



# Compelled To Go Compelled To Go

Issue #121  
December 18, 2014

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Welcome to our house! This will be our final "official" praise/prayer letter for 2014, and we plan to keep it shorter than most. As you can see all around you, it is Christmas season, & we know we all have much to do. However, we want to bring you up to date on all that has been going on in our lives and ministry the past several weeks since our last letter. If this letter had a theme of any kind, it would probably be, **"Thrill, Frustration, and Anticipation"**. We have been overjoyed over God's activity, impatient and frustrated over limited opportunities in the U.S., and very excited in knowing God has some yet unseen plans for us . . . and we can hardly wait.



### Update:

Since our last letter, we attended the IBCM mini-reunion in Kansas City for the first time. This group consists of former members and pastors of IBC churches and designed to maintain connections and financially support IBC churches. The group was amazed at what we shared regarding the work at Living Vine IBC and KIBC in Kiev, especially the Farsi, Spanish, and Chinese work. Following an afternoon of lunch, fellowship, and reporting, we ended it all with a German dinner downtown (below left). . . . after two months in Germany???



We also visited Eleos Coffee House, saw their expanded facilities and attended their annual Fall Neighborhood Festival. They now own the entire building, more than doubling their space, enlarging Dan's coffee roaster, and also their community ministry. It's a great place to buy gourmet' coffee at [www.eleoscoffee.com](http://www.eleoscoffee.com) and read more about Dan, his family, and ministry. Then we renewed fellowship at the Missouri Baptist Convention.

We had Thanksgiving at Deanna's with Cindy and Kevin present. Christopher was at an MK ski retreat in CO. Bob and Cheri flew to Oregon instead because his brother grew worse in his battle with cancer. Debbie and Mike couldn't come either. While there, we celebrated Deanna's birthday at Applebee's, and then showed support for her battle with breast cancer by donning special T-shirts. It was a good time. Bob also preached at FBC, Osceola, when their current interim developed walking pneumonia. He had served as interim pastor there in the past. It was good to renew fellowship on their monthly fellowship dinner Sunday. Finally, last week we enjoyed sharing our stories and PowerPoint of the Farsi work at Pleasant Hill BC, Jefferson City.



### Personal:

Jo Ann's surgery from her cyst removal has healed. Bob had a follow-up EGD test two weeks ago, showing that where the esophagus and stomach connect has improved but still of concern. The biopsy report comes soon. We go to Columbia, MO, the 20<sup>th</sup> for Abby's Master's Degree graduation. Then Sunday it's on to Cindy's in Iowa for Christmas. Bob and Cheri, and Jim, Deanna, and the kids will join us there for a family Christmas the 26<sup>th</sup>. Then it's home to projects and waiting for the Lord to open more doors. Other than the State Evangelism Conference in Springfield, Feb 5-6, and the Barry County annual Bible and Evangelism Conference 7-9, nothing more is scheduled. A bit frustrating even though we're confident God still orders our steps.

### Farsi Ministry in Germany:

"F" is spending almost all of his time ministering to refugees and immigrants. He also translates the German worship service into Farsi, teaches the Bible study group that meets after services, goes to the refugee camps to invite people to Café Hope and Sunday services, sets up and translates for Café Hope, and travels to outlying towns and villages to minister to the various families. Many new ones arrive weekly.

The 200+ book library in Farsi has arrived and is now available to the people. This is great news and a major goal "F" had for getting the people reading again. He also is translating a very important book into the Farsi language. Work on the "Farsi Read" website continues as more books are being read, approved, and listed so Farsi speakers can have access to good reading material. Finally, "F" is preparing for their upcoming Christmas program where hundreds will be invited to hear the Christmas story and the message of the Gospel.

### Farsi Ministry in Ukraine:

Here is a summation of several e-mails and Skype calls we've had with "M". Health issues for both him and Ira have developed. Ira recently had a mole removed from her face which turned out to be pre-cancerous. In addition, she has developed a chronic dry cough that doesn't seem to go away. They go to the doctor again this week to address those matters. He still has kidney related issues with a very small stone in his remaining kidney that needs to dissolve. He also has some unwanted fat deposits around his liver. So, rather than going to Germany for the Christmas evangelism outreach with "F", they are going to western Ukraine to spend time with Ira's family and go to a "sanitori" for some homeopathic treatments. He will go to Germany in January.



Ukraine's economy keeps deteriorating with the value of the Hrvna at an all-time low. "M" said they are without electricity six to eight hours every day, usually at two hours at a time three or four times a day. The schedule for each shut off is seldom followed. At least twice he as well as Ira and Roma were almost trapped on the elevator. When electricity is off, they have no lights, cooking, water, internet, or heat. and winter is setting in.

Nonetheless, the Farsi ministry continues to grow. "M" is translating books, preparing for video production, maintaining the Farsi website, and giving general oversight to the Farsi ministry network. "M2" and Joel Colon prepare video scripts and "M2" edits videos. He also creates subtitles and voice-over dubbing on pre-recorded video teachings by English speaking teachers and preachers. It takes hours of work to produce just one such video like that and then upload it to the website. "M2" also writes the manuscripts for the book translations.

"M" said they've had over 50,000 hits on the website, more than 13,000 from inside Iran. More than 4,000 have "liked" the site, and most of those have communicated directly with "M", "M2", and another person, all of whom take time to respond to those who comment. They do get their share of hostile responses.

One new challenge now exists in video production. CBN was giving them free use of a studio and some equipment has had to now charge them, an amount more than they can pay. So, they need to purchase a camera, a good microphone, and an acoustical "blanket" that will allow them to do much of the voice-over dubbing in one of their apartments. The cost for these three items will be about \$1,300. If you would like to help with that project, you can. **Just send a check to us at Life Unlimited Ministries, Box 228, Collins, MO 64738. Be sure to put "Farsi Video Ministry" on the memo line.** If you want to give to help "M" with his medical expenses, put "Farsi Ministry Support" on it.

### Finally:

So, now what? We are blessed, we are thrilled, we are excited, . . . and we are frustrated and impatient. Not a day goes by but what we ask ourselves why doors are not opening for the two of us. We know our age may be a factor, and that fewer and fewer churches are having evangelists and missionaries to speak and preach. We also know there are several important projects to be done around the house to prepare for the eventual sale of our property (no plans, just facing reality). Yet our hearts are so burdened for this country, and they cry out for a great move of God among His people, and we have a clear message to share -- and no place to share it.

At the same time, our hearts yearn to also be more involved with the Farsi work in Germany and other places. Then, there is the need for Bob to do more writing and some video recording that "M" has asked for. Recently he asked Bob to write a short book on disciple making to be translated into Farsi for new leaders across the Middle East. So, you can understand our dilemma . . . we want to be at least three places at once.

### So, please pray!

1. For the Farsi guys and their amazing ministry, and that more financial support will come in.
2. For our family as they face various needs, trials, and challenges.
3. For us personally, that doors will open, that home and ministry related projects will be completed.
4. For our three requests we've prayed since January 1<sup>st</sup> – *"extend our days, increase our endurance, open doors of ministry"*.