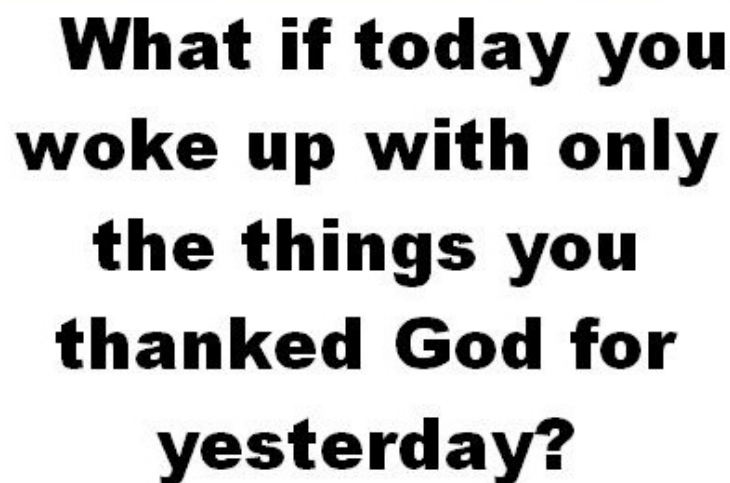
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April 2015

## **What Is This About "Four Blood Moons"? Should we be seriously concerned?**

Last year our friends, Dave and Kathy Organ, gave me a copy of the book ***Four Blood Moons***, by John Hagee, published in 2013. The prophetic background for the book is found in Joel 2:27-31. "Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."



**What if today you  
woke up with only  
the things you  
thanked God for  
yesterday?**

Since on the day of Pentecost, following the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, Peter said "this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel," the real question is if there will be a second fulfillment of this prophecy (as the destruction of Jerusalem and

the destruction of the world at the end of time are connected by Jesus in His prophecies).

The basic premise of Four Blood Moons is that when in history there have been four blood moons lined up with the feast days that God gave to Israel, powerful events have transpired relating to that nation (and the world). Chapter 16 is entitled "The Four Blood Moons of 2014-15." Those four blood moons are listed as: Passover, April 15, 2014, Feast of Tabernacles, October 8, 2014, Passover, April 4, 2015, Feast of Tabernacles, September 28, 2015.

This is especially interesting in view of the declaration by Benjamin Netanyahu that the deal with Iran negotiated by the Obama administration is a dream deal for Iran but a nightmare for the rest of the world. Prime Minister Netanyahu is intent on protecting Israel in view of the oft repeated threats by leaders of Iran to destroy Israel – totally wipe it off the map. Iran has not been shy, either, about calling America "The Great Satan" and Israel "little Satan."

Should we be alarmed? Is the end of the world on the horizon this coming autumn? Even though Jesus clearly stated, "but of that day and hour no one knows," some prophetic teachers comment that it does not say that we cannot know the month or the year. Isn't this a slight bit presumptive?

The background evidence which John Hagee presents for his premise looks very persuasive, but I am neither historian nor astronomer. I don't know if he is 100% accurate or not. Be that as it may, there are some things that we can know for certain.

### ***What Can We Know For Sure?***

The subtitle for the book Four Blood Moons is ***Something Is About to Change***. Who can argue with that statement? We can also know for sure that we are nearly 2000 years closer to the second coming than when Jesus prophesied it in the first century. We can know that persecution of Christians continues to increase around the world – as Jesus predicted. The horrible slaughter of one hundred forty-eight believers in Kenya by Islamic terrorists is a somber and terrible reminder of that fact.

We can know that "wars and rumors of wars" are upon us now abundantly as they were in the first century before the destruction of Jerusalem (which pre-figured the end of the age). We can know that "perilous times" are here and now as Paul prophesied in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Consider his powerful words in the light of daily news reports: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

We can know that we should not despair because Jesus said: "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up



and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Luke 21:25-28 (NKJV).

