



Detroit, Here We Come!

Compelled To Go
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Issue #122
February 20, 2015

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Goodness! Time has really gotten away from us. Finally, after our Christmas greeting, we're able to get an update to you about what's been going on and what's ahead for us. We have a couple of major ministry doors opening for us, and with big challenges. We have great reports from some of our ministry partners as well.

January and February have been fairly quiet ministry wise, but filled with numerous house projects and family activities. After celebrating our wedding anniversary Jan 29th, we worshiped in our home church and also FBC, Eldorado Springs, where Bob had served as interim pastor years ago. We attended the State Evangelism Conference in Springfield, MO, and participated in the annual Barry County Association Bible and Evangelism Conference for at least the 15th time. Bob preached the concluding message in the first session (below left).



It was a powerful evening as he shared a message, "I'm Bothered That I'm Not Bothered", dealing with a "godly sorrow leading to repentance" (II Cor 7:8-11). He asked why sin, world conditions and dead churches no longer bother us. Bob is trying to edit the video down and reformat it into a small file that can be shared. The following morning we ministered in FBC, Seligman, MO, (center and right above) where longtime friends Bob and Betty Scott are serving for the third time. It is a small church running about 50 friendly people each week.

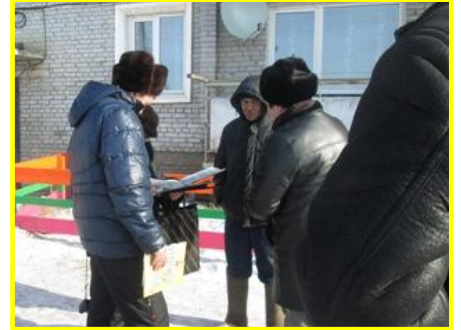
Partnership Reports:

+ **Pastor Saied** – We rejoice that Syrian pastor Saied has been able to get his wife to Russia, and God has wonderfully provided them a house in a small village. They are in the process of making it livable, but it is very difficult when there are no funds and it is winter. They continue having wonderful ministry opportunities in motivating local Russian churches and in conducting Bible explanations to Arab speaking Muslims in the area. With things getting progressively worse in both Russia and Syria, they are trying desperately to get their two remaining sons and his mother to Russia to be with them. They have almost nothing for food, and it is more dangerous each day as ISIS and others come against Christians. We would encourage you to get to know more about him and his ministry at https://www.facebook.com/saied.ziadah/photos_all.



+ **Pastor Sergei** – It has been a long time since we've posted about Sergei Lyhakhov who is a pastor and missionary to the Buryat people in Ulan-Ude, Siberia, Russia. Sergei was in the graduating class Bob taught at St. James Bible College in Kiev, Ukraine in 2001. It was clear that he had a strong vision and calling from God that led him to evangelize and plant churches in Siberia. We just received a letter from him two weeks ago. Here are excerpts of his exciting report:

Greetings to you pastor Bob! Thanks for your prayers about us. We're thankful to the Lord for His given grace to accomplish the labor not only in Ulan-Ude, but also in many villages of Buryatia. . . In . . . January our team members preached the Gospel in such villages as the Steklozavod, Burvod and Posyel'ye, around 1700 of people had heard the Gospel and 129 prayed a sinner's prayer. Our team faces a big opposition, but on the other hand they face a lot of people that open their hearts and homes for fellowship. Some people with tears on their faces are grateful very much for visitation. And we do believe that today as never before we should encourage church to take the Gospel to all the people. (Below - Sergei/family, left; team center, right.)



. . . We've started a project titled as " A kind heart". . . to help for 24 families, the ones are in a real want. . . the old, retired people, widows or families that have a serious need. We . . . gather our brothers and sisters and help to . . . such as the following: sticking wallpapers, fixing linoleum, providing a sanitary equipment and bath facilities, conducting electricity. We have good brothers who are well in doing electricity and installing toilet and bath facilities. In the past month of January we were in help for already two families. Usually, it's not a material or financial help, but the things we are able to do with our own hands.

