



Detroit, Here We ARE!

Compelled To Go
Compelled To Go

Issue #123
April 3, 2015

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

How time flies when you're having fun . . . or when you're too busy to write sooner! Following several delays and unexpected developments, we finally arrived in Detroit on Monday, March 30th. On Saturday, March 7th, we had a commissioning service at the Eleos KC Coffee House. Team members shared their call to the Eleos Detroit ministry (Jo Ann, lower left), then the Eleos Board members, pastors, and Eleos KC prayed over us (lower center). Founder/Owner of Eleos is Dan Smith on the far left of the picture, then James Dickens, Jacob and Nicole Cumberland, the two of us and Rich Casebolt, the "Program Director" for Eleos KC.

The next Friday, Jacob, Nicole, and James headed to Detroit with the Smith crew and others to move into and clean the three-apartment house, and furnish it as much as possible. Following a week-end of hard work, the KC crew returned home, although they had to leave much undone because of time and finance restraints.



We returned home that night to finish some important projects and for preparing for our departure later in the month. The roofers put new shingles on the garage on March 9th, we worked feverishly on several other projects (and still left two big ones uncompleted), made unplanned runs to neighboring towns to buy supplies and get vehicles serviced, hoping that we could get away by our target date, March 17th or 18th.

That was not to be the case, however, as stormy weather (including winds, heavy rains, hail, and tornado threats) hit us in about three waves over five days. However, we finally hit the road Friday, the 27th, spent the night in Galesburg, IL, with Deanna and family, drove to Crown Point, IN, Saturday to spend two nights with cousins Nancy and Ray Cermak (whom we hadn't seen since Dad's funeral 13 years ago), and finally drove into our new parking slot in Detroit around 4:00 PM on Monday.

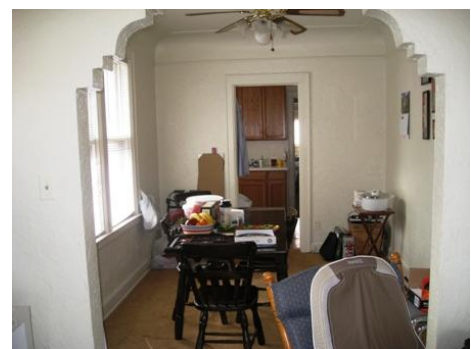
Nicole, Jacob, and James were there to meet us, and the three of them had the Suburban entirely unloaded before we could hardly get up the stairs to our new living center for the next three months. They'd been hard at work trying to get our apartment ready for our arrival. They painted the entire apartment, did a great job of cleaning and sweeping, so it was ready for our arrival. As you can see below, the living room is a nice size, but the dining, kitchen, and bedroom are extremely small. Our office consists of a 6' folding table, and there is less than 3' feet of counter space in the kitchen.



Living Room & "Office" in background



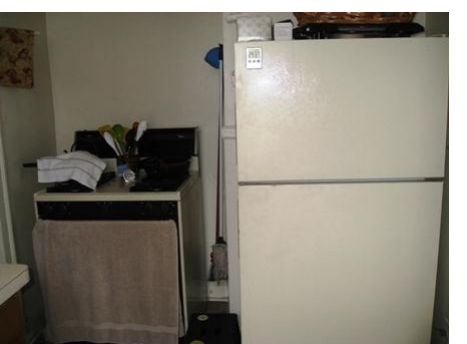
Living Room



Dining Room from Living Room toward Kitchen



Limited Counter Space



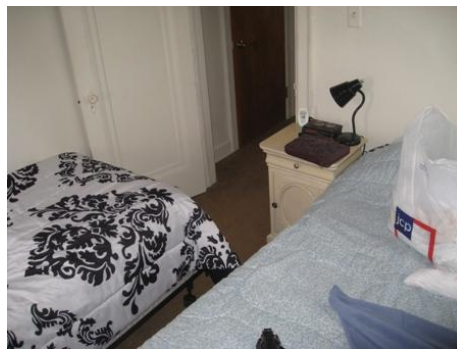
Gas stove & fridge



Looking back into Dining Room



Our Tiny but comfy Bedroom



We need a traffic signal for passing.



