



April 18, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

In just a few short days I will be heading to Botswana for two full weeks of ministry! During my trip I will be serving and ministering in churches, bible schools, and children's feeding and ministry centers. I'm so excited to be headed back after 9 years! I've attached my trip itinerary so that you can support me in your prayers as I go non-stop. I appreciate your prayers for the travels (my flights between JFK Airport and Johannesburg are about 15 hours long), ministry and energy level 😊.

I will do my best to keep you posted on FB and email when possible!

SOME THOUGHTS FOR EASTER

This past weekend we had the blessing of celebrating Palm Sunday. A special day where we recognize Jesus' last days heading up to His crucifixion and resurrection. It's referred to as Palm Sunday because of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem; a story that is found in all four of the Gospels. In most bibles, you will find the heading "The Triumphal Entry" introducing each Gospel's telling of that day's events.

It's an interesting heading that needs some explanation. Back in those days the highest honor a Roman General could receive was to be declared "Triumph." Since it was the highest honor, it was only given to those Generals who were victorious on the battlefield, captured defeated enemies, and who added/extended the territory of the Roman Empire.

It was the grandest of events, where the General would be ridden in a chariot drawn by white stallions, leading a parade that included chained prisoners of war, produce, exotic animals, and other items from the conquered land. The citizens of Rome would line the streets shouting and cheering.

With that in mind, let's consider Jesus' "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem.

Before this day, Jesus had been to Jerusalem on many occasions. On those occasions He had worshipped and taught in the temple and also healed many people. Until this day Jesus seemed to try and keep a low profile – often telling those He had healed to keep things quiet.

On this day however, Jesus entered Jerusalem not as a worshipper and certainly not in a quiet manner. This day He came as the rightful and legitimate King of kings.

Yet instead of white stallions, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey – a humble creature of labor, also called a beast of burden. In fact, the prophecy He fulfilled from Zechariah 9, tells us that Jesus came "lowly" and riding on a donkey. "Lowly," translated from a Greek word that more fully means: a humility that is considerate, unassuming (not showy or arrogant, modest), gentle and mild, meek (power under perfect control).

Considerate. Unassuming. Gentle. Mild. Meek.

These are some of the character traits of the conquering King who ransomed our souls. They may be somewhat hidden in our translations but are there to find. In all that we read of Jesus in the Bible – we find our greatest example for life – the model of what we are to become in becoming more like Him.

Proverbs 29:23 states that *“he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.”* Something for us to consider, but let’s look at 2 Corinthians 2:14:

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.

We can now understand this verse with more understanding. Jesus made a spectacle of the devil once and for all on the cross for us! He is always leading us in triumph! And here’s our part – it’s through us that He spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. How do we most effectively accomplish this?

By representing Him as He represented Himself – by being His considerate, unassuming, gentle, mild and meek ambassadors on earth. What Jesus did was motivated by love for us when we were lost and undeserving. We must relate to the world around us with the same motivation and divine character.

Divine character is another way to say spiritual fruit. As we mature, becoming more like Jesus, displaying more and more of His character – we become more fruitful and more fragrant!

As you remember Christ’s death and resurrection this Sunday in church – make it your prayer to become more fruitful – it’s the best way to show your gratefulness for all Jesus has done for you.

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 – between June and September
3. Back to Ecuador – November

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, AND YOUTUBE

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 "Doug". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a long tail extending to the right.

BOTSWANA TRIP ITINERARY

First Week

Monday/Tuesday, April 22-23: 11:15am flight JFK, New York to Johannesburg, South Africa then the next morning, 9:55 flight to Gaborone, Botswana

Wednesday, April 24

- Service **Christ the Rock Community Church** in **Mahalapye**

Thursday, April 25

- Teach at **GEM Discipling School**
- Minister at **Gabriel's House Children's Feeding Program** in **Madiba** in afternoon

Friday/Saturday, April 26-27

- **Conference** starts 6:00pm and runs thru Saturday evening – I have 4 sessions (one w/Youth)

Sunday, April 28

- Sunday Service in **Christ the Rock Community Church** in **Mahalapye**

Monday, April 29 – Teach at International Gateway Bible School in Selebi Phikwe

Tuesday, April 30

- Service at **Moralane Village Church**

Second Week

Wednesday, May 1

- Service at Church in **Taupye**

Thursday, May 2

- Teach at **GEM Discipling School**
- Minister at **Gabriel's House Children's Feeding Program** in **Madiba** in afternoon

Friday, May 3

- Minister at **Gabriel's House Children's Feeding Program** in **White City**

Saturday, May 4

- Minister at **Gabriel's House Children's Feeding Program** in **Mosolotshane** in the morning
- Minister at **Church and Gabriel's House Children's Feeding Program** in **Letselente**
- Evening service at the Church in **Mosolotshane**

Sunday, May 5

- Sunday Service in **Christ the Rock Community Church** in **Mahalapye**

Monday, May 6 – REST

Tuesday/Wednesday, May 7-8: 5:15pm flight from Gaborone, Botswana to Johannesburg, South Africa; then 9:05pm flight to JFK arriving the next morning at 6:40am.