

Family Hess

Missionaries to Russia

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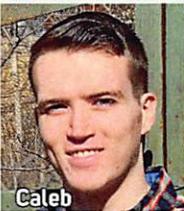
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Tony



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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!**

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,



Bro. Tony & Dawn Hess