

NEWSLETTER FROM THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA CIS. Tbilisi, June 2008.

Greetings to each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST. The Bible has an enormous amount of treasures in it. I was reading the other day Col. 2: 15. It is easy sometimes to read the Scriptures and breeze right over what it says without really realizing the depth of it. In this Scripture it said that Jesus disarmed the powers and principalities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them. Can you actually grasp what that refers to or what it really means? How did Jesus disarm powers and principalities and in what way did He make a public spectacle of them?

If you had a perfect diamond, you could use it to weed out all the false diamond appraisers to see which ones really tell you the truth. In the same way, let's say there is a woman who brought her car to the shop for maintenance. While the car is in the garage, the repair man tells her that her transmission has a major problem. He tells her: "If you do not get your car fixed, you may have a breakdown in the next few hundred miles". She plans on going on a long trip. So for fear of breaking down, she gives the man the money to replace her transmission. He cleans off and paints her existing transmission and charges her for a new one. She pays the man and he appears to be the hero with all the money and who saved her from having a breakdown on the side of the road. And no one will ever find out....he thinks.

Now picture someone, who knows he has a perfect car. He brings his car to the same man to get maintenance. The only difference is that he has also hidden cameras installed inside the car to check and see what the repair man does. The repair man, like with the first woman, cleans and paints the transmission and charges the man for a new one. What happens now? The man with the perfect car brings the car and his camera as evidence to court against the repair man which cheated him. With the documented evidence on film, he disarms all the arguments of the repair man to continue cheating people. He also has the story placed in the newspaper for other people to be informed about this repair man, who is made a public spectacle among all who know him.

With this story fresh in your mind, let's look at Col. 2:15: "Having disarmed the powers and principalities, Jesus made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them by the cross. The truth itself bears witness that Jesus, or Yeshua in Hebrew, lived a perfect life, with authority over the elements and spirits in purity of word and deed. Mankind's total blindness in life which was caused over time by its erosion from sin, kept man from recognizing the one and only true and perfect man that ever existed. It is still happening today. Then Jesus was put to death, just as Jesus had planned and was foretold. His life parallels the above mentioned parable of the man with the perfect car in the repair shop. Now with the universal cameras rolling, for all generations to see, they documented a step by step account of all that was said and done to Jesus. Before the highest courts in heaven and on earth, Jesus openly exposed in the public arena, mankind's horrendous blunder of putting His innocence on the cross to be crucified and put to death. His death sentence was the evidence needed to convict man and end the parade of his proud goodness. Man's guilt and shame was exposed once for all, and for ever. The Bible Scriptures are our daily newspaper, giving record to what has taken place word for word in this case. The victory for Jesus in this case, defeated and exposed the power of man's sin and shame and triumphed over it by rising from the dead. The ultimate final verdict in this case is "Jesus is Lord" for all generations.

On a personal level, in Luke 2:35 it says that Jesus would be a sign that will be spoken against, so that all thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. Each of us have the thoughts of our very hearts revealed whether we like it or not, by what we do with Jesus. The universal cameras are rolling again on everything that we say and do in our life. Our words and actions are binding. If we are willing and openly accept Him into our life as Lord and Savior, His victory of forgiveness can sweep over our life and give us power and joy to serve Him and glorify Him. This disarms the power of sin, guilt and shame in our mind and body as we, in obedience to Him, confess our past and present sins to those they relate to. The sign spoken of above, Jesus Christ, is bigger than life itself and we all like diamonds are going to be examined closely to see if His pure brightness is shining in our lives.

The universal camera on judgment day will roll and have all the evidence stored up, for or against us, as we go before the Judge and receive our verdict.

O Jesus, how much we need you!!

Thank you for all your prayers and supplications up till today. How much do we need all help and helpers in Georgia. And how much does He kindly reward us in our helping each other. We had a good gospel rally in May. Some days we were ten hours on the road and made 14 -18 hour days. After such days I often say to Steve: "Thank God, everyday has a night". But after a good rally, how do we live in Tbilisi? Let me share some clues of our life. Quickly after, I miss the kids and their smiles, I feel tired and less useful for some days. Of course after those weeks, being the only lady in the house, I start to clean up, organize, pay the bills (which is here still a physical visit to each office). But then, what do we do? This is from the table of Sophia:

