

Family Hess

Missionaries to Russia

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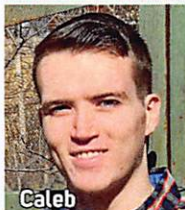
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Tony



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Caleb



Anna



Marc & Ciera



Joshua & Rebecca

November 2024

Dear Prayer Partners and Church Family,

Let me jump right into this prayer letter with a few praises. First, let me say **HOW GOOD A GOD** we have, Who never leaves and never forsakes His own. I am just gonna shoot them off like a machine gun. ☺☺...My wonderful mom (without whom there would be **NO TONY H.** and you would not be reading his prayer letter or about His ministry) - that fine lady fell sick about a month ago and had a couple seizures and ended up in the hospital with pneumonia. It was a serious scare— **SHE IS HOME** and **WELL** and perhaps . . .better than ever! Praise God!

Our church overseas is doing well after we survived a **SERIOUS TEST** for the church through a temptation to some of our youth. It's a long story, but God gave wisdom, help and saw us through. We emerged stronger and still unified. That is God right there! It could have been the beginning of **THE END** for LifeWay Baptist and I'm not being dramatic...(Lord willing, I'll explain later or perhaps in Heaven - OK?)

NEXT, we have faced some financial pressure and testing lately. Actually, it's been the toughest squeeze financially in 20 years of being a missionary. We decided to continue steadfast in seeking first God's Kingdom and His righteousness and just at the right time, God raised up a missions conference opportunity {a big help to us} and a great financial help from a surprising source (best left unnamed). Wow! We praise God for His never-ending care **AND** love.

I'm going to be transparent and tell you about a situation in our church that you have heard/read about regarding issues/conflicts in churches...Like—"Who in their right mind would like **THAT COLOR** carpet" (*just happened to be the otherwise, popular choice*)... and other issues that threaten the **UNITY** of a church: for us that means threatened our new **RESTART** work up here. **WE SOUGHT THE LORD** and begged Him for peace, wisdom and help and...well, to cast **OUT** the devil ☺. We prayed God would get us through this...better, wiser, closer and **IN ONE** peaceful **PIECE**. Anyway, you get it. **Praise the Lord!** God helped us, humbled us and hired the right construction guys for replacing our bell tower after the fire and all the construction involved inside the church – God is good! We are moving **FORWARD** together on all construction projects & in unity with no casualties which **COULD HAVE EASILY** not gone that way! Actually it was quite a test in the ministry for Mr. Tony Hess. Why does it seem to be that the silliest stuff can cause division!?! Ok... let's move on.

Praise our **SWEET JESUS** for **VICTORY** over compromise, **UNITY** despite strife, **HEALING** and Help for Mom and Financial **SUPPLY!!!** We are studying through James 1 – "*count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations* (tests)"..... Well, we are still learning how to be joyful in the midst, but **SO GRATEFUL** on this side of the trials and trusting **HIM** for more patience as we continue (v.2-4 of James 1). *Sorry that praise list was not exactly machine gun material... but I needed to give some context to the good news!*

ONE OF OUR OTHER BIG PRAISES IS -- we praise God for each of you who continue to hold the ropes in prayer and in financial support – enabling us to remain focused on our two churches (Crimea & Wattsburg). **WE PRAISE GOD FOR YOU!!** Thank you for remaining faithful. It means **SOOOO MUCH!**

PO Box 271 • Wattsburg, PA 16442

This is a **prayer** letter...so, here are some of our prayer needs. I'll highlight to make it easier to refer back and perhaps jot them down on **YOUR** prayer list.

1. We are praying that the Lord will bring two young couples to help here in our Wattsburg church. It would be a **HUGE** help for this ministry. "**YE HAVE NOT BECAUSE YE ASK NOT...**" {James 4:2}
2. Over in Crimea, We have a young man moving to **SPAIN** within a year, from our **LIFEWAY** Church. His name is on the documents for our Village Ministry Missions House. Please pray for **Wisdom** and **Direction** in transferring ownership. Please pray for this young man as he has been a **BIG HELP** and **BIG INFLUENCE (LEADER)** with our youth and now leaving the country! We are sending him out like a missionary to reach the many religious but lost in Spain. And back at LifeWay (Путь Жизни) -we continue to train up **more YOUTH**.
3. Also, Pray as we start up **A SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCIPLESHIP CLASS** here in the PA "chimney." After a year of evangelism, salvation decisions, and teaching to get us grounded - God is leading me to start this discipleship course with all those willing. Pray **MANY** will jump in with both feet and that God will **ESTABLISH US** in our walk with Christ.
4. On a final couple notes: We started Timothy Class back up in Crimea and we have three new young people who have graduated **UP** to the youth group. We still translate/have translated the materials that I organize and write for the book each year. Last year the teen workbook cost over \$1500, which goes to a Russian Student at PCC that helps us with it. Anyone who would like to donate toward these chapters, (each chapter translated costs roughly \$100), your gift would be greatly appreciated. We are on chapter 5 right now- writing, editing, translating and then printing (that part takes place overseas - secretary Luba does it).

*Finally, at our last **YOUTH ACTIVITY** (in PA) which is one of our outreach ministries to the town (adults also attend) - I share the Gospel, we sing, play games and there is always some good food. I mentioned to some of the visiting parents who have been to a few of our activities that we were going the next day to look at a house. With **shocked faces**, they said — "**YOU'RE NOT MOVING ARE YOU?!**" They said it in a way like, "**YOU NOT DYING ARE YOU?!**" They didn't want us to move away. (A bond has really been built with their kids and Pastor Tony.) It was soooo encouraging to my heart, that, just since summer...**THESE FOLKS FROM THE COMMUNITY VALUE US BEING HERE** and shuddered at the thought of us leaving! **Wow-** Such an encouragement!!! God is using His servants to make a difference and **THAT** is so, so rewarding!*

*To God be the glory- **GREAT** things He (is doing)! Appreciate and love y'all. Thank you for being a vital part in all of our ministry work. We remain...*

YOURS FOR THE HARVEST,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Hess', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Bro. Tony & Dawn Hess