

May 2022

Sterling Family TO SIBERIA



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Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for your prayers during this time of uncertainty and conflict in our part of the world. Your continued financial support of our ministry is more needed now than it ever has been in our 22 years of work in Russia. We do not take for granted the faithfulness of all those who continue to hold the ropes for us.

The month of April has been a very busy one for us. After arriving in the States we were able to spend some time with Mom and Dad Sterling and also with Grandma Deering. After a few short days, we traveled to see our sons who are attending Golden State Baptist College. We were able to spend much needed time with our boys and attend services at North Valley Baptist Church. During our last service there in Santa Clara, Pastor Trieber and the people of North Valley voted to take us on for monthly support. A special thanks to missionaries Kendale and Nancy Lalman who spent much needed time with us during our brief visit in California. We flew back to Arizona and that afternoon put all of our belongings in a rental car and drove to Lawrence, Kansas. While in Lawrence we were reunited with our daughter, Rebekah, who attends Heritage Baptist Church. Pastor Hanks preached two messages on the will of God that were exactly what our family needed during that time. We preached Wednesday night at Heritage and then had the opportunity to teach a class at Heritage Baptist College the next day. It was a blessing to watch Brother Tom Nehring lead a man to the Lord as we went door to door during their Thursday evening regularly scheduled time of soul-winning. While we were in Lawrence we retrieved our van from our daughter and through the help of some faithful members of Heritage who work in the automotive field, were able to take her to a small dealership where she was able to purchase a used vehicle for work. A big thanks to the Barney Smith family who kept us during our stay in Lawrence.

We drove on to Knoxville, Tennessee, where we stayed with the Hickman family. The Hickmans have been a huge encouragement to our family over the years and have provided us with godly, spiritual counsel since before we were married and throughout all our years on the field. It was a blessing to also spend some time with their son, Terry, who was a classmate in college and meet Terry's first granddaughter, Amelia. While there we were also able to visit with Grant Hickman, a required visit for our boys every furlough. After Knoxville we drove down to the BIMI headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was good to see so many of the people who have helped us through various situations over the years. We stayed at the mission for a week while we looked for an apartment to rent. The demand for real estate and rentals in this area borders on the insane. The ladies at the Mission were surprised when my wife told them we had been able to find a place to stay in one week.

We were privileged to attend Easter services at Lakewood Baptist Church our first week in Chattanooga. During the morning service my wife mentioned that she recognized a visitor. It turns out that it was a friend she knew from nursing school visiting from Florida for Easter. That day we ended up having Easter dinner with her relatives, the Torres family, who also attend Lakewood. As it turns out, the Torres graduated from Oklahoma Baptist College and work for Brother Sean Lunday, a classmate of mine during Bible College. Furthermore, the matriarch of the day, Grandma Patton, attends a church in San Antonio pastored by Roy Castillo, another good friend from OBC. The next week we sat under the preaching of Dr. J.B. Godfrey during Lakewood's annual Missions Conference. Brother Godfrey has been a good friend and advisor to me since before I met my wife. He has been a voice of reason and faith for us through the last two months and we are very thankful to have such a person to depend on.

The following Sunday we held our Russian Easter services via Skype. We are maintaining contact with those the Lord has given us through online services. Please pray for us as we continue trying to influence people for the cause of Christ in Russia.

We will be basing out of the Chattanooga area while in the States. We will be scheduling meetings in the coming months with churches we were unable to report to during our last furlough. Please contact us if you would like us to come and share what the Lord has been doing these past years in Siberia.

Your Servants for Jesus' Sake,

the Sterlings
1 Peter 2:21