



# Back in Detroit – Month Four!

## Compelled To Go Compelled To Go

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Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

We have been trying to write to you again for almost a month, and finally have a day that is hopefully without interruptions so we can complete our praise and prayer report. Much has happened, both in Detroit, home, and overseas, since our last letter the end of May. Where do we begin? . . . .

### Short Time Home:

As you recall, we committed ourselves to three months of ministry with the Eleos Detroit Coffee Shop opening, and it was an incredible experience. We went home a circuitous route for a much-needed week of rest and recuperation. Going through Upper MI, we stopped in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario for an all-day train ride into Agawa Canyon. Even though it wasn't as spectacular as the Alps, it was still a good time to relax, read, and just decompress, despite the black flies, mosquitoes, and heat advisory that prolonged our return trip by almost two hours. Bob has posted an album of pics on Facebook. We finished the day with some amazing Thai food.



Next day we drove on to Cheri's and Bob's in St. Paul, MN, with a lunch stop in Escanaba, MI, to see our longtime friend, Bill Huebler (below left), who had a big role in the early days of our ministry because it was in Escanaba that Bob led our first conference after Life Unlimited Ministries was founded in 1980. Then it was on to St. Paul, where we got to see six of our ten great grandchildren, five of them for the first time.



### Eleos Detroit Coffee Shop:

Following our return to Collins the first of July, and five weeks of feverish project completion, family visits, yard work, doctors' appointments, and rain/heat battling, we are now back in Detroit, helping serve the Eleos team as work continues on opening the new coffee shop. We will be here until around August 20<sup>th</sup> or a little after

when we go back home for at least two and a half months. We don't know if we'll return to Detroit for another five weeks beginning late October. However, after several building possibilities fell through for one reason or another, the Lord provided the perfect location – a two-story building that once contained two businesses, located on a major street just two blocks from where a major shooting took place in June, killing one young man and wounding eleven other bystanders. For a long time we tried to avoid that street because of ongoing potential violence and crime, but it became evident that the Lord wanted us in a place where we would be needed most. Bob has posted several pictures in his Facebook albums at the link below. Check it out -- [https://www.facebook.com/bob.tolliver.52/media\\_set?set=a.10153507869349047.1073741855.677804046&type=1](https://www.facebook.com/bob.tolliver.52/media_set?set=a.10153507869349047.1073741855.677804046&type=1)



Last week a team of eight hard working young adults from Abundant Life Church in Lee Summit, MO, came and did an amazing job beginning the renovation process. We could hardly believe all they did, including filling two 100 yard dumpsters with trash and other things that needed to be removed from the basement and second floor. They were awesome. Bob has added some pictures of the two groups to his above Facebook album.



This week a team of four more energetic people from our own Wellspring Fellowship in Bolivar, MO, came and followed up by more painting, putting in new sub-flooring, putting up trim around the ceiling, and many other things getting the shop closer and closer to placing the equipment back in the kitchen area. They may have been a small team in number, but they were gigantic in spirit and tackling the next projects (see below).



### **Critical Update on Syrian Pastor Friend:**

We have just received word from our Syrian pastor friend that the Russian government has revoked the residency visas for him and his wife and have given him until August 13<sup>th</sup> to leave the country. This is a very difficult situation for them, and we are trying to help them gather the funds to get to the border of a sympathetic

country where they can seek asylum. His two youngest sons and his mother all remain in dangerous areas in Syria. We ask for your prayers over this situation, and ask that you seriously consider helping us raise about \$500 to get him and his wife to a border location where they can present themselves to the authorities of a friendly nation. There are five or six possibilities. **We need to do this immediately, so please e-mail Bob for details at [lifeunlimited@pobox.com](mailto:lifeunlimited@pobox.com) if you want to help. We must do it by Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Farsi Ministry:**

Three weeks ago we received this update from "M" who leads the Farsi ministry we started in Kiev in 2006. Please read it carefully and prayerfully, rejoicing over the amazing things God continues doing.

*A few months have gone by since we first started "Face to Face" ministry focusing on creating high quality biblical teaching videos, overdubbing and subtitling solid materials for Farsi speaking people worldwide. Our vision has two sides to it. We provide Evangelistic videos and teachings to reach out to the unreached Farsi speakers, and also provide teaching materials to disciple new converts.*

*When we first began the ministry, our initial goal was to reach 100,000 visits within 2 years. But about 9 months into this ministry, we are now getting around 140,000 Farsi speakers [monthly] (and counting) visiting our Facebook page from all around the world (over 20 countries), and over 27,000 subscribers (and counting) who get our contents daily in the emails.*

*Over 100,000 of them are people from Afghanistan and Iran. Facebook statistics show people visiting our page from small towns in Afghanistan where there's no church or Christian gatherings. In average, around 15-20 people come to faith in Christ on monthly basis with over 1/3 of them being from remote places in Afghanistan. They write us in Facebook chat and ask us how they can believe. In many cases, we have to answer many of their questions before they would give their lives to Christ. We send them a prayer and they pray and get back to us. We also do live voice and written chat with them. Last month, we had a live chat with an Afghan from Kabul. He prayed with us online and accepted Christ. Also tens of people ask for a link to download Farsi Bible every month.*

