



Compelled To Go Compelled To Go

Issue #127
December 28, 2015

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Our regular apologies probably don't mean much anymore, but we truly Do try to be more faithful in writing to you. It just seems that we end up with so many other priority things to do that our letters keep being pushed on the back burner. So, please accept, along with our report, our deepest wishes for you to have had a very merry and joyous Christmas and a coming happy and fruitful new year.

Detroit Has Passed:

When we returned the end of last August from our nearly five months in Detroit with Eleos Coffeehouse Ministries, we really expected to go back in the Fall for several more weeks. Instead, our own local obligations and some changes in the Eleos timetable made it clear that was not going to happen. At the moment it is doubtful that we will return for any extended period of time. But, we are confident the ministry God has given Dan Smith along with Jacob and Nicole Cumberford is profoundly important, and we urge you to continue praying for them, buying their coffee (www.eleoscoffee.com), and supporting them financially. After many hours of volunteer help and governmental paper work delays, and as of today, the city is still holding up the occupational license necessary in order to operate. Almost all of the first floor interior is done, the old signs have been removed, and the new sign is up already advertising what is about to open (see below)



Happening Since:

Following a hectic schedule of trying to catch up on desperately needed home improvements amidst several ministry opportunities, we actually got all but two major outside projects completed. House, decks, and garden shed were all stained and sealed, leaving only the garage staining and sealing and also rearranging the many things in the garage. While Bob will be able to do some of the interior garage work, the staining and sealing is going to wait until Spring.

Believe it or not, Bob has finally been able to tackle the "big" interior project he's tried to get to for 15 years – namely, completing the work on his office. Between his office and our family room, he has boxed up ten cases of books to store in the garage and another 12 cases to try to sell on E-bay, has rearranged and/or removed bookshelves, and set up audio and video copying equipment along with space for multiple laptops. All of this will enable him to do more writing, videotaping, and preserving family pictures, tapes, and documents.

Ministry wise, since the retired Missouri IMB Missionary retreat in early October, we did a revival meeting at FBC in Climax Springs, MO (below left), represented Dad and Mother at the Little Blue Baptist Church anniversary reunion (below middle two), attended the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention, visited

several churches where we had ministered in the past, preached at Hopewell Baptist Church (below right), and a variety of other activities. The picture of Bob's Dad was taken during his pastorate there over 18 years go.



Partner Ministries:

+ **The Farsi Ministry** continues to amaze us. "F" remains in Germany continuing the development of a new website that will give Farsi speakers anywhere in the world access to hundreds of online Christian books they could otherwise never read. He continues translating at the "Coffee Hope" ministry and the large FeG church, teaching the Bible to newly-arrived Farsi speaking refugees and immigrants, and giving leadership to the network of believers that have come out of that work. "V" continues to be a great asset in helping "F", as are other maturing believers. "H" also continues ministering in Sweden to Farsi speakers there.

Exciting news for "M" and ira – they are the proud parents of baby Diana, born October 13th. We count her as our 14th "grandchild". "M" and "M2" still lead the overall Farsi ministry from Kiev, Ukraine, concentrating on translating, video production, Facebook ministry, and counseling hundreds of seekers and new believers each month. Joel Colon takes valuable time out of his own ministry to continue helping develop script and Bible teaching materials for the Farsi video production. "M2" spends hours each day corresponding with dozens of people who watch the video's via Facebook and YouTube. The Facebook page currently gets about 175,000 visits per month, tens of thousands from Afghanistan, and more from Iran..

Because of the faithfulness of people like some of you, they now use CBN's Eastern European and Middle East studios for much of their taping. As of now, the Kiev ministry has produced several hundred videos, and just recently CBN asked for permission to begin using some of those videos and broadcast them immediately following the Joyce Myers program. The viewing audience potential exceeds ten million viewers. Not only that but several months ago, "M" asked permission to translate into Farsi the questions and answers that are found on the GotQuestions.org website. As a result, "M" is now a regular translator for that ministry, translating the questions and then providing the answers in the Farsi language.

+ **The Syrian Ministry** has experienced much upheaval. As you may recall, our friend, "S", who had sought refuge in Russia and had finally been able to get his wife out of Syria, unexpectedly had their resident visas revoked and forced to leave Russia. On short notice, they traveled to the extreme north and crossed the border into Norway where they sought safety as refugees. Immediately they were located in several refugee camps where they had quickly developing ministries to Arabic speaking Muslims and Christians.

