



CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 4, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year!

We had all our kids home for Christmas and spent the time enjoying each other's company, playing games, and eating way too much 😊

I will be sending out another newsletter shortly outlining what we accomplished together with your help in 2018 and what we have planned in 2019. I'm coordinating that newsletter with the release of our new Lifted Hands website that is almost complete. This letter should arrive to you just before my upcoming trip later in January.

Until then we wanted to once again say thanks for all your support and prayers! We're praying that 2019 turns out to be a year of special blessings and surprises from the Lord for you and your family!

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I have recently read through the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament. Those of you who have read Jeremiah know that God doesn't have very many good things to say about His people over it's 52 chapters. In chapter 5, verse 24, God makes this statement:

*It never occurs to them to say, 'How can we honor our God with our lives, the God who gives rain in both spring and autumn and maintains the rhythm of the seasons, who sets aside time each year for harvest and keeps everything running smoothly for us?' **MSG***

It seems like a pretty reasonable request and an appropriate way to start a new year! Let's make one of our first prayers in 2019 be about asking God how we can each honor Him with our lives. Set aside some quiet time and after the prayer be patient to listen or take note of any thoughts. God will open our ears to hear His response; give us eyes to see and hearts and minds to understand His desires for us personally in 2019.

Also, during this time my son Cole had to read through Ernest Hemmingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," for an English assignment. I had never read the book and took the opportunity when he laid it down. It's a great read! Towards the end of the book there was one line that really stood out to me – the old fisherman was alone out at sea and had this thought:

"Now is not the time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is."

I want to encourage you - every day you live, you have all you need to please the Lord and honor Him! You may be lacking in a lot of things, but you can do something meaningful with what you already have.

WHAT'S AHEAD

On January 23, I will be heading back to Europe, first spending a long weekend in Estonia ministering at a church in Tallin. Over the weekend I will spend time with the youth group, the pastor, and also share the message and minister at their Sunday service. This will be a first time visit with this church, however many students of the Baltic School of Ministry (BSM) attend there.

I will then drive to Latvia and teach at BSM from January 28 to 31. Four full days of teaching 20 classes on the topic "The Church."

On the evening of January 31, I fly to Cologne, Germany and spend five days teaching on the Holy Spirit, sharing with the leaders on "church leadership," and ministering at their Sunday service.

I fly home on February 6.

During this time, I have 5 flights, a bus trip, and a long drive during the coldest time of year.

I appreciate your prayers for traveling mercies!

FINANCIAL UPDATE & NEEDS

Gifts made since last newsletter

Since our last newsletter, and along with your donations and offerings from Celebration Community Church, we were able to contribute financially to the following:

- \$1,200 to Smethurst Ministries for winter needs of orphans in the Baltic Region and the Ukraine.
- \$800 to Hope for Children towards Christmas presents and winter needs for children at risk.
- \$500 towards the Ventspils church plant.

Current financial needs

- Upcoming Estonia/Latvia/Germany and Botswana trips.
- Upcoming History Makers Youth Winter Conference.
- Second Semester Scholarship for BSM student in need.
- Support for Ventspils church plant.

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.

Grateful and thankful for all!

