



February 27, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

Hello to all of you! It's been a couple weeks since I have returned from my trip to Estonia, Latvia, and Germany. I'm thankful to have some rest to recover from a persistent cold and sinus infection. My next trip is already scheduled to Botswana at the end of April, but before I share on that trip let me give you a report of my recent one.

SUMMARY OF JAN./FEB. TRIP

I flew out of Philadelphia Airport on January 23, and after two flights and a bus ride I arrived in Tallinn, Estonia on Friday the 25. I spent that evening sharing a meal and fellowship with pastor Nikolai of "Jesus is the Truth" Church. It was our first time getting to know one another. He gave me a very warm welcome and at the end he shared that he trusted me completely and that he was leaving for the weekend to minister at some smaller churches in other towns.

After that I was picked up by Alex and Ksenia, they had been students at the Baltic School of Ministry (BSM), and then after graduation served BSM as student coordinators. I spent the weekend with them.

While in Tallinn I had the opportunity to teach on prayer at their church bible school.

They posted this on the church FB page:

News from Bible Course 101

We had a very interesting guest in our class this past week. Pastor and missionary Doug Linser who came from America but had previously lived in Latvia. Pastor Doug is very fascinating and very clearly taught at the meeting about the importance of prayer in the life of every Christian. He shared a lot of personal examples related to learning to hear and obey the voice of God.



I shared and ministered during their Sunday service and then spent Sunday evening with the church youth group. We had 35 young people attend and I shared a message on Daniel – challenging them to be “Daniels” to their generation. I also shared on the importance of understanding complete forgiveness and acceptance with God, the need for true repentance, and the power we receive through Christ to be dead to sin. Afterwards, many came forth for prayer and received healing. A visiting youth came forward and received salvation.

The youth pastor sent an email to our church after my return with these words:

From all of us I want to say a big thank you to your church and Doug Linser. We are very blessed by his visit and God spoke to our church through him. It was a very special youth meeting, there were prophecies, and our youth receive spiritual healing. Our leaders said that the time with Doug was special, like a new breath. We had this feeling like he had always been with us and all what he said was directly related to us. Praise God! We pray and wait for him to come again! Thank you again and God bless you!

I have attached a letter I received from pastor Nikolai regarding my time in Tallinn.

Early Monday morning, Alex drove me the 5.5 hours to BSM in Latvia, where I taught 20 classes on the topic of The Church. On Wednesday I spent the evening praying for each of the students during a worship service. I received this message from the school coordinator:

Just wanted to say thanks for your time and teachings here at BSM. You were truly a blessing for the students and for us too. Have a safe return home.

I then flew to Germany and spent 5 days teaching on the Holy Spirit, ministering at their Sunday service and meeting with their leadership team. Pastor Sasha sent this email to the church afterwards:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Celebration Church,

Trust this email finds you well in the Lord and rejoicing in His power and His grace. Many of you have known me being an advocate for bringing Christ back to Europe. For many years this has been our passion, burden and prayer. Despite frequent travels and many friends living in Europe, we did not know the real condition of the Christianity in Europe. It is only since moving to Germany and facing day to day life and challenges that we have begun to see the real need here. We greatly underestimated. Saying that, we want to say a huge thank you for allowing Pastor Doug to come and minister alongside us. His help and ministry were not only well received and appreciated but also of huge importance.

The greatest need here is ministers - godly, spirit-filled and anointed ministers that are instrumental in restoring the church in Europe. To be frank and honest - words fail to describe the great urgency and great need of the church here in teaching, personal ministry and mature leadership. With all our hearts we TREASURE every word of your prayers for us here. We do face HUGE obstacles and many challenges and in desperate need of God's intervention. Prayers are super needed, and we humbly ask you, to please pray with us and for us.

We have asked Doug to pray and seek the Lord for the possibility of a prolonged visit to help build a more solid foundation and we appreciate you joining in and praying for that as well. Thank you again for your kindness and great help, with love and blessings, Sasha and Vera.