We can know that it is high time to get ready, stay ready, and longingly look for that blessed hope. " For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ," Titus 2:11-13 (NKJV).

### ***Are You Ready?***

If you have never yet surrendered your life to Christ, here is God's word to you: "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31 (NKJV). "...Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

### ***Are You Sharing?***

If you are already saved, are you sharing the love of Jesus with everyone you can at every opportunity? Are you creating new opportunities?

### ***Are You Praying?***

Are you earnestly praying? Here is an outstanding quotation concerning prayer: "There can be no substitute, no rival for prayer; it stands alone as the great spiritual force, and this force must be imminent and acting.... It must be continuous and particular always, everywhere, and in everything.... Many persons believe in the efficacy of prayer, but not many pray. Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things; the simplest and the sublimest; the weakest and the most powerful; its results lie outside of human possibilities—they are limited only by the omnipotence of God." - E.M. Bounds

## **Another Wonderful Answer to Prayer**

On March 28, I had the opportunity to attend the NW Creation Conference in Portland, and then on Sunday, March 29, to teach and preach at Vernonia Christian Church and enjoy rich fellowship with Sam and Carrie Hough before and after the services. Then on Monday morning I got a phone call from Sandy telling me that we received an email from Stas, informing us that he and his family were in Hillsboro, Oregon. Wow! What an amazing answer to many prayers over the past three years (or more). Perhaps you remember our repeated requests for Stas and his family to get refugee status because to be sent back to their middle Asian nation would be certain persecution. (He had already been intensely interrogated by the government more than once for his vigorous Christian activities.)

What a joy to see Stas again the afternoon of March 30! We had about 1 1/2 hours together in Craig and Marilyn Hubler's home in west Portland to enjoy fellowship and prayer together. Please pray for the right job and place to live for Stas and his family. A Russian-speaking pastor from another middle Asian nation brought his family to USA thirteen years ago, and they are now the host family for Stas and his family. Praise God!

**Prayer Requests** – Please pray for funds to share with co-workers in Ukraine and the Crimean peninsula (like the Schalbyetski family, church planters, Simferopol Christian Church, Love of Christ Church, etc.).

Please pray for abundant book sales to come in for Overseas Outreach and Northwest Science Museum.

Please pray for good results to continue to come from the showings of A Matter of Faith, and that we will acquire more vital co-workers for Northwest Science Museum as a result.

Southwestern Museum Services director and their area rep have seen our website for Northwest Science Museum and want to partner with us to raise the millions of dollars, get the property, and build the building for Northwest Science Museum. They have shown us rave reviews from clients they have served to build their museums and have met with us by conference call for our Board of Directors meeting. The catch is that their start-up fee is \$35,000. Please pray for the start-up funds! We are already showing in our Vision Center some of the censored science that exposes some of the deceptions and fraudulent claims and presuppositions of evolutionism, but most of our museum is still in storage. Would you like to help us present the evidence?

**Sergey and Vera Yurevich** – Who Are Sergey & Vera Yurevich? – Sergey was one of my students at Christian Open University when I was teaching classes on worldview and on building strong relationships. After one class he volunteered to help me any way possible, and he helped me get an inexpensive, very useful cell phone for Ukraine and served me as interpreter, as well as communicator with church leadership. Last August Sergey and Vera pledged their vows before God and many friends and family to be man and wife, serving God together. Both of them have struggled with some health problems, and your offerings to Overseas Outreach have enabled us to supply some funds to help them with medical expenses. Now if you want to help them raise funds for ministry expenses, please designate your donations for them. Following is a portion of his newsletter dated 3-14-15.

"Hello dear friends! Thank you for your prayers! Our Lord is merciful to us. He provides and blesses us every day. 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' Probably each of us would like to hear these words spoken to him/her from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have not written for a while, so I would like to share what, I believe, God is doing through us. The Lord is sending a lot of people who are eager to learn English. This past week about 50 new people joined our school, and we had to create two new classes.....