Our Rehabilitation center is being developed little by little. We work more for forming a fine team of leaders. We are very thankful for your prayers and the ministry to Buryat people. We ask you to support us through your prayer, as we have the following requests:

1. This month of February our team plans to go with Mission trip, to visit such Burayt villages as the Zurgan-Debe, the Mengei, Tukhum, with a purpose to share the Good News message to the local population. Particularly, there are Buryat-Tsongol people dwelling there, so please pray for all the provision and protection, transport, a warm weather, that it could be at least -15, -20 C outdoors, for a success in evangelism work.

2. For the team of evangelists, their families, defense and blessing.

3. We did brand new booklets prepared for printing in Buryat language, . . . pray so that we could be able to complete the task, that it will be very important when preaching in Buryat villages.

We appreciate that we have you with us. Pastor Sergey and the team of desperate, devoted people who are longing to see our Buryat people saved.

Did that temperature get your attention? He's asking for "warm" weather of -20 Celsius. That's actually -4 Fahrenheit! And we won't get out if it's below 32????

+ Farsi Ministry – God continues blessing the Farsi ministry under "M's" and "F's" leadership beyond all expectation. In talking with "M" in Kiev on Skype a few weeks ago, he gave us the following update. Whereas there were tens of thousands of Iranians and Afghans in Ukraine when we began the work in 2005, today there are no more than 200, and only a handful in Kiev. In spite of that, a new group has emerged in Kiev with four new people recently being added, and they are meeting regularly studying the Bible.

The website and Facebook ministries continue to attract tens of thousands of inquiries each month. They are getting over 50,000 hits a month, and now have over 5,000 Facebook "friends". Just recently there were 12 who came to faith in Christ through those media, six of them from inside Iran. They anticipate they will be getting over 120,000 hits a month by the end of the year. The Farsi library is also now operational in Germany.

"M", "M2", and "F" are redesigning the website, and are opening a YouTube channel and a twitter account. Soon they will upload over 200 evangelistic and training videos to the website and YouTube very soon, as well as start new video production. "M", along with Ira and Roman, have been in Germany with "F" ministering to the group there, and while they were there they were able to purchase a new microphone and other equipment thanks to the generosity of some believers here in the States. They just returned to Kiev this past Friday.

Personally, life has been challenging for them all.. The war in Ukraine has had a major toll on everyone. The economy is near collapse with the exchange rate nearing 30:1. When we lived there, it was around 5:1. It has been a major hardship on "M" and his family. Also, a "Crack" addict lives in the flat next to theirs, and has been harassing them, especially Ira. Crime has risen dramatically in the area, including ten recent murders.

The work in Germany under "F's" leadership still grows. He now has refugee" status so as to devote full time to the ministry instead of wasting time at the university doing non-productive and non-fruitful things. We look forward to some good reports now that "M" and his family have concluded their time there and have returned home. We still maintain contact with several of the refugees there who speak English, and are anticipating our return next August. The work in Sweden is in transition as "H" has relocated from extreme northern Sweden way down south to Malmo, just a short drive across the bridge from Copenhagen, Denmark. There are thousands of Farsi speakers living there, and we anticipate some significant and rapid growth in ministry.

Now About Us:

Much has happened since our last letter in December. Even though we've had a pretty light ministry schedule, we've made great progress on house repairs. Because of some negligence by the builder during construction, we ended up having to deal with some foundation shifts and sagging floor joists by having a contractor build three pilasters to correct the problem. Once that was done, then we began repairing drywall cracks and painting rooms. Our insurance company is also requiring us to have our garage re-shingled. In all, we've survived. As to family, Cindy, Kevin, and Christopher continue traveling around the country doing their itineration and raising support for their return to Medellin, Colombia, later this year. They just spent three weeks in Florida. Debbie and Mike are still enjoying living in Buena Vista, Colorado. Cheri and Bob have been in Oregon most of the time since Thanksgiving caring for his brother, Dan. Dan died of cancer earlier this week. Deanna has completed her chemo and is now several days into her radiation treatments. So, our family has continued going through a variety of challenges but we are so grateful for God's provision and protection in all.