Then, suddenly word came that the Norwegian government was deporting Syrians back to Syria, and seemed to be concentrating on Syrian Christians. The government has installed large floodlights around the camp, and have reportedly made night "visits" to the camp, taking refugees to deportation processes. We're not sure just how accurate that report is, but since then they have been sleeping at night in the church where they've been ministering. We do not know their circumstance.

Then just this past week we learned that the Syrian government is putting a halt on young men leaving the country to attend university. "S"'s two younger sons and mother still live in Syria, and the oldest of the two will be 18 soon, and thus required to serve in the Syrian military. With all that is going on there, it puts him in great danger. He has until June to raise enough money to get to Russia where he can attend university where his oldest brother is a graduate student. The youngest son and grandmother also really need to get out.

+ **The Buryat Ministry in Siberia** continues to bear much fruit as for the past three years Pastor Sergey and his teams travel to village after village sharing the Gospel, often traveling to these villages four or five

times a week. They see people come to Christ on every trip. In October they traveled to minister in the war torn areas of Ukraine and to minister and make improvements in a rehab center they began some time ago. In November and December they again traveled throughout Siberia's Buryat region sharing the Gospel, and saw many come to Christ. They establish Bible study groups, train leaders, and plant churches. In November one missionary young lady, was beaten nearly to death, and this month two missionaries were murdered in their sleep. None were connected with Sergey's work, yet the teams go on, and the Gospel continues to be shared.

Looking Ahead:

Immediately ahead, of course, is New Year's Day. Since our grandson, Christopher is spending most of his Christmas break with us, the three of us will "celebrate" the beginning of the new year together. A nearby church is having a New Year's Eve potluck dinner and will be showing the movie, "War Room". We've been invited to attend, and since Bob served the church for nearly two years as interim pastor and we have many friends there, we'll probably accept the invitation.

Our 2016 schedule is still unclear, but we do know it will involve more work on projects around the house, some mentoring and training via Skype, continued work on the office, more writing, and other such things. In February we will attend the Missouri State Evangelism Conference where Bob will speak in the vocational evangelists' segment, and we will return to the Barry County Evangelism and Bible conference.

Earlier this Fall we were asked to assume an unexpected ministry. Unless the Lord suddenly changes the plans, we will spend at least four months pastoring a "resort ministry congregation" in Greer, Arizona. We will pull our travel trailer up to the 8,300 foot community in the White Mountains either in late April or early May where we will remain until mid October doing ministry, sharing the Gospel, holding Bible studies, and preaching in Sunday worship services. As opportunity allows, we will also do some short workshops and seminars in some of the area churches. Obviously, we will keep you posted as these events draw closer.

In Conclusion:

You don't have to be told that we are living in unprecedented times; we have never lived in a time such as this. It seems the world is coming apart at the seams. Wars of evil men rage in the Middle East, rogue nations continue to threaten neighboring countries, Russia is again trying to muscle in on world affairs, terrorism is spreading like an unstoppable cancer, Europe is being inundated with hopeless refugees and infiltrated by radical terrorists, and America is reeling on the verge of Anarchy as we face one of the most critical election season in our country's history. Even the weather speaks of God's approaching judgment, and yet thousands of believers pay little heed.

"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet." --Nahum 1:3

While many people experience great alarm and fear over these predictable events, we see them as God telling all of us that the days are incredibly short, needs are great, people are significantly open to the Gospel message, and unprecedented opportunities before us may be short lived and must be acted upon immediately. Hardly a day passes without our admitting that the opportunities are far too great for us, but that we have been called to do the impossible. We also know we cannot do it without partners like you who encourage, intercede, and/or provide financial support for us. In that we lost several partners through death this past year, the need has increased even more.

Prayer Requests:

- + For an increase in the number on our support team, for increased monthly financial undergirding.
- + For personal financial needs – for 2016 no cost of living increase, but increase in Medicare monthly costs.
- + For the entire Farsi team – endurance, strength, financial resources, more manpower, safety, health.
- + For our Syrian pastor, "S", -- family, safety, provision, a permanent place to call "home", refugee ministry.
- + For Pastor Sergey and his ministry, and especially for funds to purchase a replacement vehicle.
- + For Sergey, our friend ministering to Buryat people group in Siberia – all needs to be met, great harvest.
- + For our coming ministry opportunities as noted above, and for more doors to open during lag time.
- + For strength, endurance, and available time to complete other important projects around the house.

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