



Dear readers,

A tragic event shook the city of Omsk, with its 1.2 million inhabitants. It unsettled and challenged me: a 52-year-old man was found hanged, kneeling under a tree. Whether it was suicide or murder is still being investigated by the police.

The deceased was known throughout the city as a financial genius. It is said that his name was also circulating in criminal circles and that he had found ways to legalize illegal funds. A woman close to him reported that he had been disappointed with the Orthodox Church and had planned to visit our Lutheran church. This wish was only fulfilled after his death.

On the day of his death, we received a call from the funeral home asking whether they could use our church premises for two hours for a farewell ceremony. At that point, we did not know who the person was. When we found out the next day, we became concerned—would this damage the reputation of our church? We declined the request.

After very insistent pleas, we finally agreed—on the condition that it would be a quiet farewell ceremony and not a church service. This decision weighed heavily on me. I thought about Jesus and how much people back then cared about their reputation and image. What would others think and say? But what truly troubled me was the missed opportunity to share the gospel. When else would we reach people who had never set foot in a church?

I asked our staff who would be willing to share the gospel with these people—provided the relatives agreed. No one volunteered. And there was no time to prepare.

So I seized the opportunity—even if it meant criticism and our church falling into disrepute. We cannot let such moments pass us by.

The wife of the deceased agreed without hesitation. So I was able to speak about the well-known verse from John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

About 80 people listened attentively as I proclaimed the good news of God's love. There was no time for long deliberations, but I was able to share the Word of God. The wife later expressed her heartfelt thanks.

According to our Lutheran understanding, we have great freedom to comfort and encourage people in such moments—and to invite them to Jesus. It is not about the deceased—as in other denominations—but about the living.

We are allowed to preach that Jesus is waiting for us, weeping out of love for us, and wants to lead us into the Father's house.

The participants were a very diverse group: respected, distinguished personalities, people with dark glasses and probably dark pasts. But they too need Jesus and his redeeming blood.

Please pray for these people. May the Lord touch their hearts and bring them to life.



Thank you very much for your prayers and donations

Many thanks to everyone who has made my ministry possible over the past few months through their donations, including the funeral service mentioned above! Without your help, this work would not be possible.

Together we can reach people, strengthen them, encourage them, and comfort them. Your support through prayer and financial gifts makes all the difference. Whether as a one-time donation or a regular contribution, every amount you can and want to give helps to make this ministry possible and to develop it further.

You can easily donate using the donation button below or by using the account details provided for the Marburg Mission Foundation. I am employed by this foundation, and its employees and work are financed exclusively through donations. Every gift is a blessing and is received with great gratitude.

Thank you very much for your loyalty and trust!

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Scheiermann

Thanks:

- for the opportunity to witness God's love at the funeral service
- for all those who listened
- for the opportunity to spread the gospel in Russia

Intercession:

- May the Lord comfort these people with the gospel.
- May these people find meaning and purpose in life.
- For a revival in Russia

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If somebody would like to give funds he may send to: In USA: Spiritual Orphans Network, 8210 Louisiana Blvd., NE - Suite B, Albuquerque, NM 87113, USA, Mobile: +1-505-321-2820, Website: SONetwork.org with the mark: For the ministry of the church in Siberia.

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