



Compelled To Go Compelled To Go

Issue #128
March 08, 2016

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Once again it has been far too long since our last letter just after Christmas ---- we just kept putting off writing because of events in January and February we want to include. We had some very good things happen, and the future is become more exciting by the day. So, let's get with the report.

Update:

January and February found us writing, preaching locally, personal ministry, Skype calls, and such. We've been trying to help our Syrian pastor friend, Saied, funding to get his middle son out of Syria (we'll explain more later). We also worked on house projects such as trying to get Bob's office remodeled . . . something we've been trying to do for 15 years. We removed 20 boxes of unused books and then reconfigured the bookshelves (below left/center). It's still a work in progress. We also celebrated our 57th wedding anniversary (1/29), Jo Ann's birthday (2/27 – flowers below right), and will celebrate Bob's birthday on 3/19.



In February we attended the Fellowship of Missouri Baptist Evangelists and the State Evangelism Conferences in Springfield, MO. Bob spoke about evangelism/discipleship in the Farsi work we started in Ukraine (below left). A special treat came in meeting for coffee with Stan, Jean, Isaac, and Jack Jorash (below center) before they returned to Asia. The Jorash's helped us plant KIBC in Kiev, Ukraine in 2005. Jack (on right) was only four years old when they arrived. He, Isaac (on left), and Bob (now a college student) used to take the offering every week. Now these guys, all grown up, speak Hungarian, Russian, English, Chinese, and maybe more.



We again participated in the annual Barry County Bible and Evangelism Conference, preaching at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church (above right), and then in the Monday morning session at Emmanuel. Tuesday we lunched with Chris and Angela Meeks in Joplin. Chris was saved in a 1982 revival we did in WI. He was only a 6'3" 8th grader. He and Angela met as students at SBU and went with us on one of our Croatia trips.

Two other H-U-G-E things happened recently. First, totally unexpected, a long-time friend sent Life Unlimited Ministries a financial gift that simply blew us away. In one fell swoop it brought us out of the large deficit from 2015. We give all praise to God for enabling us to face 2016 with all things current. We still stand amazed. Also, we met with Ken W. from Tulsa, OK, who met us in Joplin to give us a huge collection of digital movies, Bible studies, and other resources in Farsi, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, and other languages. These will go to friends ministering around the world. We can't thank Ken enough for this priceless gift. We are still overwhelmed by God's goodness in making this available. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Bob has scanned the contents that contain Bibles, movies, 100+ books and studies. It is beyond belief how much can be put on a single micro-chip like the one in simple cell phones.

Detroit:

The Detroit Eleos Coffee House building has finally been approved for business, Jacob and Nicole are doing well. Their home church, Restore Church, Detroit, has really caught the vision and is helping in final preparation. The building had a special dedication and worship service on Feb 20th, and grand opening is closer. Recently the city required them to make the restroom handicapped accessible and redo some electrical work. As soon as that is complete, they should be ready to open. We'd love to go back up for the opening, but it's doubtful that we can. Pray for the \$900+ they need to finish the required work on the bathroom and electrical.

Co-Laborers and Partners:

+ Joel and Ira Colon (far left below) continue serving in eastern Europe through One Challenge international ministries. They have faced countless spiritual, financial, and emotional burdens beginning especially with Russia's invasion of eastern Ukraine and continuing to this day. Ira is Ukrainian with numerous family members in ministry. She was Bob's translator at St. James Bible College. Joel is American, speaks fluent Spanish, and helped us plant the Hispanic church in Kiev. Today they train new leaders, strengthen churches, plant churches, help "M" in television production for the Farsi ministry, and try to supplement their support through the new Coffee and Flower shop they opened last year (below, 2nd from left). They have been under severe spiritual attack the past several months. We love them more than words, and hope you will, too



+ Saied Ziadah and his wife are Syrian Christian evangelists who were featured on CBN several years ago while they were still living in Syria. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfZLp0izGSw&feature=youtu.be> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuWW_C4vCHQ&feature=youtu.be to see two videos about them. They now live as refugees in Norway (above 3rd from left), but God has given them great favor among refugees as they minister to them. He preaches weekly in a local church that provides services for Arabic speaking refugees. Their oldest son is a graduate student in Russia, but their two younger sons and Saied's mother still live in difficult conditions in Syria. Their middle son (above right) has been approved for entry into a university in Russia, but they lack the funds to fly him there. If he doesn't enroll before June, he will be inducted into the Syrian army, and most certainly end up fighting in the war. We also got a Facebook message from their eldest son, Cesare, who is a student in Russia. He requested prayer for three Muslims and a Buddhist to whom he has been sharing the Gospel lately. Though apart, the family ministers faithfully in Norway, Russia, and Syria.

+ Sergey Lyakhov – Sergey, his church, and his family continue sharing the Gospel with the Buryat people in Siberia. We have had no report since December, but that one indicated they continue traveling to many towns and villages such as Novosyelenginsk and the Gusinoye Ozyero region sharing the Gospel. This was a region where a single young missionary woman was severely beaten up. Also, two sisters from the Bible school had gone to the villages of Irkutskiy region to plant a church, and were murdered inside the house where they were staying. Yet, Sergey and his people continue faithfully sharing the Gospel, training leaders, and planting new

churches. Several months ago their ministry vehicle failed, but, thanks to the support of a number of people, they now have a "new" vehicle (below left and center), enabling them to continue ministering (below right).



