

Many of you have asked me for more detailed information to pray about. Here is some.
Please let me know if you do not want to receive these lengthy Quarterly Reports. (8 pages)
With all the information "flying around" I'll understand. Thank you. Paddy
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INTERNATIONAL TEAM MEMBER - Paddy Cook
QUARTERLY PEF REPORT: **December 2002**

Evangelist to Eastern Europe
(March, June, September & December)



Paddy

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Tribute to previous Exc. Dir of PEF
Dr. & Mrs. Ben Wilkinson.
SEE BELOW

**SEEK THE TRUTH
SPEAK THE TRUTH
AND LIVE THE TRUTH**

So writes Os Guinness in his book “TIME FOR TRUTH”
He also writes about , “Living Free in a World of Lies, Hype, & Spin.”

“In our postmodern society, truth no longer exists in any objective or absolute sense. At best, truth is considered relative; at worst a matter of human convention.” But as Os points out in this important book, truth is a vital requirement for freedom and a good life.

“Time for Truth” will challenge you to seek the truth, speak the truth and live the truth.
It will show you that becoming a free and truthful person is the deepest secret of integrity and the highest form of taking responsibility for yourself and your life.

“Guinness cuts to the heart of a problem that threatens America and the West more than any armed enemy – the decline of truth as a guiding principle in our lives.”
Fred Barnes in the Weekly Standard.

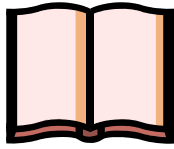
[RUSSIAN UPDATE - LETTER OF THANKS](#)



Col. Oleg

Dear Paddy,
First, I want to tell you that I greatly appreciate both you (Paddy & David) and your desire to serve God. We were blessed to have you actively involved in our ministry, we praise God for the gift of you all.
Thank you for your great help for the conference and for your faithfulness.
We love you all!
God bless you,
Oleg and RMCU staff. (Russian Military Christian Union)

THE WORD OF GOD.



John 14:6

“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (Jesus Christ.)

Seek the Truth - Tell the Truth - Live the Truth
How Does this statement apply to ISLAM?

There is NO TRUTH in ISLAM. Let me repeat that.

There is NO TRUTH in ISLAM. The Jesus in Islam is not the Jesus of the Bible. The Allah in the Koran, is not the Creator God of the Bible.

We were blessed at the 34th Annual PEF Family Evangelism Conference and we were privileged to sit under the teaching of one of the nations foremost teachers about Islam. Notice that I didn't say we learned the 'truth' of Islam. We were instructed **about Islam. THERE IS NO TRUTH IN ISLAM.**

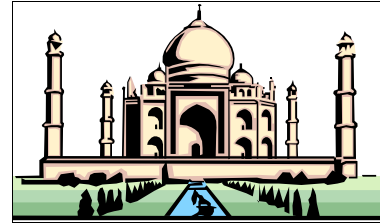
If ISLAM is supposed to be a religion of Peace how could that possibly be the case if they don't believe in sin. They believe that there are mistakes and that they need to be corrected. Without the forgiveness of sin there can be no reconciliation. The TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM is that it is a religion of deception, lies, hatred and violence. There are about 29 references in the Koran where Muslims are instructed to kill infidels! I suspect that while they are in the minority in the US we will have "peaceful" Muslims. But be warned that if God ever allowed them to be in the majority in this country the real truth and purpose of Islam would be a different story!

Apparently there continues to be much confusion, even in Reformed circles about Islam. Even non-biblical thought has limited value because it can not say, "thus says the Lord." Islamic theology denies the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Some scholars say that Jesus is mentioned 95 times in the Koran, but never once as, Emanuel, Son of God or incarnate God in the flesh.

Mohammed was by himself when he received his "revelation." He has no witnesses. A single witness even in a civil court is discounted. Christ Himself says, in John 5:31, "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true."

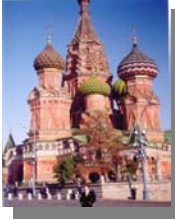
ISLAM IS NOT PART OF THE CREATOR GOD'S HOLY REVELATION.

THE WORD OF MAN.



ISLAM

The Koran is a satanic book. As you read it, you will meet Satan.



RUSSIAN UPDATE:



4 Days of Seminars for Military Officers



35 men at Seminars from 7 time zones.



Dear Russian pastor persecuted for 15 yr.

