

NEWSLETTER FROM THE SCHMALZES Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, Dec. 2008

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here in the Georgian republic things seem to have quieted down somewhat after the war. But troops on both sides are increasing in number again around the northern border. Shortly, as people warned us, another war could break out. On November 7th a large demonstration against the president went peacefully, praise the Lord. We do not live among a peaceable people, (Ps.120:5-7 the people of "Meshekh") but praise God, prayer is powerful.

On the heavenly side of all of this, things could not be better for us. Opportunities to witness for the Lord Jesus are numerous. The war more so gives us ways to share and sometimes pray with people having a war of their own going on, on the inside. Quarrels, fear, drunkenness, sex, violence and anxiety know how to abuse people from within. Both you and I know however, what people need to hear to finally put an end to the war on the inside. What a crime it would be if we chose to do nothing to help them...

We expect in about a week or two to pick up our translated tracts from the printer. We hope to pick up about 50,000 of them. That should last us for a while. Tracts are an excellent way to stir up conversations about the Lord, Let's face it; we all need to be fishing. Remember, Jesus said we are to be fishers of men. The question is: What do we use for bait? Do you fish with an empty hook? Of course not, you put something on it. So we pass out tracts a lot. Sometimes it leads us to get into conversation with someone. Tracts work. What is it that they work at? Their job is to imprint the Word

of God on the minds and hearts of daily occupied people. Sophia loves to talk and get into conversations with people about the Lord. Once I, Sophia, met a professional tall and wide shouldered



I sensed such a soft heart in him and wondered: How can this man be a professional killer? Well, he was. He also was about to commit suicide two night before we met him, since for a long time he could not sleep anymore. At night he suffered from nightmares with choking fearful attacks. Just 3 hrs. per night he got, if he was "lucky". He prayed to receive the Lord Jesus and received peace of heart and the joy of the Lord. Then Jesus set him free of all attacks of death. He turned into a happy soldier with a witness of freedom in Christ. He stated he never wanted to kill any other person anymore so he threw his rifle in the Kura river. He is young in faith, so let's remember him in prayer. Not always our words reach such sensitive hearts but tracts stay with people. They can travel with them for miles, days and across borders and go from hand to hand. Passing out tracts should be a way of life while you are glorifying the Lord in the process. The Word of God does not return void but will accomplish that which it set out for. Let's face it, it takes faith to pass out tracts. If you don't have faith, it is a waste of time. The scriptures say whatever is not done in faith is sin. So walk in faith and spread the good news while you go. Don't let a day go by without sharing words of life with someone.

Lately we have been going to truck stops throughout the country. This way we met Fatim, a single truck driver (many drive in two-s) who just was desperate for a normal conversation. We spoke with him in

German. His Arabian wife and daughter live far away in Germany. Loneliness can drive a man to strange decisions. He owns a Mercedes. He took gladly the testimony about Khalil's life. Such testimonies are amazing. Also he got a Jesus video in Turkish language. I can not think of a better work, I rather do than serving the Lord.



Yes, it costs. Like getting smoke and laughing/mocking words to your face at times, besides of course the price of the materials. But the reward is being able to share light and life to people who are totally lost, hopeless and uncertain of their future. We remind them of their family and children and help them to save their money for their food and good times at home.

The Lord has opened up doors to speak and pray with women serving in the truck stop restaurants who are prostitutes. One such lady admitted she felt so dirty but sold herself just to buy a car. She admitted she was convinced that she was unforgivable but could not find another job. She is inside and outside a living dead person, who needed to hear that someone loves her unconditional and has a future for her much better. We said: You are worth so much more than 10 cars. Why continue? Can you imagine to see a lost person in her eyes and not tell her Jesus loves her? And died for all her sins? We prayed with her and left some materials

and our phone number. In that restaurant it turned out that her(female) boss was a daughter of an evangelical Ukrainian family, well acquainted with the Bible herself. We try especially to reach out to the men from Georgia's neighboring countries while they drive through Georgia. This has given us good understanding of Turkish and Azerbaijan and Iranian thought patterns and family settings. We offer them freely specially made materials in various languages of people who share their testimony. It is a blessing to be able to tell these precious people that the Lord Jesus died for them to take their sins away.

There is a lot for Sophia and I to do over here. Is it meaningful! Jesus is full of life. We were reaching out in a Muslim village of 15.000 people close to the Azerbaijan border. By God's will the faithful local evangelist was within reach and joined us while we put our big van (with crosses) at the weekly market. In this village we had very good responses from the people. Muslims usually are not well accepted by orthodox Georgians which result in one avoiding the another. Here we would search for them and give them the best we have: Good news and true interest in them. You should have seen the faces of disgust of some of the middle aged Georgian women! Thank God, one Georgian 76 yr old widow, 'Tsitsino, waiting on a horse drawn cart said: " I am so happy your told me, I have never heard about this. This is all new for me." Well, Steve, out of precaution stayed put at the car supplying 6 of us with more materials as we went. A wanderer came to the his van, looking like a young, somewhat peculiar farmer. He was a Michigan boy, not knowing why he was there or what he was looking for. He intended to stay longer than a 3 months visit and was so surprised to find a New York man living in Georgia already 14 years. Did Steve share the facts of life with this young man.! The realities to keep life upbeat end purposeful. Guess how? Jesus. We see lot of travelers coming to Georgia, it is a transit country for many peoples.

People ask us: "How are *you* doing?" Steve is doing better than excellent. He says daily that he loves me which keeps me strong. Thank God we can keep warm under good blankets. I, Sophia, called on a few prayer warriors around Oct. 7 after I broke the calf bone in my right ankle. It still keeps me surprised how that happened just shoveling my garden. Thank God, pain and swelling decreased so quickly, I thought the Lord had cured me in 5 days. But I was too hasty. It has not fused as of yet. Now only on uneven surfaces I walk with crutches because some markets have horrible walkways even for healthy ankles. Also Nov 16,17 was a call for prayer. Russia challenged Georgia's border again, and threatens with cutting natural gas as you read this. Life is not boring here.

These past months you amaze us, Sophia and I, how each of you who bless us with your giving, help us to do what we do. We are speechless. Thank you so much for all your help and prayers.

To summarize: * Praise God *

For the new openings in outreach, finding more people groups in Georgia.

Protection on the road, we drive many miles and see many drunken people....

Praise God for the power of prayer against violence from the North. Ps 46+47." *He* makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. *He* breaks the shield with fire. God reigns over the nations; *He* is seated on his holy throne...for the kings of the earth belong to God (!) *He* is greatly exalted.

* Please pray for: *

Badri the young soldier, Tsitsino the single widow, Fatim the truck driver and Helen the Prostitute, For: Julee and Eka which started their first bible studies in their lives with us. For Sophia 's health: her broken leg, which did not fuse after 6 weeks.

Pray for a peaceful winter in Georgia with ample opportunity to fish for the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We read and heard about much bad news about our country, USA. We pray for you, the Lord's torch bearer, to shine in the darkest places and bring hope to the most hopeless hearts. You and your family : a delightful 2009 because the Lord is Good, always .

Imagine: One year closer to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We love you , Steve and Sophia Schmalz

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