

From Surduc, Romania, we travelled to Moscow the last 2 weeks of October for a session of the institute where we study the book of GALATIANS with leaders, trainers from Russia, Belarus and Uzbekistan. Many travelled 1-3 days by trains. These teams came from 10 institutes with 1,720 students. To hear testimonies of how God works in their localities and countries was a great encouragement.



At this session were also attending six pastors who are trainers. We study the book of GALATIANS which brought good understanding of the GRACE OF GOD and FREEDOM IN CHRIST which make possible a life pleasing to Him. Valera a deaf pastor and coordinator of deaf institutes said, "This session brings great joy in my heart from understanding the study and its doctrines about gospel, grace, faith, freedom. I will teach these topics to the leaders of the deaf institutes of Russia".





Laws in Russia penalize inviting strangers to an evangelical church, meeting outside of a recognized denomination, distributing free Christian literature on streets, missionary work. This year over 15,000 bible study materials were distributed in Russia. Pastor Alexander and his team hold seminars, conferences in churches to engage people in the study of the Word. In 2018 Precept institute in Russia celebrated its 20th anniversary since its opening in Moscow and now there are 15 institutes in 15 cities.

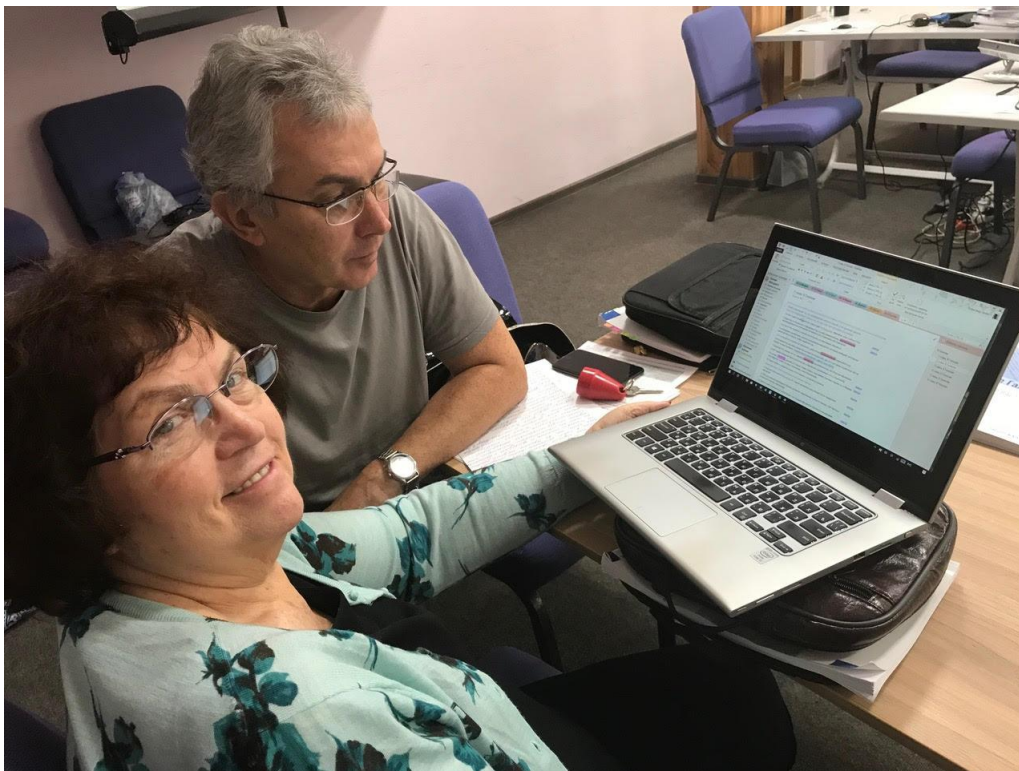


FARHOD thanked us for spiritual and physical rest these 2 weeks and his joy to receive answers to many questions. "God grace enveloped me at this session. I received spiritual understanding at this institute. I was born again through the Word, I grew in the understanding of the Word and I understood my spiritual gift in the study of the Word. I have received courage to be strong, unmovable and to continue the ministry of engaging people in the Word which has power to change and transform."