God sent to us more than 200 students, at both locations (two areas), with whom we can be friends, share our knowledge of English language, and tell them about Christ. Also 400 more people would like to join our school. Unfortunately we had to stop registering new people because we want to focus on a smaller number of students so large numbers don't distract us from our main purpose."

## ***From Our Mailbox***

"Thank you very much for your care, support and prayers! With great joy I present to you the Christian Center for Science and Apologetics March 2015 newsletter:

The month traditionally had two major focuses. On the one hand we were going on with the ongoing work of online ministries, students follow-up, Reliable Foundation open apologetics club, translation and publishing. On the other hand it was pretty fruitful with the new resources development. We have completed recording audio Bible in Crimean Tatar language, produced a new episode of Scientists of God video (Isaac Newton) and couple more Creation Moments audio episodes, preparing children programs curricula for summer projects. May the Lord be praised!

We have completed the course on Practical Christian Ethics resources development and have started to produce resources for the Biblical Foundations for Civil Society one. I am pretty excited about this course since this is completely new area for people in Ukraine and other post-communist countries. Many know now what kind of the society they do not want to live at, but the model of the society we are about to build is still a big issue. That raises a lot of questions and open doors to tell people about Creation, about God's initial design for humankind, about the fall and redemption. We call this approach 'political apologetics'. Please pray with us for this opportunity.

A great progress is made in making arrangements for Russian churches leadership seminars at the Nieuwenhuis Training Center. We have several agreements with partners from Moscow and St. Petersburg up to Khabarovsk (Far East, at the most Eastern corner of China). We also are sending now amounts of books to Russia without customs fees and paperwork as well as with domestic shipment costs. Challenges of political turmoil open new opportunities for the ministry. Please join our prayers about them.

Please keep praying for our ministry, for our team, for our families, for God's guidance and protection in everything we do. You are in our prayers as well.

Yours in the love and grace of Christ Jesus, Sergei" (Golovin)

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"We are back in Kiev safe and sound. The trip was extremely inspirational for us! Thank you very much for your prayers! Thank you very much also for sending me your books, Millions of Miracles and More Than Conquerors! God uses you powerfully for His glory! – Yours by His grace – Sergei" \*\* Note: Sergei is not only founder and director of Christian Center for Science & Apologetics, but also regional director for the Russian-speaking world for Good News, International. He was their featured speaker for their annual banquet in Joplin, MO, Indianapolis, IN, and Phoenix, AZ.

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Following is an excerpt from one of Ravi Zacharias' newsletters:

"When you look across the audiences, the first thing that stands out is the young people. The report coming from Europe is exciting. As you know, we positioned an apologist in Austria and one in Spain. This was in addition to one we had in Romania and one in Turkey. When you listen to the opportunities they are receiving and the numbers coming to Christ, you would have to believe that there is a turn coming

in Europe. During the last week, I have received invitations from France and from Switzerland. Both those countries are considered dry terrain for evangelism. Yet, both say that they will expect packed houses. It may just be that with the fear Islam has engendered, people in Europe are seeing the bequest of the Christian faith vanishing before their eyes, and their fear is causing them to seek answers in the worldview that made their existence possible.

"With that in mind, our initiative of Scholars With A Dream is also keeping stride. There is no way for the Christian faith to survive without understanding and responding to Islam. Islam is a clever philosophy that has mastered the art of attacking Christianity while making it impossible to attack their beliefs. That is the real problem. Any challenge to their belief is seen as in danger of their blasphemy laws. Yet, millions of them are open and want to talk about Jesus, but seek a safe arena in which to ask their questions. Our Scholars With A Dream program does precisely that, seeking to engage the Muslim with love and intelligence and to answer their genuine questions. One thing the so-called Arab Spring has done is to generate questions about their own belief and to ask why that part of the world is in such turmoil. So the doors are open."

