



December 5, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

As I start this newsletter, I want to encourage you with this thought: He came!

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Jesus came! And His name Immanuel means “God with us!”

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.*

Jesus came! He is with us and He was born to us and to us He was given! What an amazing present we have received. Jesus’ mission was to redeem us and reconcile us back into a relationship with Father God. His mission was us!

My prayer this Christmas season is that we are all intimately aware of how much He loves us – He came! He came for us!

Father touch our hearts – wherever we are, in whatever circumstances we are in – and fill us with an overwhelming sense of your nearness and love.

Help our eyes see and focus on what we have and not our lack – and help us be content, grateful and secure in Your love.

NOVEMBER TRIP TO ECUADOR

As you’re aware, MaryBeth, my son Cole, traveled to Cuenca, Ecuador in November. It was a trip full of activity and, I believe, fruit!

Painting near Jima

We arrived at our friend’s, Bobby and Lori Leeks, around 2am on a Friday morning. After a few hours of sleep, we were off early to drive to a small town (Jima) in the mountains to help paint a elementary school, joining a team from Utah along with another team from Adventures in Missions.



Medical Mission and VBS in Quingeo

Then on Saturday it was back into the mountains for a medical mission in the town of Quingeo. MaryBeth spent the day diagnosing and recommending medicine to folks who live in that area. While that was going on, Cole was helping with a day VBS for the youth.





Ministry at Impact Church International

We then spent Sunday ministering at Impact Church International's morning service and then in the evening at Kingdom Life School of Ministry.





Unison TV Morning Show

Unexpected, MaryBeth and I were invited on the Unison TV Morning Show during our second week ahead of the marriage seminar we were leading. We had a 12-minute segment that you can watch by going to the Lifted Hands Facebook page. In addition, they recorded separate video clips that the Unison Foundation posted on their FB page.





Marriage Seminar

During our last weekend, we led a marriage seminar – Friday evening and Saturday – where we share sessions on Marriage based on God’s design, separate breakout sessions for men and women, a session on parenting, and a concluding session on conflict and prayer.



JUST A RIDE ON THE BUS

Some ladies were riding the bus to church that day like they did every week :) On the way they met a young woman and began to talk with her and invited her to church - she accepted their invitation!

During the time of prayer they brought her up to me and ask if I could lead her to the Lord - has I began to tell her about Jesus and what He accomplished for her on the Cross - she began passionately saying "I believe, I believe!"

She became a daughter of God! She also came to the evening meeting of Kingdom Life's School of Ministry!

I really had no part in this except to lead her in a prayer - the church ladies had done their part and the Holy Spirit did the big part!

I share this with you for several reasons - first, you can rejoice with us and be encouraged in just how effective prayer is in impacting life's circumstance and orchestrating a morning bus ride! Second, to encourage you in the real truth that the Lord has daily plans to use you in your normal life routines - we should all be praying that the Lord would help us be sensitive to those opportunities and be courageous to move in them.

Meeting a Need

While in Ecuador, I met a man named Demis who has been attending the church for a couple months now. During out time there he was at every meeting, including the marriage seminar.

I found out from Lori, that the church had been helping him with food, but the problem was he had nothing to cook with – he lived in a room – no kitchen.

We were able to purchase a small electric two burner stove top with some pots and pans.

He was so appreciative! Let's all pray for Demis!



Our friends Bobby and Lori Leek are doing an amazing job down in Ecuador and I'd like to ask that you keep them in your prayers on a regular basis. God has opened many doors for them, and they have directed the hearts of so many people to Jesus. They are currently working to help create work opportunities for many Venezuelans who have fled their country into Ecuador. They have recently opened a small café to provide work and provide hot meals inexpensively. For not much more than \$10.00 we can help them feed a person one hot meal a day for a week.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- March trip back to Botswana – more details to follow
- July trip to Latvia for the GO&BE Summer Camp – More details to follow

CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

- We would like to provide \$1,000 support for the several children's ministries we relate to for the Christmas season.
- Monthly Support for the Ventspils Church Plant.
- 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)
- Transition support for pastor and family moving from Germany to Norway.

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 fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a long, sweeping underline.