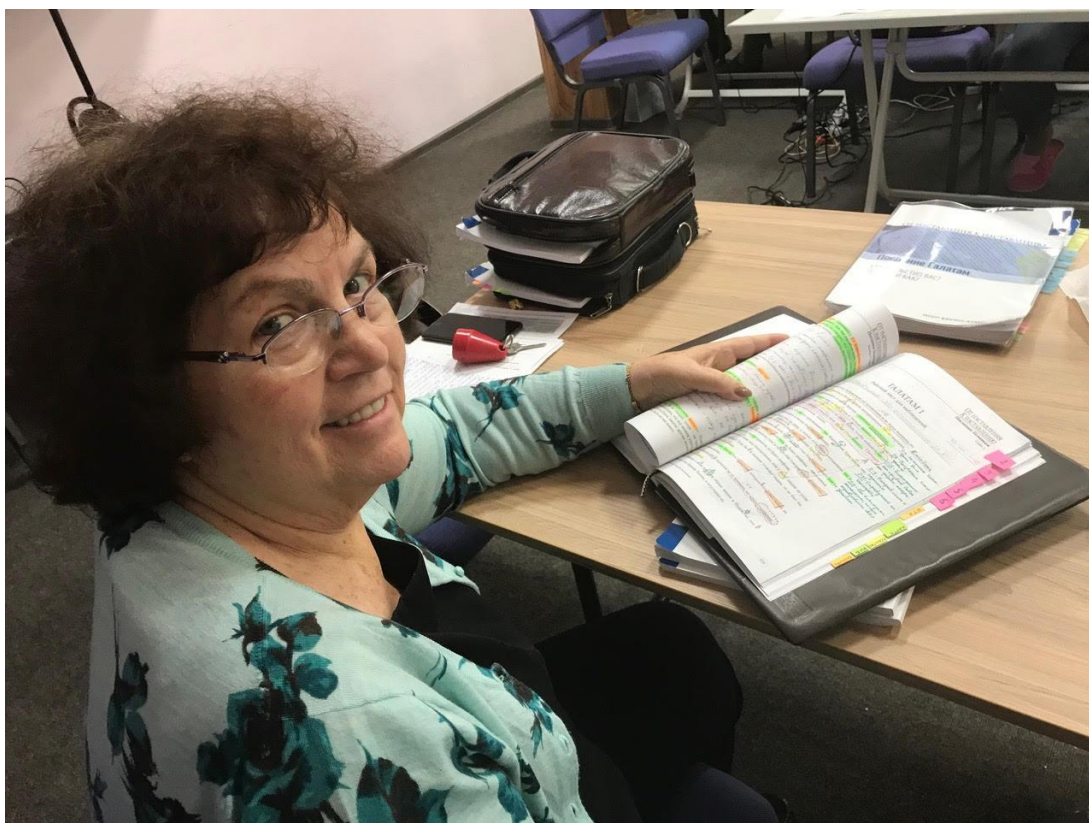




ZOYA is from CHYUVASH Russian federation republic and the translator of God, are you there? In order to prepare and update this book for printing ZOYA needed our help and we worked with her to finish this book. She was excited to see this project finished. She enjoyed to take part at this session and said, "I digged into GALATIANS and I was happy the write the tests with the doctrines of GRACE; FAITH, GOSPEL, which built me up. The GRACE of God enveloped me and I was strengthened."



On the last day of the session each leader presents his manual, observations worksheets they worked in, tests taken during class. Pastor Alexander is very disciplined and his class work is impeccable. "I understood the GRACE of God and the FREEDOM in Christ. The responsibility of teaching the word leads to a knowledge of Jesus who gave us salvation. May the Lord continue to work in me, to fulfill His calling, to live in His grace and lead people in the Word to Him."





I am very touched by the diligence and discipline of these leaders. This is filled-out manual of Andrei K., pastor and trainer for the deaf. He is very practical and he studies and explains truth many times through drawings. He is excited as he teaches and studies. He also raises both hands when he discovers something new or has questions. The book of Galatians made an great impact and he said, "I saw again the importance of the context, the danger of the other gospel, the importance of contrasts and how important is to work with the book." The leaders of deaf when they receive grades for their tests, they share with others, shake hands and raise both hands in excitement.



Pavel, the youngest who sits by Andrei above, is deaf and the first to come to the session with his mother who is a trainer for the institute in Uzbekistan. The first two days Pavel was ready to quit. He said "I feel my head has been split and brains burned". He was encouraged by the deaf team to continue. Pavel tried to make all efforts and he was amazed he can understand and enjoy to discover truths. When he receive the first grade, 90 points, he was so excited, showed everyone his work and stayed up very late to make sure he finishes his lesson or requirements.

The book I check in the picture belongs to Pavel and he got 100 points. What a joy he had when he received the grade! At the end of the session Pavel thanked us for receiving him at this session for advanced leaders and trainers.



Valera (left) and Andrew are pastors and trainers for the deaf institutes in Russian speaking world. We had two special meetings to discuss the work and a new project: how to reach the young generation of deaf who do not know the sign language and do not know to read and write. We came together with this new project who will prepare the young generation for the Precept institute for deaf. This program will take 2 years with 6 sessions and 6 courses. As we prayed the Lord gave us the name: School of Samuel. They are so excited about this school.



MARINA from morning until night translates for the deaf in the sign language during the session, discussions or if we call them to teach.

The team is on the last day, very happy for what they have learned. MARINA besides translating, does her home work, tests, and during the breaks if she is not translating she tells us in Romanian VREAU SA AJUT (HOW CAN I HELP).





It is 11.30 PM. The deaf team and Marina waits after other students talk with us, with questions from the lessons. After a long time discussion with translation, everyone left happy because they understood through questions and answers, Marina translation into Russian and VIOLETA translation into Romanian. They want to make sure they understand everything in the study as they prepare to teach others.



The new printed books "Lord give me answers" were distributed in the first day in a very short time. The deaf team got only one book and became sad. ANTON (in the picture below) said, "I will return to Moscow to get more books". It was over 2 hour trip. Above, ANTON returned and brought the books; all the deaf team show their gratitude and excitement to use them in their teams.



Paulina (4 yrs old) with parents NADYA and ANTON took part at this session. They made big efforts to participate at this session. Both work with Precept MEDIA as volunteers, have bible studies and coordinate other groups.





After every team presents the work of the institute in their area, we divide in groups to pray according to prayer requests. In the picture GHENADY from St. Petersburg, who coordinates 15-20 groups prays with SERGEY, pastor and trainer from MAGNYTOGORSK, who travelled 3 days by train in order to come to this session.



Together with the trainers for the institutes we meet to evaluate work, to plan the sessions for next 6 months, we talk about the work in Russia in the present situation. We plan and strategize and prayed for the work in 2019.



These leaders and trainers lead 149 groups with 1,549 people. We rejoice to teach, to encourage, to have fellowship with these wonderful leaders and trainers who dedicated their lives and made every effort with joy and sacrifice to engage people in God word. They told us repeatedly they are so happy for our coming which is appreciated and trust to continue to come. The laws keep changing, the opportunities for Christians are limited but they understand this is an important time to take every opportunity in wisdom and make possible to know God and to make disciples.

Thank you for your prayers.

Mia and Costel