Our first "in person" full team meeting

That same Monday evening we had our first full team meeting over supper, and it was such a joy to finally meet the rest of the team (above right). From Left to Right, Jacob and Nicole Cumberland, Bob, James Dickens, Alan and Shantalea and Allison Johns (six-year-old Aaron Johns took the picture!), and Jo Ann.

Easter Sunday was a special day as we went as a team to the Johns' church, Eastside Community Church, where Alan does a great job of teaching the adult Bible class (below left). The church meets in a school and is pastored by Matthew Vroman. Following services Alan was blessed to baptize son Aaron in the school's swimming pool (below center). Then we all joined together for a Resurrection Sunday team dinner (below right) and an evening of fellowship and watching Christian comedians Dave Pendleton and Bob Nelson via DVD's. If you would like to see more Easter Sunday pictures (some really cute ones), go to Bob's Facebook albums page.



There is so much more to tell about the Detroit ministry, but we'll have to wait for another time. Suffice it to say we meet several times a week for prayer, prayer walking, individual discipling and encouragement time with each team member individually, and do Bible teaching Friday nights at team worship time. We also spend at least one or more days a week making contacts with area pastors and other leaders, try to meet neighbors and community leaders, and the like. Wednesdays are usually "Cultural Exploration Day" where we do something as a team to learn the culture; then Saturdays are free days, although the two of us will sometimes be involved in leading workshops and seminars for area pastors and churches. Sundays we try to be in one of the various churches in the greater Detroit area. So, each week is generally very busy.

Which Leads Us To A Big Prayer Request:

In addition to all the obvious prayer needs, a rather large request has arisen. Due to a shortage of time and funds, Eleos couldn't finish furnishing our apartment as they had hoped. We also asked them to fund their resources toward the rest of the team. So, it has been necessary to purchase quite a few household items and furniture pieces – things like storage cabinets, folding tables to use as desks, skillets, pots, pans, linens, chairs, etc. (much of which we bought at area thrift shops). In a nutshell, we spent nearly one-third of our total three-month \$3,000 budget in three days making the apartment more usable and comfortable. These will be things that will remain in the apartment when we end our ministry here So . . .

We need your help.

If you would seriously consider helping replace the nearly \$1,000 we spent on these unplanned expenses, we would be grateful beyond words. If you feel led by the Lord to give, make any check out, as in the past, to Life Unlimited Ministries and designate "Detroit Inner City Ministry" on the memo line. Then drop us a personal e-mail or Facebook message to let us know. (The "sooner the better" would be good. ☺)

Other BIG News in little print needing Huge prayer: (Space problem!)

We'll give more details later, but | our friend, Saied's two sons and mother-in-law are surrounded by ISIS terrorists in Syria and need much prayer, protection, and escape route. | Sergey Yakov in Siberia had a successful evangelistic outreach with over 40 Buryat people praying to receive Christ. | Joel and Irina Colon have finally opened their Christian coffee and flower shop in Kiev. | "M" reported last time we talked two weeks ago that they were able to purchase a new professional grade camera for video production, they now have over 200 videos ready for Facebook and YouTube, Facebook hits jumped from 50,000 hits in February to over 105,000 hits in March, They have over 18,000 Facebook subscribers (most from Afghanistan), 2,000 to 3,000 Afghans PER DAY visit the page, had over 23,000 Facebook visits from Tehran, had 20 Afghans recently pray to receive Christ, and are producing a new video every other day. These stats are almost certainly out of date by now, but it's the best we have. They have a great need for someone to help cover rental of office and video studio space so as to coordinate more and concentrate their work into fewer locations. "M2" lives many miles out in a remote village, and "M" lives on the opposite side of Kiev. (Let us know if you'd like to help with this need.)

THANKS FOR PRAYING FOR US. WE HAVE BIG NEEDS, A BIGGER GOD, AND NEED HUGE PRAYERS.

Bob and Jo Ann – The Tollivers

PLEASE go to www.eleoscoffee.com and read about Eleos and Eleos Detroit.