**PLEASE DON’T TOSS THIS LETTER WITHOUT READING 12.24.19**

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Dear Brethren,

 This is no ordinary request for support. I am writing to you because you have partnered with me in past kingdom efforts so you know me, or because you have shown a strong interest in foreign fields in the past. We are living in exciting times to see the Lord’s power working, but the Devil is likewise showing how aggressive he can be. While the church explodes in one African country, next door in another country 1,000 believers were murdered in 2019. Hundreds of believing young women, many of them New Testament Christians, are abducted and sold as sex slaves or slave wives. While we are blessed for the moment in the US with a booming economy, religious freedoms, and communication technology; other nations attack their own citizens and put a choke hold on religion and free speech.

 In the last decade Russia has become one of the above nations closing the gap with China and North Korea on these counts. Political objectors are murdered, tele-communication is monitored and blocked, and religious rights have all but disappeared. For years now it has been illegal to teach New Testament truth publicly or privately. Laws have been put in place over the past three years that 1) forbid religious meetings (other than the Orthodox) even in private homes, 2) forbid the gathering of more than 3 people for any reason, 3) and forbid the teaching of any religious doctrine by anybody without the local Orthodox priest’s permission. Preachers were being warned by Russians to stay home several years ago. By citizens there it is being described as a return to 1937 and the days of Stalin. Neighbors turn in neighbors to the authorities and fear is the word of the day. I understand that many object, but they’re keeping their objections quiet and they don’t know what to do.

 I have a contact there. I can’t tell you his name or where he lives but I will tell you that he is a brother in Christ and I would trust him with my life. He contacted me awhile back seeking study materials that he and I had used years ago. He is studying with 2 or 3 close friends. It didn’t take much talking or prayer before we came to an agreement. It is time to plant an underground church in Russia once again. He’s willing to stand and he’s asking for help. Let me repeat that, he is not asking for money, he is asking for spiritual help. Brethren, it is time to go back to the catacombs. I’m willing to go, will you or your congregation please help us?

 My contact has been confronted by the FSB in the past and some of our texts have been intercepted presently so his personal safety is a major concern. I don’t mean to be secretive. I would be happy to share our tentative plans with any eldership, congregation, or individual who is interested in fellowshipping this effort. For serious parties I have a PDF presentation that I can email you that was put together by my contact. It is not a professional presentation but it does outline some of our ideas and presents the mood that he is living under.

 Presently we are looking for…

* Individuals who have the ability to join together and finance and support a small cover business.
* Churches that will support a couple of teachers visiting Russia for a couple weeks each month
* Volunteer teachers that will take a turn visiting Russia for two weeks
* Brethren who will batter the spiritual forces of darkness with prayer

We are planning this work, will you help us work the plan? Help us go into the Devil’s backyard and plant our Lord’s ensign in that place once more. For more information you can email me at mcmurrayc54@gmail.com or call me at 765.623.2238. Please pass this on if you know of someone who might be able to help.

In His service

Carl (Mac) McMurray