



November 15, 2016

Hi Everyone,

We have had another busy time since I last wrote you! Here is a summary of what we've been up to:

- On October 12th and 13th, I taught 4 lessons on the topic of "Laying on of Hands" at Word of Truth (WOT) Church in Riga.
- On October 14th, we served as a family at WOT's outreach service.
- On October 21st, I first taught on the Radio and then ministered at an overnight prayer service at WOT.
- On October 23rd, we drove to Bauska, Latvia and ministered at New Life Church.
- Amy and Cole were at a mini youth camp from October 23rd to the 25th in Dobelnieki, Latvia.
- I preached at WOT's Sunday service on October 30th.
- Spoke at the Pastor's Prayer Meeting attended by pastors from all over Latvia.
- On Sunday, November 6th, we drove 4.5 hours in a snow storm to the bottom eastern corner of Latvia, to a town called Daugavpils. We spent 4 hours there preaching the Word and praying for many of the people at New Life Church (another New Life), and sharing a meal afterwards. Shortly after starting our trip back home, MaryBeth commented on how nice a day it had been AND how she'd love to see a moose on the drive home... About an hour later – yep a large female moose was slowing traffic while she stood by the side of the road – as we passed by she turned and ran back into the woods. Funny how God answers little prayers like that ☺ Anyway 9 hours of driving – 4 hours of ministry – it was a full day.
- On Wednesday, November 9th, I preached at WOT's Wednesday service.

I also made 5 additional trips back to the Immigration Office regarding our Residence Permit. So, we are almost there – I have been approved which means that MaryBeth, Amy, and Cole are 99% likely to also be approved. They delayed their decision on Kalen and Troy asking that I provide additional information. Which meant that Pastor Wayne had to write up documents, have them notarized, take them to Trenton to have Apostilled, and then sent back to me rushed priority. We all must have chest x-rays taken to show we are clear of TB. Keep praying – hopefully on November 23 we will all have our Residence Cards!

This past weekend was the highlight of the month. First on Friday, November 11th I preached at WOT's outreach service. We had such a large response to the message that I had to call on members of WOT to help MaryBeth and I minister to the people who came forward for prayer. I know that MaryBeth and I, along with our translator Ester, prayed with 7 individuals to receive salvation, along with many others for healing. The other people praying were just as busy as us! Then on Sunday the 13th, I was back at Factory-99 church, and again after preaching the Word more individuals received healing and salvation!

I'd like to end with a short story I read recently.

It is about a business man who received an early Christmas present from his older brother. A few days before Christmas he decided to end work early. He left his office to drive home in his brand-new car. When he got outside he saw a young teenager walking around his car admiring it. As he walked up to the car the kid said to him "Hey mister, is this your car?" He replied, "Why yes, it is! It was a Christmas present from my older brother."

The kid's eyes grew a little wider, and then he asked, "You mean it was a gift – you didn't have to pay anything for it?" The man replied, "Yes it was a gift – I got it free."

At that point the boy said, "Man, I wish...." And then his voice got quiet. The man finished the boy's sentence in his head, thinking, "Yea, I bet you wish you had a brother like me... I bet you wish you had this car..."

Then the teenager finished his sentence. "Man, I wish... I wish I could be a brother like that. I want to be a brother like that."

The man was completely taken back. He asked the kid if he'd like to go for a ride? The boy jumped in quickly and they took off around the block. As they were driving the boy asked if the man would drive him to his house. The man thought, "Sure he wants to show off a little bit to his family." The teenager jumped out of the car almost before it stopped in front of his home, and he ran inside. In a short moment, he came running out of the house carrying a younger boy – his crippled younger brother.

The teenager carried him right up to the car and said, "You see little brother, this is the car I was telling you about. One day, I'm going to buy you a car too, and we can drive to all the wonderful places I've told you about, I will make sure you get to see them."

For the last thirty years, God has blessed me a lot. Way, way more than I deserve – in fact I deserve none of it. I can't remember exactly when, but many years ago now, I woke up one morning and just realized that God was going to take care of me – I didn't need to pray "God bless me." So, I started praying, "God, help me be a blessing." Life changed.

We read stories in the Bible like the Good Samaritan, and realize that yes Jesus is the Good Samaritan to us – He has compassion for us, He cares for us, He takes responsibility for us, He blesses and provides for us! But the other lesson in the story – the response that God wants us to have in reading it - is for us to say, “God, I want to be a neighbor like that.”

When we read of the Prodigal Son who returns to his father – maybe besides understanding that we have a Father in heaven that is watching for us, waiting to embrace us, cleanse us, and return us to the family – God wants us to respond by praying, “God help me be a father like that.”

Maybe when we read all the stories of Jesus, besides being encouraged of the Great and Awesome God that loves us and saved us – we should be moving towards acting like Him – doing in our world, those things that He did when He walked the earth – care more about others than we care for ourselves.

Don’t just be content and focused on the getting – get more concerned on the being – because we all can be “a brother like that!”

Thanks again for helping send us to Latvia. We are working hard at loving those around us and bringing them the Good News – in Word and deed. Without you it wouldn’t be possible. Please keep up your prayers – they make a difference!

I’ve posted links to some of the teachings I’ve given while here on Celebrationcc.com.

Lastly, I’d like to ask you to pray for some people here. First, Victor who is one of the youth leaders at WOT and has been my translator for the past 7 years. He had major back surgery and is now recovering. Second, a dear friend who just found out that her reproductive system is necrotic and must have a hysterectomy. Lastly, a young girl, she is very depressed, suicidal and has at times been selling herself to make money for her family.

Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the top and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