Russian Military Officers - Chaplaincy Training. God was in charge in Russia and allowed David and I to be an encouragement, even a blessing to the men. After the 4 days of seminars, morning and afternoon, we received 30 written thank you notes from the men. 27 were positive and 3 were 'neutral.' There were no negative notes. Each morning, after a good breakfast, we were picked up from our hotel in Moscow, by Oleg's driver, for a 2 and a half hour drive through the city and out into the surrounding countryside. We began our lectures at 10.30 am. In the evening our translator drove us back to Moscow's city limits and we used the Russian Metro to get back to our hotel. Many of the stations were covered in marble with elegant chandeliers and magnificent stone statues. It was not an inconvenience at all, as we finally conquered the metro. No small accomplishment! 34 New Geneva Study Bibles (\$12 each) in Russian, were presented to Oleg for the men. 200 Ultimate Questions were also distributed to the men. I was presented with a fine Russian windup watch by one of the officers. It was presented to him by Oleg and has the White, Blue and Red Russian flag on its face. David did a great job lecturing and used army videos to demonstrate Chaplains at work. A friend of 30 years, he was a great traveling companion. Snoring wise, we both gave as good as we got! David led a "field communion service" which was the highlight of the week.

Planning the ministry to the Russian Military Officers, was another story. It was tolerated chaos. Dates changed, locations changed, numbers attending changed. The following became our theme song.

We the willing, led by the unknowing, (brother Oleg) are doing the impossible, for the ungrateful. (We didn't know how grateful Oleg was!) We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified, to do anything, with nothing.

We had a unforgettable trip to Moscow to minister with the Russian Christian Military. We thank you for all your prayers. ALL the money came in BEFORE we left. We received 3 invitations before we left, to return to minister, at the Chechnya Military Academy, a Black Sea Resort and Japan basically. (as far east of Siberia, as you can go in Russia).

Oleg expressed his desire to come with us on all these invitations. We continue to operate under his leadership, in service to him, for the ministry that God has given to him. We are not trying to develop a ministry in Russia to the Military, without him. Indeed, eventually, when there is consistency and more order and understanding, PEF will plan to hand the ministry over, to retired and reformed Military chaplains and will continue assisting, as needed.

Comments from Russian Military Officers, at the Chaplains Seminars.

"This meeting [was] surprising and unusual for Russian Officers. It was doubly useful also for Christians. We are hoping for future meetings. What will especially remain in my memory are the work of American Chaplains, how they took field communion, tasty nuts and candy."

"I enjoyed Paddy's address very much; it admonished us. I heard golden grains of wisdom based in the Bible.... I thank the Lord and you for coming to Russia. I wait anew for you."

"... this is the first time that I have been at such a conference. The Word that I heard took the veil down for me from many questions. Besides that, a number of examples gave me an uninhibited attitude to preach to the people in the streets and to military personnel."

Write a paragraph about your family.

HOUSE MOVING UPDATE:

We now live in Georgia.



Prairie Village, Kansas



Lookout Mt, Georgia

The first couple who ‘bought’ our house decided not to get married and delayed our move to Lookout Mt. and Reformed Presbyterian Church. The second person who finally bought our home, delayed the purchase further, by choosing to spend some of his house deposit money on the expenses he incurred, by the sudden death of his father just days before our closing.

We marvel, looking back, at the places we have lived. We haven’t been able to afford to live in any of them. Lookout Mountain, GA is no exception. We are blessed and thank God for our new Church and home.

**God promises us with His unique absoluteness that,
"HE DETERMINED...THE EXACT PLACE WHERE THEY SHOULD LIVE." Acts 17:26.**



Andrew graduated in May and he and **Jessi** made a well planned transition back to Lookout Mountain on the Tennessee side. They have a lovely apartment, a few yards from the top of the incline railway. Andrew has gone into business with a Covenant College graduate and Jessi has a job as Admissions Co-ordinator at Covenant College. They are attending Lookout Mt., PCA.



Stephen also graduated in May and works in Greenville, SC. He has a wonderful living situation with a godly family and attends Woodruff Road PCA. He works in a local private school, as a special Ed. apprentice. He is teaching piano to a few students getting experience and certification as a soccer coach. He is enjoying his first year at work and is planning to do a Masters degree in special education.



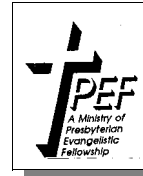
Mary has been having a difficult summer with her a second tumor surgery. It went well and she is healing steadily but she is limping again. She saved enough money to take the summer off, so that she could be with her old graduating class, before they go off to college. She has suffered with the rest of us tidying up all summer to show the house.



Matthew burst into song in the car with his rendition of part of the “Marriage of Figero.” Where did you learn that Matty?” I asked. “Loony Tunes” he replied. - Right! This summer at vacation Bible school Matty learned a great chorus. When he’s happy he sings it. “I’m so very happy, so very happy, I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart.”



