

Family Hess

Crimea &
Reseeding America

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Dear praying friends and family—

Pull up a chair & sit a spell—*It's not my shortest letter* :/ My heart is full of gratitude for so many of you that seriously pray for the Hesses and give to help us continue to minister in Crimea and work up here in Wattsburg, Pennsylvania. Already two years here—I can't believe it. There IS significant fruit and that is encouraging. At the same time – it is quite *different* actually. Church planting in America or RESTARTING that is, versus starting a church from scratch, even if it's in a foreign country – yes, it's QUITE different. I think, **we have uncovered a STRONGHOLD area** for the enemy – with churches *up here* closing – it seems left and right!! We have attempted to do some of the same things that were **successful** in Ukraine/Russia. Here: *different* for sure. I would always tell the Russians/Ukrainians that I had been there long enough that I was “half Russian.” Perhaps I so adjusted to that style of ministry and expecting a certain thing from folks... WHAT AM I TRYING TO SAY? Basically, that things are different/difficult here. At the same time... PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE and they *basically* have the SAME problems everywhere you go. GOD'S WORD is the **same solution** as well. Believed/applied – the GOSPEL never fails!! *Amen to that.*

We drove to North Carolina during the holidays to visit with our family. It was PRECIOUS times. **I miss my kids.** I can only imagine the joy and privilege it would be to be able to go to church with them each week, sing specials regularly, **serve the Lord alongside**, shoulder to shoulder. We had that privilege when they were kids. I may have taken it for granted that it would last forever. *Deep down*, knowing that, of course, it would not. The boys, Marc/Joshua/Caleb, have their own families –they are building their own Hess-tribe. We're proud of them in so many ways. Anna – she is so grown up now. Quite a responsible adult – 24 as of this letter. I am quite honestly, too young to have a daughter that “old” – LOL.

We have traveled the country preaching “redeem the time” with my ruler / yardstick and a few of our favorite illustrations... God used those lessons in my life and I think in a few others—wow! I probably feel as motivated today as any time in my life to truly redeem the time. I'm only 55, but we see and feel a difference in our health. So I know I simply DON'T have forever to do what God has called and enabled me to do.

SO - SO awesome to have you guys standing behind us – steadily supporting us for 25+ years. Well, I just want to thank you guys and say, hallelujah! Because I know that **all** that has/is “going down” with this ol' boy was SURELY not because of my abilities or talents. Truly God has been REALLY gracious to us. We thank Him.

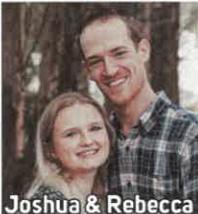
If I can share just a few praises and then some prayer needs that will be enough for this letter. Our service up here in Wattsburg is going steadily UP. Honestly, the devil has fought us tooth and nail though. I want to thank GOD for 49 in one of our last services for 2025. We had three professions of faith this past year – they were Kaitlyn, April, and Dylan. Please pray for these three: they all need baptized.... I am perhaps more RUSSIAN in that regard than the average “ameri-kański pastor” – in that if someone makes



Tony & Dawn



Marc & Ciera



Joshua & Rebecca



Caleb & Chelsea



Anna

a profession of faith, we like to give them a good dose of discipleship BEFORE we dunk them in the water — and I really need to know that they understand what baptism MEANS and that they are honestly planning on following Jesus Christ instead of “just adding Jesus to the notches on their belt-of accomplishments” and continuing with the “default setting” - where I AM BOSS. Oh that all the professing believers understood the phrase “believe on the **LORD** Jesus Christ.” OK - I won't preach.

OVERSEAS: LifeWay Baptist is also doing pretty well - although I COVET YOUR DILIGENT PRAYER for **Leadership there, our TEENS, & a Revival in their spirit of EVANGELISM and burden for SOULS.** I speak to them WEEKLY - still four times each week. A FEW times over the past few months, I have had to do the full fledge “reproof and rebuke”— making sure the church remains **steady, salty, Spirit-directed & SOLD- OUT for God!** *I know most would have just moved on, but I guess — I'm just not like “MOST.”* God saw fit to keep our youngest preacher-man Pasha still in Crimea and he serves faithfully in the church. We have “raised that boy up” from a YOUTH in our church and I WOULD BE THRILLED IF GOD CALLED HIM TO PASTOR THAT CHURCH IN THE NEAR FUTURE. Pray please. His training is ON-GOING, but I know his heart is true-North! *(How often He gives me that online -“Amen-emoji!”as I speak to the church. If you get my drift).* Also two salvation decisions this past year in the ministry over there, and two baptized. **Praise the Lord!!** So 2025 was indeed fruitful.

LET'S FLASH BACK TO WATTSBURG... 1) Some of the firemen in the neighborhood pushed through and nominated Tony Hess as CHAPLAIN for our local fire department. New territory for me. May the Lord Jesus lead us PLEASE! 2) One of the two families that WE {Brother John Bailes, YOU ALL and I} specifically have asked God for HELP here in the ministry. They joined in November. Glory! 3) As well, A young man in the church asked me to be his accountability partner this year as we study through the Commands of Christ. I WAS THRILLED! That is another answer to prayer! **We NEED more FAITHFUL, dependable young men at this work here!** 4) So, on Tuesdays, we are doing a “Training Faithful Men's Class” and it is bearing fruit. So we HAVE MUCH to thank our Lord for!

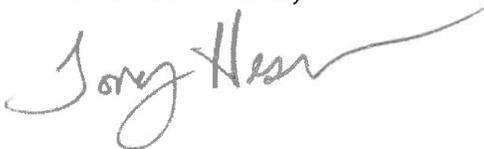
CLOSING PRAYER NEEDS:

CRIMEA — **National Leadership**, our TEENS, Revival in EVANGELISM and for Pasha particularly (maturity and surrender to God's call- as God leads).

WATTSBURG — **At least** one more family to come along side and HELP, Sean as a “Timothy” here, my new chaplain ministry, REVIVAL in Wattsburg (revival meetings are coming in late March with Evangelist Randy Starr & overall HEALTH for Dawn and me, *as often we are burning the candle at both ends.*

Thank you again for remaining **steadfast** with us and WE WILL, by God's grace, endeavor to continue likewise for our Redeeming, Restoring, Rich & (Soon) Returning Savior!

With all our hearts,



Bro. Tony and Dawn Hess