*The key to our ministry is to carry out 2 Tim 2:2 through Evangelism and discipleship. New converts are like a new born baby. Being a father myself, I understand that if you throw a new born on the street and cut the nurturing, he would die. So that's why Jesus talked about a "package" in Mt 28 when he said: "therefore go and make disciples..." and not just go and make people believe. In other words, this package includes meeting, winning, discipling and delegating. Wasn't this what He showed us during His own ministry? It's a great cycle which is not based on modern business and marketing techniques used by many large churches today to attract people, but an "old school" method from around 2000 years ago given by the creator Himself that still works today.*

*So when people visit our page, we help them give their life to Christ as their Lord and Savior. When they believe, they become subscribers on our Facebook page (although there are many non-Christians as subscribers as well). The new converts receive teaching materials in their mail box almost every day. We are also in touch with them, give them Christian books to read, answer their questions, pray for them and help them grow in the faith.*

*After a while, we encourage them to share their faith with people around them. We can only imagine how the Lord would use these people in remote villages and towns in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Iran, where there are no Christians or churches. We rely on the Holy Spirit to lead them to the right people, and keep them safe from the wicked ones.*

*There are also people (particularly from Afghanistan) who ask us the following question: "If anyone from my relatives or acquaintances finds out that I have become a Christian, I most probably lose my head. What should I do? Should I believe? What if I believe and they kill me?"*

*Being honest with you, it's difficult for me to give them a definite answer sitting in my air conditioned office with a cup of Cappuccino in hand listening to Michael W. Smith, knowing that no one is persecuting me at the moment (although I have to mention that we receive tons of Facebook messages from angry Muslims around the world threatening to chop off, cut off, burn, boil, cook (you name it!) different parts of our bodies as soon as they catch us).*

*Nevertheless, I encourage them to take their cross and follow the Lord. It might mean that they would lose their life. But then the Lord has also promised in Luke 9:24, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."*

*We are also in the process of redesigning our Farsi website completely. All our Facebook contents will be loaded to the new website. Each new convert is going to have his/her own account where he/she could save and bookmark teachings, ask questions, share prayer requests, etc. Our Farsi website has been redesigned twice already. But we were not ready to handle such heavy monthly traffic. So the new website will have the capability of serving around a million people per month.*

*The Lord has also provided us with high quality camera, professional microphone, laptop, studio time, and right expertise like translation, website design, video mounting and production, etc. so we could continue serving Him through this ministry.*

*We also thank God and praise Him for you, for your prayers and partnership. Please know that your prayers haven't bounced off the ceiling. Our Lord has certainly heard them. He has been bringing to us thousands upon thousands of Farsi speakers from all around the world, so we could share the gospel with them and help them grow in their faith.*

*In His love,  
"M"*

We hope you are excited about this report as we are. We talked with "M" on Skype a few weeks ago, and are amazed at how he, Ira, "M2" and others do what they do. It truly boggles our minds, and we simply revel and rejoice in how awesome God is. Part of the Farsi ministry is also because of Joel and Ira Colon, who helped us plant KIBC. Ira was my translator at St. James Bible college in Kiev, and she and Joel met in our apartment in Kiev. Joel was highly instrumental in strengthening the Hispanic work we had begun earlier. Because of their connection with both of these ministries, we are including the web link to their recent newsletter so you can know more. You need to follow them as well, and recommend you subscribe to their newsletter. Go to <http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=f804275218b723c5ab6d21bdf&id=4e80d1b2a0&e=056f59f073> to read. In it you will find additional information about the Farsi ministry because Joel works closely with them in developing very important Bible studies and scripts that are used in video production posted on the websites.

**Finally:** There is so much more to tell you, but we must leave space for some very important prayer requests. We need your prayer more than ever. Even though our recent wellness exams and other doctors' appointments all were very good, we often find ourselves living on the thin edge of weariness. The needs are so great and the opportunities so exciting, but we sometimes question if we are up to the challenges. We feel we need to be in several places at the same time, needing to provide resources to so many others; it's frustrating!

#### **VERY IMPORTANT PRAYER REQUESTS**

- + Bob's right wrist is still weak and unpredictable. It prohibits him from doing much at the coffee shop. Pray.
- + For the new building God provided for the Coffee House – Protection, progress on the renovation.
- + For funds to cover the loan on the Coffee House, for more supporters for Eleos Coffee House ministries .  
\$60,000 covers purchase of building, lot, and much renovation. About \$30,000 is still needed.  
**(Go to [www.eleoscoffee.com](http://www.eleoscoffee.com) to see what the ministry is all about).**
- + For clarity about whether or not to return to Detroit for late October and early November – four weeks.
- + For the serious financial needs for the Farsi ministry, "M", "F", and the Syrian pastor we're helping relocate.
- + For our own ministry financial needs to be met as we have lost supporters thru death and adversities.
- + For churches to come along side Eleos with prayer warriors, volunteer helpers, **and bulk coffee purchases.**

As you see, there's still much to be done, places to be, and needs to meet. It's all so much bigger than we are, and cannot do it without your encouragement, prayers, and support. We need you more now than ever.

In His Bond, By His Grace, and For His Kingdom,  
The Tollivers, Bob and Jo Ann