+ Farsi Ministry: In our last letter we gave you a little update on how the Farsi ministry under the leadership of "M", "F", and "M2" has grown, and we also announced that "M" and wife Ira had a new baby girl, Diana (pronounced "Deanna"). We talked with both "M" and also "F" by Skype in February, and the reports are stunning.



"M" and "M2" (above third from left), along with Joel Colon, are working constantly on video production, and "M" and "M2" reply to about 2,000 personal Facebook contacts every month. More than 7,000 printed and countless digital Bibles have been give away, ministry encounters have taken place in over 30 countries, and the translation service has grown to include Christian translators in over 45 countries capable of translating into over 135 languages. The social media ministry includes the website under reconstruction, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. There are over 68,000 subscribers to their Facebook page, and they are increasing by 8,000 new subscribers every month. In January they had over 500,000 hits, 250,000 of them being intentional visits.

They have also blocked over 400,000 Facebook visitors because of language or violent threats. Most of their contacts are from Iran and Afghanistan. One young man living in a tent in the desert with no electricity or running water, and 200 miles from the nearest Christian, came to Christ through "M's" witness. He uses solar energy to charge his small smart phone, so he can get material and grow in his faith. Many such stories exist.

The guys have also produced over 800 evangelistic and teaching videos, and the Christian satellite network CBN is now showing some of them on their Farsi satellite network to a viewing audience of over 10 million people. "M" has been told that the Farsi ministry is now the largest social media ministry in the world.

"F" (far right above), leads the partner work in Germany, and is creating a digital library of good Christian books accessible on the internet anywhere in the world. He translates services for both the German church and the Café Hope evangelistic outreach. He and "V", who emigrated from Ukraine, travel to many towns and villages where Farsi speaking refugees live. There is a solid local group of some 40 believers, with a good local leadership base. He teaches the weekly Bible study session. They also maintain contact with "H" in Sweden and other leaders and groups throughout Europe and the Middle East. We are in awe of how God has raised up this ministry from a young sixteen-year-old university student in 2003 to what is happening with them today.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

You can only imagine how grateful we are to be blessed the way God has been blessing us. When many are thinking of retirement, fishing, yard work, going to see family members, and simply relaxing, we find ourselves

flying at a different altitude. We cannot explain the urge we have to continue going places sharing the Gospel, teaching the Word, and pouring our lives into others. Although we love it here dearly, and cherish every day we have in this special place in the woods, to be quite honest, we could easily sell our property and live in our little travel trailer with a "docking station" somewhere to call our official residence.

There is something strange and unexplainable that draws us to somehow be involved in the Great Commission. It's as if we are "driven" to minister everywhere possible. We wish we could describe it better for you, but we cannot. Our primary hesitation comes when we look at the economics of such a venture.

Currently, we have no other ministry opportunities scheduled. However, around Mothers' Day we will take our travel trailer (below left) to the White Mountains of Arizona to pastor the Greer Chapel in Greer, AZ for four months (below center). It is a "summertime only" congregation of some 35 families coming from hotter places to the cooler climate at about 8,500 feet up in the giant Ponderosa Pines. They meet in the Community Center (below right), have Sunday worship services, midweek Bible study, men's and women's Bible studies, and a number of social events, all designed to engage other local residents and visitors with the Gospel. It is a spectacular place of beauty. Just type in "pictures of Greer, AZ" in your search engine to see hundreds of pictures.

This is a ministry begun 15 years ago by Jo Ann's sister and brother-in-law, Dot and Bill Hutchison. When they turned it over to another pastor and begin a similar ministry in Show Low, that pastor developed health problems and had to end his role. Last Fall Bill and Dot asked us to consider the ministry. After much prayer, we concluded that the Lord wants us to assume that ministry. It begins shortly after Mothers' Day and concludes in late Sept. or early Oct. If the Lord leads, we will store our trailer there and return next year.



More than 90% of our current ministry generates no income through offerings or salaries. This is another one of those ministries. This one also requires considerable expenses that we must cover. The association will pay for the RV park space and will help toward travel costs to Greer, but there are many other expenses where we'll need help from folks like you. That need will be about \$1,000 per month for four and a half months, for a total of about \$4,500. We know you'll pray with us that God will provide. We must get some kind of indicator soon. If you would like to be part of that ministry through financial support and prayer, let us know.

We also feel a great need to return to Europe this Fall after the Arizona ministry. We didn't go last year due to the Detroit trip, and we feel a strong need to return. The trip will include Germany, Sweden, and Ukraine for our Farsi ministry and other things, and also Norway to minister in an International church in Stavanger and to help our Syrian pastor friend in ministering to Arabic speaking Muslim refugees. Please pray with us about it.

Prayer Requests:

- + For finances, families, and logistics regarding the ministry with Greer Chapel.
- + For Joel and Ira, especially victory in warfare, employee contention to end, financial growth for coffee shop
- + For new members to our "In-Pact" support team, for increased monthly financial undergirding.
- + For the entire Farsi team – endurance, strength, financial resources, more manpower, safety, health.
- + For our Syrian pastor, "S", -- funds to get "Michael" to Russia for university, family, safety, provision, a permanent place to call "home", refugee ministry, favor with local authorities and leaders.
- + For Sergey, ministering to Buryat people in Siberia – safety, protection, all needs to be met, great harvest.

Once again we find ourselves convinced that we cannot do this alone. We're still "Compelled To Go". You have never been more important to this ministry, and we cannot find words enough to thank you properly.

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

STATS FYI: Over 450 people receive these letters, 11 who support LUM monthly, and 15 who gave one-time gifts in 2015 for specific projects. Thank God for them.