Sheila is doing a great job home schooling Matthew. Many of her headaches are gone now since she has stopped taking dairy products. Summer has been a “roller coaster” so far as showing the house. Sheila has faithfully cleaned house for every single showing!



ITALIAN UPDATE:



ITALY

It is with great sadness that I tell you that **John Bonomo Munro**, otherwise know to you as, “**the International Italian Lawyer**” died recently in **Dublin, Ireland**. John was the grateful recipient of many of Dr. Boice’s books, including his commentary on Romans and John. John made a profession of faith in Ciampano, Italy, in 2000.



ITALY

Walter, an Italian from Mantova, is a **pastor, teacher and translator**, as well as a devoted family man.



ITALY

Dr. **Mario**, an Italian in Viterbo, is a **pastor, teacher and evangelist** and also a devoted family man.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for Italy. Reformed Worship Services are held each Sunday in a rented facility in the town of Viterbo, now. Each new attendee is handed a copy of the WCF in Italian, thanks to a Swiss Reformer’s translation work. On Sunday, Dec. 8th, I have the thrill of baptizing two of Dr. Mario’s three children in covenant baptism, in a church only an hour away from the Vatican.

ITALY:

ITALIAN PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for this newly reformed worship & discipleship center in Italy. For continued health and strength for **Dr. Mario**, as he pastors the church, leads his family and runs his chiropractic business. Please also pray for **Walter** and his family as Walter looks to the Lord for direction in ministry. **Pray for the witness of covenant baptism in Italy, on Sunday Dec. 8th**

I canceled a trip to Siberia in November, where I was due to address a pastors conference with Bibles for Russia. However, I could not cancel a much needed trip to Italy in December, to baptize Mario’s children! Dr. Mario, a chiropractor in Viterbo, is a pastor/teacher/evangelist and has thankfully received a number of Reformed theological books that you have enabled me to give to him. He has devoured them. He read “Chosen by God” by R.C. Sproul, three times and concluded, with his other reading, that he was in the wrong denomination. He led his little church away from its Brethren roots and is courageously testifying each week with his family, to the glory of God and the doctrines of grace. He is also studying towards an M. Div. and ordination.

How has the Lord blessed your relationship with one another?



It was wonderful to be all together on Look-out Mountain for Thanksgiving and not have to drive all the way back to KC!



Are there any special needs or concerns?

I had an urgent need to purchase a Respironics Solo breathing machine before we left K.C. On a recent trip to Russia a lady in the reformed church in Tver, was taking peoples' blood pressure. I found out that mine was very high. On returning home, I had a battery of tests done and all was well, but I needed forced air to help me breath more regularly at night. Apparently, if you don't get enough air then you don't produce enough red blood cells, which in turn makes the blood thicker than it needs to be. That was a year or so ago. I just never had \$1,600 over at the end of the month..... I plucked up courage to 'bite the bullet.' only to find that I needed to update my prescription. I was fully prepared to get \$1,600 worth of Delta Frequent flyer miles. Amazingly, I walked out of the fancy health care offices with a machine with just 38 hours on it. I was given the \$200 tubing and mask and for the whole machine along with a shoulder bag that makes it travel worthy for a \$650. What a God!

Has your spiritual growth, devotions personal Bible study been positive?

Moving house has a way of upsetting all sorts of routines and quiet times has been no exceptions. I continue to be thankful for R.C. Sprouls monthly Tabletalk. We are truly blessed with fellowship and Bible exposition here at our new church home on Lookout Mt. We attend Reformed Presbyterian, PCA opposite Covenant College and we are being regularly blessed.

Are there any health needs?

Stephen has "fallen off" our Christian Care Medishare policy. He couldn't get a loan for school in time for the fall enrollment, since he was not a S.C. resident. He hopes to be back on in September 2003.

Sheila has had her share of visits to the doctor and we thank God that has all been paid for now.

Matthew is wonderfully healthy. I think it is the outdoor "cowboy lifestyle" that he leads.

Mary's Health Update:

Mary has now had two expensive surgeries in 14 months on her hip, to remove benign tumors. Unfortunately we don't know what is causing the tumors and potentially more worrisome, is the fact that she is likely to have further tumors. Mary recovered quickly and steadily earlier in the year and has been very brave. She is working out at the gym to loose the slight limp that remains after her surgery.

Write a paragraph about your ministry.

One thing we have learned over the years is that we must never "get out of the saddle." We actually had a PEF Evangelist hold up a full saddle a number of times in his sermon. I am called as a teaching elder and that is a life time call. Probably 4/5 times since starting with PEF in '87, I have called out to the Lord saying in effect, "Lord if you don't want me to do this ministry anymore, please give me a heart for something else. However, if you do want me to continue, just keep sending the money and we will do all we can with what you give us....."