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"Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." Psalm 100:3

Yours & His, Rick

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## ***March 2015***

### **Irreducible Complexity and the Amazing Wonders of God's Creative Handiwork**

You may never have read Michael Behe's now famous book, "Darwin's Black Box – The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution," but you have probably heard the key phrase from the book – "irreducible complexity." Scientist and author David Berlinski commented: "No one can propose to defend Darwin without meeting the challenges set out in this superbly written and compelling book."

So, what is "irreducible complexity," and why is it such a challenge to evolutionism? Irreducible complexity is the description of something with several (or many) functioning parts that have to all be in proper order and working simultaneously for that entity to operate. In "Darwin's Black Box," microbiologist Michael

Behe uses the five essential parts of a mouse trap to illustrate the irreducible complexity of the bacterial flagellum. If any one of the parts of the mouse trap is missing or defective, the mouse trap will not function – it is useless. The same is true of the microscopic bacterial flagellum, which is an amazingly complex little “machine.” Did the relatively simple man-made mouse trap have an inventor, but the much more complex bacterial flagellum with its intricate complexities just happen by random chance processes over eons of time with no inventor, no plan, no purpose, and no meaning? How did it function while it was “evolving” its various components? That is a very good question to ask an evolutionist. Ask him if he knows of any invention without an inventor – then ask him to give you a logical explanation for the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly without a Creator (inventor, programmer).

It has often occurred to me since reading Michael Behe’s book and seeing the DVD documentary about the flagellum that you don’t need a microscope or a degree in microbiology to observe irreducible complexity in God’s creation all around us.

Why is irreducible complexity such a huge challenge to the evolutionist? Here’s why: Charles Darwin himself wrote these words: “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.” (from “The Origin of Species” and the “Descent of Man”). Darwin valiantly (desperately) tried to explain how evolution could account for the complexity of the human eye, but he miserably failed in his attempt. Darwin penned the death knoll for his theory (fantasy) when he wrote those words. No wonder he became a recluse, had a churning stomach, and suffered psychiatric problems. It is sad that he never openly repented and denounced his pet “theory.”

**Now I want to share with you the first two paragraphs of  
Ravi Zacharias’ winter report:**

“I am writing this the day after an emotional roller coaster for us as a family. Our daughter Naomi was expecting her third child, and she was due early February. But for some reason, early in the pregnancy some of the tests revealed causes for concern for the baby. I will not bore you with all the details but safe to say, their advice painted a grim picture. It was not just one test but several parameters that indicated trouble. Naomi and Drew faced it boldly, and with their complete trust in God, resisted any tests that would put the child at risk or even cause the baby pain. They were determined that whatever the indications, she was going to carry this baby through.

“Yesterday the moment of truth arrived and three weeks ahead of schedule, Nico Tate Zacharias McNeil – carried all along in the safe arms of our Lord – was delivered into the welcoming arms of his family at a delicate five pounds and fourteen ounces and in excellent and beautiful shape. What a journey it has been and what a series of swirling emotions! But by God’s grace all went beautifully and we as a family are rejoicing. Holding a tiny little one in your arms and seeing a fresh unspoiled face leaves you speechless and in awe of the marvel of God’s handiwork. To hold a child and still be a skeptic is to stare evidence in the face, discount it, and still believe a lie.”

\* Ravi's words remind me of a statement by the late Adrian Rogers. He said that the reason the skeptic (atheist, agnostic, etc.) cannot find God in His creation is the same reason a thief can't find a policeman!

David wrote: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good." Psalm 14:1 (NKJV).

You don't need a microscope to observe irreducible complexity. Open your eyes and your heart to the wonders of God's creation all around you – especially as we see the budding signs of spring. You can't see a flagellum without special equipment, but you can see fine features and functioning fingers on a newborn infant – or in your own mirror. No wonder the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse..." Romans 1:18-20 (NKJV).

## – Prayer Requests –

Please pray that I will be able to make a mission trip to Ukraine this fall. Below is a copy of the letter I sent to ministry partners in Ukraine.