- 1- Don't get distracted. Well, I got upset lately when I saw a Georgian driver keep looking and talking to his right (where a woman sat) while trying to drive straight. Georgians can be *very* polite. But this was just as dangerous! A few days later, I felt how dangerous distraction is. I run usually twice a week a few blocks in the neighborhood and in a fenced-in soccer court. Exercise is good when you are above age 50. One morning I wore my glasses and I kept looking to 4 boys playing a game while I run on the white lines my circles and run into a metal goal pole with my right side of my face. That was a week of pain and it hurt! More so, my self esteem was hurt. Was I not just as foolish as the distracted Georgian diver I got so upset with? So we keep active, keep fit but do not get distracted. It hurts!
- 2- Keep watching but what for? I kept watching but looked in the wrong direction. I should look forward and think upward. Some long view focusers: Watch Israel and the countries around her. Here: The New Russian (interim) President after Putin is one of his "best communist friends". Brother David which we mentioned in prior letters, explained this to me. His name is Medvedev, which means BEAR in Russian. How I was reminded that we can see the Russian sleeping bear waking up to stand in power (with China) to intimidate USA and aiming in the end to attack Israel. I also heard that Watch Israel: President Olmert is considering to divide his capital Jerusalem, the apple of God's eye....So don't fall asleep but neither be so busy that you can not listen to God's daily directions and listen to God's servants.(Hebr.10:25 as I print it, it is 10:25 on Sunday morning, how timely such advice: get together)
- 3- Keep faithful, attending to those who are given under your care or are "in your reach". Looking back and look forward. Well, we had a good response in the orphanages. 2 almost closing orphanages, opened up again for the full presentation of the Gospel. One director, who opposed our material because we were not orthodox, was replaced by a new lady who was so enthusiastic when I showed our Christian comic book to her. Thank you Jesus! Among the children and teachers usually 30% sometimes 60% eagerly listen. On one occasion, all of the 50 children and 5 teachers, were obvious impressed by the simplicity of the Gospel. Actually they were shocked due to the reality and actuality of the Gospel presented by Br. Paul, our director. Afterwards all prayed the sinners' prayer while the translator, a well seasoned believer herself, translated in tears. Such moments keep us focused and motivated to follow up. Even with dull paper work. A governmental letter, which allows us to even take children out of the orphanage for a day to visit an



interesting event came back positive. Since this letter, David and his newly wedded wife Maggi, personally picked up one orphanage and started to invite and drive 9 children to the youth service of their church on Saturdays. We coach them and continue to pray for them. They have a real love for children. Together we want to invite these and other children to a Bible Summer Camp at the sea shore in July. This time we pray that the M.O Education will allow our organization to invite children from all Orphanages for a longer activity than a day visit, outside the orphanage. The request went out, as you read this letter.

Orphanage rally in Georgia

Our next outreach starts at 3rd of August. It is a VBS in the east of Georgia, Kakheti close to a Muslim village. The best would be if we could be doing 2 camps in 2 languages: Georgian and Russian.(with the local languages: Ossetian and Azerbaijan) Those need a lot of prayer of course. Would you be a watchman with us and pray for these camps till August 16?

-4- Stay flexible. We try to be prayerfully carefully and flexible. Steve and I are rebuilding a part of the house to lodge (hopefully more new) missionaries. We started in February using our mission finances, because a sponsor did not commit himself as of yet. What do we see? Through various means the Lord provides finances, which means to us: "I am in control, continue" The Lord is amazing! Praise the Lord, for such timely sacrifices and helping brothers and sisters!

But then a new need came up, and the work stopped for what we thought was 2 weeks. In Rustavi, Steve felt compassion for a Rustavi church-prayer house to install water to the sink and bathroom facilities and wallpaper and paint their prayer room. The apartment belongs to a widow, who hosts since 4 years about 20 believers 2/3x a week. It is on the 8th floor of 9 floor apartment building. This young widow is 15 years has 4 teenage



Rustavi prayer house

boys who eat a lot, so repairs are not in her reach. They stay/bath often with other families, we heard, because the tub has no water. She told us: 4 weeks before we met her that the Lord had told her to pray for America. "Pray and bless America" He had said. She has no TV. But how much needed our down-sliding America God's help. That was about half of April. We do not watch TV either but we saw the exchange rates dropping weekly and the Dow Jones became a Down Jones. How timely she was holding up the needs of America. These repairs started in May with our workers being in the actions for what we thought was 2 weeks.

Then in the first week of repair, a good pour down of rain showered water also in her 8th. floor apartment. So the work shifted to the roof while the Lord provided additional finances . I felt quite uncomfortable at first, as our own house is ripped open and halfway done. Well, to finalize this "need of the moment", it turned out to be 6 weeks. But to think of others first, is what Jesus would have done... So ultimately the time and budget grew to 3 times the planned time and budget. That needed our flexibility. But it is being done as "unto the Lord and in love". Our workers invest their time freely and joyfully. The teenage kids help out as much as they can. While the widow contributed what she could. Unfortunately the Orthodox and Azerbaijan neighbor people in the other 8 floors are bickering among each other, while God is blessing them all. Please, pray for a glorious kingdom "finale" in Rustavi. A good note to end with: The workers enthusiastically painted "JESUS" on the newly repaired roof with 3 feet letters, for all to see. If we lift up Jesus Christ, He will draw all people unto Himself. We are of good cheer and pray for you too, that if the time comes, you are ready to walk in faith and be stretched. Like Peter, we may get a little stretched and wet, even when we don't sink, but we will walk on water in faith to do what Jesus would do. Remember: With Jesus besides us, we will never drown.