ALBANIAN UPDATE:



Until Bertie has completed his seminary studies there is little that can be done in Albania. His first of 4 years was completed successfully. I understand that he won his class theological debate and he has made the necessary adjustments to living in America. He didn't feel confident to follow up on a potential internship at a PEF study center in the Bronx, so for much of the summer, he continued taking classes at Greenville, in preparation for next year. He has an excellent rapport with the seminary professors and all appears to be going very well, both at school and with the officers and people at Woodruff Road, PCA (Pastored by Carl Robbins.) Our son Stephen, is now attending the church and he and Bertie are enjoying each others company. Bertie was sufficiently confident that he managed to travel to Canada over the summer and obtained, without any difficulty, a student visa for his second year. I can tease Stephen and Bertie but together they delight in turning the tables on me.



Please pray that Bertie's driving will improve! I had to speak with him during his final exam week, about speeding through the church parking lot when he wasn't late for church. As I expected Bertie, with his very tender heart, settled the matter immediately and was demonstrably repentant.

Please hold before the Lord, the need for a ministry building that Bertie will need soon after he returns to Albania. His space at home is the small living/dining room, after his folks and sister have gone to bed. Our prayer is that God will provide a suitable building to buy, so that thousands of precious missions dollars won't have to go into renting a place to worship and minister from. A building could house staff, transport and office equipment.

How has the Lord blessed your ministry?

ALBANIA: It's such a blessing to know that the ministry has been part of God's plan, to bring Bertie to Seminary.

ROMANIA: A Godly provision that Tom (Belfast), has been enabled to do so much for the Romanian Church.

CROATIA: A Presbyterian and Reformed Church planter is still needed to train Croatian brothers.

RUSSIA: How blessed to work with godly men, Eugene & Vladimir, Blake and Oleg & the Russian Military.

ITALY: A rare blessing, a covenantal baptism for Italian infants and to see the Reformed Church forming.

SWITZERLAND: A privilege indeed to meet with a proven Swiss Reformer, with a missionary vision and zeal.

SICILY: The joy of an invitation to preach and fellowship in another European Country for PEF.

FRANCE: The opportunities for ministry that need to be developed in this spiritually barren country.

CZECH REPUBLIC: What a delight to know that PEF has Pavel Bartos ministering in his beloved country.

ENGLAND - N. IRELAND: I thank God for my godly heritage and opportunities for ministry.

USA: We were blessed with a gift, of what we thought was \$250 to help set up house. It was for \$2,500!

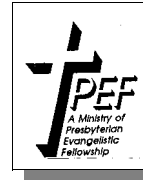
GOD'S FAITHFUL FINANCIAL PROVISION for the MINISTRY:

"..... I was merely noting that you have been totally dependent upon God's provision for many, many years and that He has been faithful. I believe your history of ministry is a glowing example of walking by faith in God's will."

Grace and Peace,
Peter R. Vaughn
Director
The American School of Lyon,
FRANCE.



Tribute to Former Exc. Dir of PEF
Dr. & Mrs. Ben Wilkinson.
Currently with Synod of the City.



My tribute to Dr. Ben and Mary Ruth is simple. Nothing that you have ever read about our ministry in these newsletters, would ever have happened, if Dr. Ben hadn't reached out to me, got me into the "Evangelist's Saddle" and encouraged me each year to, "Keep at it, my brother." Of all the fine men that God has given to the PCA, in my opinion, Dr. Ben stands 'alone' in the combination of gifts that God has given him, to serve His Church. **He has been, unwaveringly clear and consistent in matters of Biblical truth, he has been sensitive and bold in his appreciation for the role of a Presbyterian Evangelist and he has the courage of a man who walks close to God.** He and his dear wife of many years, walk and minister to strangers in downtown Atlanta, in places that I often think angels would think more than twice about before they ventured out. **When Dr. Ben says, or writes something, it is my strong conviction that the Church should listen and think long and hard before they disagree with him.** I have done nothing of significance, in any country in this ministry, without first seeking Dr. Ben's godly wisdom and counsel. Dr. Ben, I pray, and ask others also to pray that God would grant you excellent measures of health in the years to come and many more years in the "Evangelist's Saddle." I love you dear friend in Jesus and thank God for your compassion for the lost. **You are one of the few Presbyterians I know, who "diapers his 'own' converts."**

What have been your areas of frustration?

Selling a house for the first time, has been an unbelievable time consuming frustration. For the first time this summer, we didn't have enough money for the family pool pass. However, with all the new double glazed windows I was able to put in and with our new High efficiency furnace we managed without it. The good news now is, that we have our own above ground pool!