Dear Co-workers in Ukraine, You may have noticed in our February Prayer Letter my prayer request about deciding whether or not I was to make a spring mission trip based on God answering "yes" to provide a financial miracle to do so. God's answer to me is "no" – because He chose to not send those funds this month. I hope to go in the fall; I will be praying about that. My Father knows best!

I hope you understand. I pray for God's protection and guidance for all of you – and I hope to correspond with you individually before fall. Please pray for funds and God's clear direction for me.

Here is my wish for you: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" Romans 15:13. May Almighty God continue to expand your godly influence for His glory!

In the grace of Jesus, Rick

\* Please pray for funds for both Overseas Outreach and Northwest Science Museum, and for new co-workers skilled in technology to get both of these ministries represented on social media. Victor Knowles recently wrote: "Sharing God's Word with mobile phone apps is the fastest and cheapest way to evangelize the world."

\* Please pray for "A Matter of Faith" to once again bless multitudes of people in the Boise area, lead souls to commitment to Christ, lead backsliders to recommitment, and for the movie to be an effective fundraiser for both Northwest Science Museum and Christiano Film Group (to bring more excellent Christian films to the big screen.)

**PRAISE:** Rich Christiano is now marketing "Millions of Miracles" in his newsletter and on his website. He is also considering using it or "More Than Con-

querors in Cultural Clashes” in the men’s group at his home church. (These books are still available to you for an offering of any amount to Overseas Outreach.)

## **From Our Mailbox** \*

“...I pray for the Board nightly (as I told Doug I would) and this includes the health and safety of all of you in addition to receiving His wisdom so we may always move in His will and the needs of the NWSM be abundantly met. I also prayed nightly that the evangelistic outreach of your project be realized in full measure. Be assured yet another jewel in your crown gleams brightly in service to our Lord.

“I am SO thrilled to hear of the wonderful response to the showing of the movie, ‘A Matter of Faith.’ I prayed earnestly that the seeds you were sowing reaped a hundred-fold return. God in His graciousness answered our prayers! You have such a sweet and gentle love for the lost, Rick.

“Be blessed in His Goodness always, Carol” (Peart)

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“I got your book and am reading it. Thank you! Very nicely done. I pray it will find its way into many hands all around the world.” – Al Cinnamon

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“Thank you for your concern. We are doing well. On the 22-and we had terrorist attack during the peaceful march dedicated to the memory of the events in Kiev a year ago. In general it did not bring much trouble to the city but brought a lot of fear and horror. 4 people died and 10 were injured. Kharkov is still peaceful and I was very much involved with a group of people for a potentially new church born here in the downtown. We plan to start our meetings after the 8th of March.....

“Banks are working without problems. However, the rate exchange is 30 gr. for 1 dollar. It is terrible for people. They began clearing the shelves in the stores. They buy basically flour, sugar, buckwheat, cereals, pasta, etc. Now the government is struggling with two critical issues, war and economy. We trust God and live day by day abiding in Him. I will write more about ministry soon.

“Thank you for your care, – Zhenya and family”

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“Thank you so much for your care, encouraging words and, of course, prayers. We are doing fine, God is good. Yesterday, I have translated for an American journalist who interviewed a person who fought and was kept captive in Donetsk area. He stayed 4.5 months as hostage in terrorists prison. We pray God delivers Ukraine soon and for spiritual movement. On the 15th of March we plan to have our new church meetings to begin. Prayers needed.

In His grace, – Zhenya”

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“Your thoughtful gift of the book, ‘Millions of Miracles,’ arrived today and is much appreciated. Obviously you spent big chunks of time and money putting together this strong testimony to the truth about God and His creation miracle. I’ve just begun to scan it and see you were successful in finding many photos of nature demonstrating design by the Creator rather than the impossible chance hypothesis. More power to you as you spread the contents of this book to the many in our world