



June 22, 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

A brief update of the last month and to let you know of some changes to my itinerary for the summer.

WHAT'S TAKEN PLACE

Celebration's New Facility



Celebration Community Church started having services in their new location! 2 months of constant work to renovate our new facility, but the results are beautiful. This was not a planned move but a situation that was the result of our previous church being sold by it's owners. Seems God already had a plan to bless us with better accommodations! Join me in praying for this transition.



Also, at the beginning of June Amy and I were on the road to Charlotte, North Carolina to attend the graduations of the sons of my friend Dan. His youngest son, Brady, graduated from Middle School, and his oldest son, Kyle, graduated from High School. Kyle is now off to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in August.

Please keep this family in your prayers as they continue to make their way through the loss of Dan and the resulting life adjustments and transitions.



From North Carolina, we headed to Jackson, Tennessee for Amy's orientation at Union University. She will be starting there in August, pursuing a degree in nursing. She wants to be a Nurse Practitioner, and this school allows her to move from her B.S. directly to her doctorate. We celebrated Amy's High School graduation when we returned.



More to celebrate! On June 18 MaryBeth and I celebrated 30 years of marriage. Thirty years of adventure and blessing – it’s funny, really nothing that has occurred during these years was planned by us – God’s plan is really the best and He is much better at planning a life and marriage than we could ever hope to be. God has accomplished far more in and through our lives than we ever expected and we are glad to stay out of His way – let Him do the planing and directing – all we have to do is say “Yes!”



One more thing to celebrate!



This is Elina. She is the young woman we asked you to pray for many months back. For many years she was suffering from hip dysplasia.

She had her surgery on May 20. Three days later she was able to stand up and begin walking with a walker. A week later she was outside doing well with the doctors telling her that many things were better than expected. She is on her way to recovery and physical therapy!

Basically, she needs to learn how to walk by herself all over again.

Let’s continue to hold her in our prayers as she completely heals and experiences walking and living without pain.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Ecuador in July: I'm on my way to Cuenca, Ecuador, from July 19 to the 31. I will be visiting our friends Bobby and Lori Leek who are missionaries living there. During my visit I will be ministering in services and to the youth, but also specifically to what Bobby calls his Legacy Group. This is a group of disciples ages 16 to 30 looking to serve the Lord more seriously. It will be my first time to Ecuador and hope to find ways that we can help Bobby and Lori in the work they are doing and be a blessing to them.

I do have a financial need for those who feel led to help. I was able to find a round-trip ticket for less than \$900, even though it's during the busy season. I estimate my total trip to cost approximately \$2,200 to \$2,500, including love offerings for the local ministry and area needs.

Latvia/Germany in October: I am heading to Latvia to teach on the "Holy Spirit" at the Baltic School of Ministry and ministering at area churches. From there I will fly to Cologne, Germany to spend a week teaching on the "Word of God" at a local church.

Celebration Community Church: When in New Jersey, I will be sharing the message on June 24, August 5, September 9, and leading worship as needed.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

1. **Summer Youth Camps:** **Live to Overcome** camp is run by Word of Truth church and runs throughout the month of July – it ministers to church youth from several countries along with under-privileged children from age 7 to late teens. **History Makers** camp takes place in mid-August and is the largest youth camp in Latvia, drawing youth from many other countries. It is a camp for youth age 15 and older. I'm hoping to invest somewhere between \$1,000 to \$1,500 towards each of these camps.
2. **Church plant in Ventspils, Latvia:** Pastor Mauro and Julia moved to Ventspils last summer and currently have a small group meeting in their apartment. They are moving to a new larger apartment this month and are expecting their first child in June. My hope is to begin to provide a monthly amount to support this church plant.
3. **Travel expenses:** For July and October trips. I will price out my October trip shortly.
4. **Hope for Children:** Support provides warm meals, clothing, and assistance to children in need and at risk. Hope to provide between \$2,000 to \$3,000 annually.

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, and we are constantly giving thanks for you and credit to you!

Financial gifts can be made through www.Celebrationcc.com or mailed to Celebration Community Church, PO Box 140, Columbus NJ, 08022. Your gifts are tax-deductible.

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10, we read the story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan. More than likely you already know this story. A man on a lonely road encounters thieves, who strip him, beat and wound him, rob him and leave him to die. The story tells us that on separate occasions, first a priest, and then a Levite come upon the man – but continue their way – also leaving him to die. Fortunately, a Samaritan – referred to as the “Good Samaritan,” finds him and has compassion – treats his wounds with oil and bandages them, takes him to an Inn and pays for his stay and care.

There’s no doubt that when the priest and Levite found the man – if other people had been around – they would have done something – because they would have gotten something out of their labor. They would have looked good. They were the kind of people who “live to get.” The Samaritan on the other hand was the kind of person who “lived to give.”

Just recently, a well know preacher on television asked his watchers to come together and help him raise 54 million dollars so that he could buy his fourth jet – the apparent reason was that he needed an extra plane so that he could pray in private while flying – something along those lines. Obviously, he was mocked by the world - as he should be – while making Christians look like greedy “living to get” people. What’s sad is that he’ll probably get his jet – while very sincere servants of Christ – who follow the call to serve and give – not seeking fame or glory – only to be obedient – hoping that their lives in some way end up bringing glory and honor to God – do it with very modest means. One of my friends just finished a trip having purchased a round-trip ticket that required him to have 5 stops each direction – what is a 4-hour flight directly – but with those stops and even overnight stays each direction – saved \$400 in expenses.

I tell you this because I want you to know how much I appreciate your support. Jesus came to this world as a gift and gave – my goal in going into all the world is the same – go as a gift and give. In some ways I seek to go to the places that can’t pay to have someone come. In many ways you send me as a gift and when I give in those places I credit it to you.

I use your support in three ways. First, the majority goes to real people or organizations with real needs. Secondly, it helps with travel and administrative cost. Lastly, it provides some personal support for living.

Once again thanks for your support and prayers!

Many Blessings and much love!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "oug" following it.