-5- Waiting. After the sowing it feels normally "unproductive" to wait and "only" pray for rain on the seed which is sown. My strongest point is definitely not patience. Thank God, I have a patient husband. But it is "the privilege of the farmer" to rest and walk by the field. He walks by to see how the crops are doing, concerned for diseases and storms, but the Lord of the harvest will give growth. So he enjoys himself in hope (he will see the crop first) for maybe 30-100 fold. Well: In Georgia, there is a harvest getting ripe! In the east of Georgia a little revival started. What happened? It is in a village close to the Caucasus Mountains. The second generation has moved out and left the village dormant with grandparents herding cattle and some grandchildren going to school. A 40 year faithful brother, Alani, is their shepherd. These old

ladies, about 30, widows mainly, have been gathering and praying faithfully and powerfully for their lost and sick family members. Then surprising healings happened. Like: an old widow with a broken leg got healed by 3 “visits of Jesus” at night. She told “my leg was pulled out three times”. The next day the widow, without her crutches, carefully walks around her house telling what had happened. She still does, in increasing size circles up till today. She does not get tired witnessing. Depressed and addicted people were getting interested. Each of them receives attention and the good Word. Church attendance grew. One unbelieving husband, who had a depressed wife, stated thankfully: “My wife can hold a job again, which she could not for years.” One addicted person battling fears, and given up by the doctor, is being visited and ministered to and starts to recover. We hardly ever saw such a bunch of radiant, happy widows and grandma’s! They work together, eat together, opening up their homes to each other and whoever else is visiting. It is contagious. Maruza, 79 years, says :” This is a revival. People come to the meeting joyfully these days! “What do we (Steve and Sophia) do? We watch. What did we do? Not much in prior times, it seemed: Steve taught (and I translated): prayer and spiritual warfare about 2 yrs ago. Then we did a theater outreach about the spiritual armor; written and performed by our director Paul and a team from NY, last year. We bring ministry material regularly. Pastor Alani said:” The Jehovah Witnesses have so much materials, so people ask us:” why don’t you have anything?”. God is the one who brought it all together and breathes His life into it. Praise to the risen Lord Jesus. This may be the beginning! Watch, Jesus also said: “Take heed that no one deceives you”.

Some of the praise points:

- *2 Orphanages opened up again, Thank the Lord with us .Thank you Lord, for providing helpers and translators, no one got sick on the trip, just tired.
- *Thank you Lord for a good letter from the Ministry of Education.
- *Thanks for the Rustavi prayer house repairs done in faith and love for Jesus
- *Thank God for timely provisions to building repairs going on among believers.
- *Thanks for the East Georgia “little revival” among the 30 grandma’s. They are our heroes! You should have seen those precious wrinkled witnesses for Jesus.

Prayer points: (you can choose what is closest to your heart) Please:

- * Pray for growth of the seed in the hearts of children and teachers in the orphanages.
- *Pray that we do not get distracted from bringing the gospel to the end of the earth. Not by anything. It hurts so much! Remind each other. Let’s stop criticizing others who bring the gospel too.
- *Pray, that we do not fall asleep, to see and hear the progress of the signs of times. Nor that we, being too busy and do not respond to the Holy Spirit as to the need of the moment.
- *Pray for the next letter to the Ministry of Education relating to the V.B.S. invitations. We want to send orphans, as many as funds allow us, to the Bible Camp at the sea shore in the west.
- *Please: pray that the VBS preparations in the village pf pastor Alani, will be fruitful. It runs from 2-16 Aug. Also we hope and pray for a VBS among the Muslim children in that area (in the East of Georgia, 4 hours from Tbilisi)
- *Pray for Jesus-finale among the people around the prayer house in Rustavi.
- *Pray for the Holy Spirit to keep in charge of the revival in East Georgia.
- *Pray that we are able to keep active, praying and flexible! Please also pray that I (Sophia) can take a brake at times and not feel “out of time and place or guilty” ...
- *Pray for new missionaries to be willing and able to be sent to Georgia.
- *If you do not remember exactly what to pray: please pray for safe traveling. The traffic is still horribly dangerous. (Quite a few foreigners never make it to driving in this country.) Thank God for His over time working angels around us!

In His grace and in His in service
Steve and Sophia Schmalz

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