



October 29, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

Hard to believe we are already at that time of year to adjust our clocks back an hour – did I blink and there is only two months left in 2019? One day – in a blink of an eye – we will adjust the clocks for the last time – clocks will no longer be needed!

Think about living without ever crossing off days on a calendar – where you count the days down to something you long for – like a trip – or a holiday where you're reunited with love ones, etc. I think we can all relate to something we have anticipated and counted down the days till it arrived. Every trip I take there is a moment – usually around the two-week mark where I feel the very real longing for home and my family.

For those of us who know the Lord – we are headed for life where everything comes together and will remain perfect – a place of perfect peace – with no good-byes – saturated in love – in the presence of Jesus – united with each other – laughter – joy – I will say this again – no good-byes – or “it's time to leave, wish we could stay longer.” I could go on and on about the amazing future that lies ahead for us – maybe this is something you should take some time to meditate on.

Our hope – not worldly hope that just waits for a good thing that may or may not happen – our hope lies between to amazingly great and true events – the death of Jesus on the cross – where all our debts were pay and we were redeemed – and the amazing return of Jesus in His second coming. Jesus didn't just die for us – He also rose again! The empty grave is a fact of history that enables us to look forward with such great anticipation! I want to encourage you – whenever you face something difficult and circumstances want to rob you of your hope – just whisper or shout “but Jesus rose from the dead!” Father, thank you for renewing our living hope!

MINISTRY SUMMARY SINCE JULY

Visiting Ministries

Since July we've had the opportunity to welcome several friends at CCC: Pastor Larry and Carole Arendas, our churches founders and leaders of Spirit and Truth Ministries International. Rob and Mary Grindley, missionaries in Botswana for the past 23 years; and Pastor Sasha currently living and pastoring in Cologne, Germany. Every place we minister are based on relationship and by invitation, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve, help and relate with these individuals.



Ventspils, Latvia

In September I traveled to Latvia. I spent my time in the city of Ventspils where we are supporting and assisting our friends Mauro and Julia Martinez with their church plant. On the weekend we held an outreach service in a park with food and fellowship afterwards. I shared a message from Acts 14 entitled "Moving through the Stones," regarding the stoning of the Apostle Paul.



In addition, we worked on the upcoming 2020 Youth Summer Camp called “Go&Be.” We will be sharing more about this camp in the days ahead but here are some details so that you can begin to pray.

Go&Be is an English-speaking Christian Summer Camp in Ventspils, Latvia, with teams of people from England and the USA getting involved to really capture the culture and language. The goal is to encourage and help young people (age 13 to 16) living in Ventspils with their spoken English and providing the opportunity to meet new native English-speaking friends while learning Christian values for life through relationship.

The camp is targeting unbelieving youth by ministering to the genuine need of improving foreign language skills. Youth in Latvia must take English as a part of their schooling. During the camp, teachings, lessons, and discussion will focus on Christian values such as friendship, honesty, helping others, thankfulness, etc. On the last evening of the camp, parents and family will be invited for a special presentation by the youth.

Cologne, Germany

In October I traveled to Cologne, Germany, and spent two weeks ministering and serving my friends Sasha and Vera at the church they’ve been pastoring. I spent two Sunday services teaching on Serving and Giving, and Wednesday and Friday evenings teaching and at the Bible studies and prayer meetings.

Intervarsity Campus Ministries

At the start of the summer I was contacted by a regional director with Intervarsity Campus Ministries about becoming involved in their efforts to reach young people on several college campuses in NJ – of course I agreed!

During freshman week at Rowen College of Burlington County, Lifted Hands provided 20 welcome bags filled with goodies and literature for incoming students and then this past weekend we provided financial scholarships for two students to attend Intervarsity’s Big Event Youth Conference in the Adirondack Mountains. The mission of the conference was to present the Biblical truths of Jesus Christ, develop Christian leaders, strengthen the faith of individuals and families, and promote global evangelism.

UPCOMING EVENTS

From November 7 to 19, myself along with MaryBeth and our son Cole will be in Cuenca, Ecuador.

During our time there, MaryBeth and I will be ministering a marriage seminar, along with ministering to the youth, legacy group and Sunday services. Cole will have the opportunity to participate with the youth and another US mission team that will be there at the same time.

Looking into 2020, I will most likely be headed back to Latvia in the January/February timeframe, then to Botswana in March/April, before heading with a team to Ventspils, Latvia in July.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Prayers

This morning in my devotion time I read through Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church. In chapter 1, verse 11, I read this verse:

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

This verse speaks to the amazing principle that by God's design, our prayers for others release His power and activity in their lives. Let me make this personal – I desperately need you to pray for me/us. Your prayers play a necessary part in what I do – or to put it better – what we (you and I) partner to do.

You may not feel power in your prayers but read the verse above again and take it personally. Let me quote it in a way that makes it more personal: You must help me by prayer.

The verse goes on and explains the results: Then whenever the ones who receive the ministry give thanks – they are giving thanks for the blessing granted through the prayers of many – or giving thanks because of our partnership in the ministry – your part in prayer is important!

Thank you for your generous giving!

Back in 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks of the generous gifts certain churches and individuals made to supply for the needs of others. Over the last several months in addition to going out and ministering the Word of God, we have been able to supply financial resources to churches, ministries, and individuals in need. Your gifts help send \$1,000 to a pastor ministering in an area where there has been no financial support. A similar amount was sent to help another pastor/church with housing and ministry needs. This past week aid was donated to ministry in yet two other countries. Because of you, two college students were sent to a conference to strengthen their faith and equip them for ministry.

Current and future needs

- We would like to provide support for the several children's ministries we relate to for the Christmas season.
- We have started to raise support for the Go&Be Youth Summer Camp.
- We are trusting God for a way to increase support to ministry in Botswana (churches, orphanage, children's feeding programs)

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:12 *For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.*

In many ways, this is my prayer for Lifted Hands as we purposely seek to help smaller churches and organizations with genuine needs in any way we can – whether teaching the Word, through works of service or financially.

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 written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.