



November-December 2015

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) ..."John 1:14

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Warm Christmas greetings from the Slobodians! We trust this prayer letter finds you enjoying the blessings of another Christmas season and looking forward with anticipation to another year by the grace of God. Looking back over this past year we are truly thankful for the open doors and opportunities the Lord has given us. Some special ministry blessings we would like to highlight over this past year are:

- * A wonderful summer camp season this year with over 1900 campers and over 500 decisions for Christ.
- * Despite persecution this past year we have had many Muslims receive Christ in restricted countries where we have missionaries who are bravely sharing the light of Gospel in these areas darkened by Islam.
- * Another 40-foot container of humanitarian aid and church planting equipment has been sent to Ukraine. This container is bound for the church in Ternopil which is in Western Ukraine. The donated items will be a great blessing to this urban church in a needy community which also operates a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for men outside the city.
- * With 7 building programs underway in 4 different countries this has been a record year for BIEM building programs. These 5 church buildings, a men's drug and alcohol rehabilitation center and a shelter from abused women and their children will be featured in the next issue of our newsletter.

There are two family health issues that we ask you to pray for. Amy suffered a mild heart attack on October 23rd. A stent was successfully inserted to relieve the blockage and we rejoiced in that doctors found no damage to the heart. However, in follow-up tests they found a benign Myxoma tumor in her heart, which normally goes undiscovered and must be removed. Please pray this heart surgery scheduled for December 16th.

Many of you prayed for our grandson Noah who had a heart transplant when he was just a few weeks old. Our daughter Susan and husband Mat (Harvey) have recently received a diagnosis that Noah's younger brother Shane has some serious issues. Following is this urgent prayer request from a Facebook posting:

We in the Harvey household are asking for prayers and miracles again but for our sweet baby Shane. He has been diagnosed with hydrocephalus. There is already a small area on the right side of the brain that has been affected & we will not know long term what delays that could bring but no matter what we will love this baby for who he is. We are meeting with a neurosurgeon in the next several weeks to determine options. He already is showing feeding issues and will more than likely end up on a feeding tube if we are unable get him to stop vomiting. I know God makes no mistakes and that He sees the bigger picture but some days we struggle to understand why . . . Why Noah . . . Why Shane . . . Why us . . . Again?!? If u could pray for these 3 things 1. Shane stops vomiting instantly (every time he does it increases intracranial pressure) or he will need a feeding tube 2. That we can avoid a brain surgery for Shane - we need the CF fluid to STOP building 3. That our faith stays strong when we feel defeated and overwhelmed. We are at the beginning of another long journey and appreciate any extra positivity and prayers you can send.

We are thankful that we have such wonderful friends and prayer partners we can share both our blessings and trials with. May God grant each of you a blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year!

The Slobodians