



*God's Mission ...as told from the perspective of Alyssa Anders*

# GOD DOES ANSWER

April 2019

## Prayers Молитвы

God keep his promises. Spring is a time of year that always reminds me of this fact. The arrival of spring is like an analogy for our spiritual life: even though the cold weather continues longer than we'd like and we have unexpected snowstorms in March, we know that spring *will* come. It must come eventually. In the same way, we know that God *will* fulfill his promises—he *must* fulfill his promises. We've been seeing small signs of spring in St. Petersburg lately: budding pussy willow branches, rain instead of snow and a few, brave plants poking their heads up from the hard, icy ground. Each of these signs points to the arrival of warmer weather and the end of the long winter, but for me they also serve as reminders of God's faithfulness. What He has promised to do, He will do.

One of the things He has promised to do is to hear our prayers. Often it doesn't feel like our prayers make any difference, or that they're not being answered as quickly as we

would like. But God still hears them, and we can trust that He will answer them in His way and in His perfect time.

As I was preparing to write this newsletter, I re-read my March newsletter to help me start the process of thinking of a new topic. It immediately became clear what my theme should be when I noticed the prayer requests I had written down for last month. I realized that many of these prayers had been answered in very concrete ways—a blessing that we don't always get to see! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers, and allow me to share with you how God has been answering those prayers this month!

### Divine Appointments

In my last newsletter, one of the prayer requests was for "divine appointments." I didn't think much of it when I added it to the list, and honestly, I forgot I had asked for those prayers. But God answered.

## Prayer Requests

*"For we are his  
workmanship, created in  
Christ Jesus for good  
works, which God prepared  
beforehand, that we should  
walk in them"  
Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)*

- Praise for Sarah's safe arrival in St. Petersburg!
- Planning for travels to and from the LCMS National Youth Gathering in July, 2019
- Preparation for summer English camps for kids in Russia and Poland
- Continued planning and preparation for my upcoming home service
- Continued motivation and progress with learning Russian



Specifically in this last month I have had many meetings and interactions with people that I did not expect and could have only been organized by God.

One student, Tanya, met me at an evening English class. She's been coming to English classes as her schedule allows, but was

eager to have individual classes as well. The individual classes are always more fun because I get a chance to talk to her on a personal level, sharing with her about my life and faith and hearing about hers also.

A few weeks ago, the Seminary asked if I could start teaching an additional conversation class for the community. It has been a lot of fun so far, and I'm grateful for each student who comes. Hopefully they will not only improve their level of English, but also enjoy the time of fellowship we have together.

Another parishioner at St. Mary's Lutheran Church put me in contact with a young lady who grew up in the orphanage system and needs help with her English. I've been able to meet with her once a week, to help and encourage her.

Then there have even been the truly random meetings, like the time I ran into a former student while walking in downtown St. Petersburg, or the KFC cashier who asked for details for our English Club.

God knows what will come from each of these meetings, but I know He has more than English on his mind. English is a great tool, but I'm more excited about seeing the way that God is working in each person's life to draw them to faith.

### Sarah's Arrival

Another answer to prayer was Sarah

Harms' safe arrival to Russia! She has been here for two weeks now, and is settling in well to the rhythm of life in St. Petersburg. There are so many details to take care of when you first move to another country, and Sarah has been dealing with many of those, as well as planning for her future work in this country and starting Russian classes. I'm very grateful to have her here, as a colleague and as a friend :).

### Preparation for Home Service

I would be completely remiss if I didn't also thank God for His answers to prayer regarding my home service. Organizing visits, presentations and trips is sometimes an overwhelming task for me, and it makes me all the more grateful for the people who have reached out to me and helped me set up appointments. I'm excited to come back to the States and share with all of you!

Here is a brief calendar of my travels, and if you'll be in any of these areas during these dates, please feel free to contact me and find out where my presentations are, or suggest a time to meet up with me!

Westland, MI — April 28-May 4  
Quad Cities, IL — May 5-May 13  
Southern IL — May 14-May 19  
Westland, MI — May 20-May 31  
San Antonio, TX — June 2-June 9  
Monroe, MI — June 13

You can reach me at  
alyssa.anders@lcms.org.

### Continued Prayers

I would so appreciate your continued prayers. We are still preparing to take several youth to the National Youth Gathering and planning for Summer English Camps. God does answer prayers, if we only ask Him!



### Scenes from English classes this month

If you receive this newsletter through the mail, but would prefer the email version, just let me know! Send me an email at alyssa.anders@lcms.org and I'll gladly make the change.

## Support

**I'm now online! If you would like to support my work in Russia, visit:**

[www.lcms.org/anders](http://www.lcms.org/anders)

**You can also send your gifts of love to our Friends at:**

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