What specific blessings do you want to share with us?

Cost of Moving Quote: \$5,600 Actual Moving Cost, about \$678 plus gas and a \$300 rebate! Oh and a few things that were left over from our 25' Penske truck. Like a 14' Penske truck! The Ministry opportunities that God opens up for this small ministry. Your prayers have a lot to do with that. Thank you, specially the handful of you, who pray everyday for our family and ministry. God delights in the prayers of His people and we receive the blessings of prayers offered at any time of day or night

What are your prayer requests?

- Personal family holiness.
- For a Trust Fund, to finance the translation of reformed theological literature into many languages.
- That God would give Mary peace and assurance, that He will lead, guide and provide for ALL her needs.
- Full financial Support.

What are some of your items of praise?

Our greatest cause for praise is that the Creator God is our God, and that He has made us His people.



Eugene & Paddy in Tver. Eugene now has latest desktop.



Vladimir and now has latest laptop.

What are some of your special needs, in the family or ministry? Mary needs work and local friends.

What are some of the problems that need to be brought before our heavenly Father?

- Funding the ministry
- Selling of House - Mary's new job.
- Stephen's continuing studies
- Clients for Andrew's new business
- Getting American Chaplains for ministry in Russia

RUSSIA:

Although the ministry to the Chaplains in Russia went very well, as you may recall the preparation was basically "tolerated chaos." The fact that it went well in Russia was to be expected. However, it is hard to get a commitment from American Chaplains on this side, when they are used to the Military mindset. It is just not like that in Russia. Russians may appear to be Western and look Western but they often don't think like Westerners'. David doesn't want to return the way things stand at present. I am working with him and I am hopeful that he will see the big picture. It is an amazing opportunity to inject Biblical Theology and practice into such an important group of men.

Brought clarity out of confusion in respect to the ministry with Russian Military Officers & Chaplaincy.
Latest Computer Updates for two Russian Reformed Pastors, Eugene & Vladimir.

Please pray that David will be willing to return to Russian with me and think less of his needs and concerns and see the opportunity that has been placed before us.

Please pray that we at PEF will be able to develop this ministry to the point that it is "organized" enough to be able to hand it over to retired, reformed, American Chaplains.

Also, that until that time, these dear brothers will understand the chain of command is from Oleg to PEF/Me to them as TEAM MEMBERS. That appears to be difficult for them but it is essential that that happens for successful development and final handing over of the ministry. Thanks.

What are some of your goals and hopes for the coming months?

Seek finances for theological translation into ALBANIAN, ITALIAN, RUSSIAN.

Books already translated into ITALIAN.

How are your financial needs being met?

Ministry Financial Update:

Since there are thousands here in KC from Sprint who have been laid off locally and many still without work I have hesitated to mention our own needs. We thank God that all the money came in for the expensive trip to Russia for the first set of seminars for the Christian Military officers Chaplaincy program. I was able to negotiate the cost of the seminars down from \$5,000 to \$3,500 based on 35 people attending. With the extra \$1,500 saved, I was enabled to update Pastor Eugene & Pastor Vladimir, our two reformed pastor friends with the latest computers. Eugene with a desk top and Vladimir with a laptop. After all the translating that they have done on the New Geneva Study Bible they still have 436 type computers.

However, for ourselves we have not received a full salary since March.

April wages: \$2,200

May wages: \$1,600

Walter from Mantova, is an Italian pastor/teacher/translator. Dr. Mario and Walter have both, by the Grace of God adopted reformed theology, and embraced Covenant Theology recently.

June wages: \$ 834

July wages: \$1,300 The good news is that we do have all our bills paid . I did attend the 34th PEF Family Evangelism Conference in Alabama and took a couple of family house hunting trips to Chattanooga. However we do have \$2,500 on our credit card. This is always a discouragement to me planning ahead for the ministry opportunities we have.

“When a man is anxious he cannot pray with faith; when he is troubled about the world, he cannot serve his Master, his thoughts are serving himself. If you would **“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous.”** all things would then be added unto you. You are meddling with Christ’s business, and neglecting your own when you fret about your lot and circumstances.”

[34th Annual - PEF Family Evangelism Conference on July 27th - August 2nd in Florence, Alabama.](#)

What trips are you planning (Conferences, meetings etc.)? Subject to available funds in hand.

Sept. Italy

Nov. Siberia - Pastors Conference Cancelled - lack of funds

January: Albania

Ukraine

France

Proverbs 3:5,6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:9

In his heart a man plans his course,
but the Lord determines his steps.