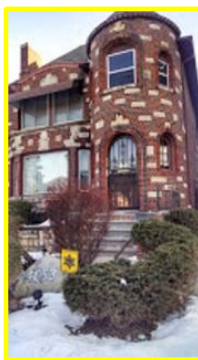
The big news, though, really came out of the blue. When we were ministering in northeastern Kansas City during 2013-14, we got to know and love Dan Smith and his ministry through the Eleos Coffee House that he opened in order to minister to addicts, prostitutes, homeless, and locals. The theme of "***Glorifying God by Engaging in Gospel-Driven Ministries of Compassion.***" www.eleoscoffee.com and www.eleoskc.org, are two links where you can learn what all they do. It's really quite amazing.

At any rate, God put it on Dan's heart to open a second Eleos Coffee House in Detroit, MI, and it is now becoming a reality. Several weeks ago Dan asked us if we would consider being part of the team that has been assembled to lead that work, serving as a sort of "anchor" to the team as pastor/parent/trainer. After much prayer and discussion, we feel the Lord leading us to go. We will leave around the end of March and spend three months there helping bring the team together in unity and common purpose.

We are a team of seven. Left to right below, Jacob and Nicole Cumberford are from the KC area and volunteer at the Eleos Coffee House there. James Dickens is a student at Midwestern Seminary's College department in Kansas City. Alan and Shantalea Johns are an African American couple from Detroit. We will be mentoring and training them for three months prior to the opening of the Eleos Coffee House in Detroit next Fall.



Eleos purchased a lovely triplex brick home in which we will live with Jacob, Nicole, and James. We will live on the second floor, right side where the tower is located. The Jones' have their own Detroit home. Our training will focus on strengthening family relations and team relationships, sharing your faith as if people had never heard about Jesus, studying Romans and the doctrine of salvation, "hospitality" ministry as they experience Jo Ann's cooking and learn "hospitality evangelism", and making and mentoring disciples into leaders. These are areas in which we saw great success in Ukraine, Germany, the U.S. and other countries.



We also hope to minister in area churches, helping strengthen churches and area pastors. Bob has already had some very positive response from a few pastors and laymen with whom he has had contact via e-mail, and the Exec. Sec. of the State Convention is a longtime friend. We look forward to the Lord opening opportunities for that to happen. Our first priority, of course, is the Eleos Team.

Because we have to take a number of housekeeping and office things with us, we must take our Suburban for the entire time we're there. As the result, our ministry miles will more than quadruple from what we normally drive, printing materials will more than quadruple, and food costs will at least triple as we host both the team and also local neighbors for relationship building and evangelistic outreach.

We are keenly aware that, because this trip involves such "over and above" expenses, we cannot fulfill this ministry opportunity without the three-month support of our friends, family, and In-Pact prayer support team. Since we actually leave in only five weeks, we need the Lord to provide for at least the first month's expenses soon. Our estimated budget will be about \$1,000 per month for three months, totaling \$3,000.

So, we're inviting you to a three-month commitment to partner with us through prayer and financial support. Our ongoing ministry expenses remain the same as when we are at home, so the need for a three-month added budget is necessary for this trip, just like one of our overseas trips.

Thank you for believing in us. **Note the prayer requests.**

1. Spiritual preparation for Detroit. The needs are great, and the city is rebounding with amazing speed.
2. All finances to be provided. We have asked Eleos to direct most of their support to the rest of the team.
3. "M", "M2", "F", Sergei, and Saied – their spiritual and material needs, energy for ministry.
4. Every team member on Detroit team – team unity, teachable spirits, financial needs, open doors.
5. Our family members -- specific needs, ministries. All of them are facing a variety of challenges.

In His Bond, By His Grace, and For His Kingdom,

The Tollivers, Bob and Jo Ann
Life Unlimited Ministries