To sum up this trip – it was very fruitful in ministry to church members, to youth, to students, and specifically to individual pastors and leaders. The emails and letters received as a result of the trip are testimonies of your faithfulness just as much as to mine. I'm sincerely grateful for your prayers and support – I couldn't do this without your help!

UPCOMING TRIP TO BOTSWANA, AFRICA

In March of 2010 I went to Botswana to help plant a church in the town of Mahalapye. Since that time, Celebration Community Church has financially supported Christ the Rock Community Church on a monthly basis. During these nine years, pastor Tex (his real name is Gabantshephe) and his wife Joyce, along with the faithful ministry of Scott and Alanna Jennings, and additional financial support from EMI, this church has grown and continues to spread the gospel in the country of Botswana!



Pastor Tex and Joyce have been busy. Christ the Rock Community (CRCC) Church in Mahalapye has grown beyond this first church – there are now village churches outside Mahalapye. The village of Mosolotshane is 70 kilometers from Mahalapye, with the villages Letselente and Moralane a little further away. There is another village church to the east of Mahalapye. In addition to weekly church services, CCRC has started a discipling school (GEM) along with a children's feeding program called Gabrielle's House in two locations!

Here are some photos of CRCC:



And the GEM discipling school with Scott and Alanna Jennings:



Lastly some pictures of the children's feeding ministry called Gabrielle's House:



I'm excited to be flying back to Botswana on April 22 for a two-week trip to serve these faithful servants! During the upcoming trip I will be speaking at a conference, teaching at the GEM Discipling School, ministering to the children at Gabrielle's House, and getting to visit and minister to the believers at all the church locations.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Besides ministry in the US – here what's ahead internationally:

1. Botswana, Africa - April 22 to May 8
2. Back to Europe – 2 possible trips between June and October
3. Back to Ecuador – November

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, AND YOUTUBE

We are excited to have our website launched, along with a new FB page, and YouTube channel. We plan to soon be posting blogs, 5-minute weekly audio teachings, and 10-minute video messages on a weekly basis. And are moving towards the ability to hold online interactive seminars.

You can find us online at:

- Website – www.Lifted-Hands.org
- Facebook – Lifted Hands
- YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-joxM-OvYi-SaJds1AigA?view_as=subscriber

It would be very helpful if you could visit each and choose to like and follow our FB page and also subscribe to our YouTube channel.

FINANCIAL UPDATE & NEEDS

Financials needs for upcoming trips are directly related to helping the following ministries:

- Christ the Rock Community Churches, Gabrielle's House (Children's Feeding Program)
- BSM, Hope for Children, Ventspils Church Plant, History Makers, and pastor support for the church in Germany.
- Ecuador church planting efforts and newly opened training school.

As always, I do not want anyone to feel any pressure to give but ask that you prayerfully consider helping towards these ministries and needs. Please feel free to give our newsletter to anyone who might have an interest in helping as well. Your support is greatly appreciated - we are constantly giving thanks for you and credit to you!

NEW WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

1. Financial gifts can be made ONLINE at www.Lifted-Hands.org – you do not need a PayPal account and can make donations by credit card or direct payment from your bank. Or
2. You can write a check to Lifted Hands and mail to Celebration Community Church, PO Box 140, Columbus NJ, 08022.

Your gifts are tax-deductible.

As always Grateful and thankful for all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", written in a cursive style.



Dear pastor Doug!

We would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for Your ministry!

We are so grateful to You for taking time to come and be with us!

Thank You so much for your encouraging and challenging word, for Your prayers and ministry.

May God continue to bless You abundantly in our Lord Jesus Christ. May He go before You and prepare the way for You everywhere you go.

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace”
Numbers 6:24-26*

With deep respect and love in Christ,

pastor Nikolai Rütkinen

The church “Truth is in Jesus”, EKNK LVK