

UPDATE & PRAYER

“Lord...all that we have accomplished you have done for us” Isaiah 26:12

Sum up:

1. Ukraine Update
2. International Church Update
3. Personal Update

1. Ukraine Update



July 8, 2024 might as well be the 9/11 of Kiev. Russia's missiles turned the Children's Hospital into rubble. Bald little heads hooked up to IV's continued their chemo-therapy on the streets of the

capital. Over 40 people were killed, and around 200 injured. Some were in surgery... And then, no more bodies were found in the room.

Natalia, from Kiev, texted me that the hospital is in the process of getting fixed. In the meantime they have placed wood boards on the broken windows to stop the damage of equipment. They are still evaluating medical equipment that works properly or not.

As she was giving birth on 9/11 of this year, alarms went off during the surgery. But they continued with the procedure in spite of risks at hand.

Only children in kindergarten and schools, and some businesses go to shelter every single time there's an alarm. Hospitals stop when it's a greater warning.



Karolina is 7. Her dad is American, her mom is Ukrainian. They were refugees in Romania at the beginning of the war helping with Ukrainian church and more. Their little one shared with tears one day that she's tired of taking people off the prayer list. "I can't pray for some people anymore, because they died in the war."



Elena, our chaplain we support in Ukraine, is officially full-time missionary. Jesus has answered our prayers to provide financially so she could quit her job from 9-5. In October she had to train the person replacing her at work. Starting with November she will not be in the office any more. So grateful to Jesus for this answered prayer.

One of her sons is also drafted in the army. After only 2 weeks of training he was sent on missions. She hopes to be able to work closer to her son.



- Day 976 in Ukraine. But who's counting...It's difficult not to hit "compassion fatigue" when you count up to no end, rather a countdown. How do you manage seasons like these? You pray for a Hur and an Aaron.

"When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset." Exodus 17:12

- Jesus continues to bring alongside us Hur-and-Aaron-like people willing to persevere with us in this unique ministry. This past summer we were able to take two teams into Ukraine to bless the locals. "When people don't visit us, it feels gloomy. But when they come, we get recharged." Shared Dima, a father of four. His wife gave birth while sirens were going off in the hospital, and a nearby missile shook the city. Do they even need epidural with such amounts of adrenaline surge...



“The blind couple in Ukraine had no sight, but they had vision.” Shares Katie, a young mom from Community Church, USA, who came to serve with us this summer. She was inspired by this couple’s attitude unwilling to play **the victim card**.

When his wife gave birth at the hospital 20 km away from home. He biked in the middle of the night primarily because he memorized every bump, and how much pedaling it takes to get there. He could only see a faded line in front of him.

The husband is a shepherd. Purchasing clothes, or blankets is beyond their budget. Community Church team had fun shopping for clothes, blankets, towels, toys, backpacks and food for this family and others.

Those who complain about poverty in a country of abundance need a mission trip to shift views.



We purchase supplies in Ukraine. It’s easier at the border, and cheaper than Moldova. Because my mom is half Ukrainian, we have natural connections to cross the border. We usually go to the

same place, and allow the locals to introduce us to people that need encouragement, food, or clothes.

Border police interrogated one of our team members, because she was born in Ukraine. Police can check if you have a Russian number in your contacts, social media posts, photos of the Ukrainian war and more. The week before our arrival, the Ukrainian army did home searches, including phones and computers to catch any pro-Russia activity.

2. International Church



Men's Ministry has been growing. Every 6 weeks the men get together for Saturday Breakfast and for Biblical teaching. Men's Retreat is twice a year in the Romanian mountains. One is coming up soon in November where Pastor Jonathan will be the guest speaker. He worked with Bill as his Assistant Pastor for many years. Now he pastors in the UK with his family.



Youth Group continues to grow. Now we have up to 40 kids coming on Wednesday nights. It's very multi-cultural and it's a safe space for teens to connect, and discuss topics of faith.



Baptism garden celebration was in September at a local Mission House with a pool. Water was refreshingly cold. We had 3 Nepalese, 2 Syrians, 1 American, 1 Ukrainian, and 1 Hawaiian (Yes. Yes. He's American too. My kids find the home of "Five 0" cool.)



Eddie Johnson, one of Bill's best friends and pastor at Southeast Christian Church, Kentucky came to visit this past summer. Although the trip was short, it was uplifting to be visited by such close friends. It was like having family over.



On Sundays Bill is answering 3 questions from the Bible that members of our church have written at the beginning of the summer. This will continue for a couple of months. We do it in an interview format, I ask the questions and he answers them. We talked even about cultural sensitive topics such a LGBT, BLM, or the theological pretzel of predestination, election, choice.

Two Sundays ago Bucharest had a **terrorist threat against all churches**. Attendance was down because of embassy personnel being advised to not attend. We had to hire extra security for people's safety and peace.



Young Professionals are meeting bi-weekly at our home. This group is my baby. Last time we introduced a new concept to most: "apologetics" which means to give reasons for your faith, not to argue about it. We watched a video of Kirk Cameron with Alisa Childers on Takeaways.

We will continue this format till Christmas. In January we will be studying a book of the Bible. One of the biggest struggle I observed in conversations is that people are **bored in the Word**. That's my favorite thing to do with our girls, or others—to bring creativity to the practical Word of God.



The Nepalese fellowship. To the right of me are two prestigious Christian journalists visiting from Nepal in Europe getting interviews to understand the dynamic of Nepalese fellowships outside of their country. They work for a National Christian Radio in Nepal. We will share the interview once we have access to it.



John's name is Amrit. Our Nepalese, and Filipino friends give themselves English names to make it easier for people to pronounce and remember their names.

John moved from the hostel room to a meek apartment. This enables him to do prayer groups, and a place to prep for messages without the distractions of living with many people in a room.

Now we are praying that Jesus will bring along churches and people to support him monthly, so he can quit his "tent-making job" and possibly bring his wife and son to Romania.

John travels around Romania every month to support the home groups he planted in about 6 cities. He's also asked to come in other countries in Europe.

3. Personal Update

Lessons Learned



Live With Margins: Books require margins. So do we. Since the Ukrainian war started our family has been fully invested in this new ministry opportunity. Alongside this, we still have an International Church, a Nepalese fellowship, an Ethiopian fellowship, Moldovan ministry, homeschooling, video posting, writing and more.

We're learning to say "no" to many good opportunities to keep a healthier rhythm and be productive in the ministry, and our home longer term.



Rest And Reset. It's important to let our soul catch up to our feet. Bill and I took a break for our 20th anniversary. It was a beautiful opportunity to Rest and Reset.

We got to share the Gospel with the hotel worker, and gave her our family book Patched that shares our story and the Gospel. This young woman is Greek. It was so neat to explain Romans

1:16 how the gospel is “the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes”
δύναμις “dynamis”

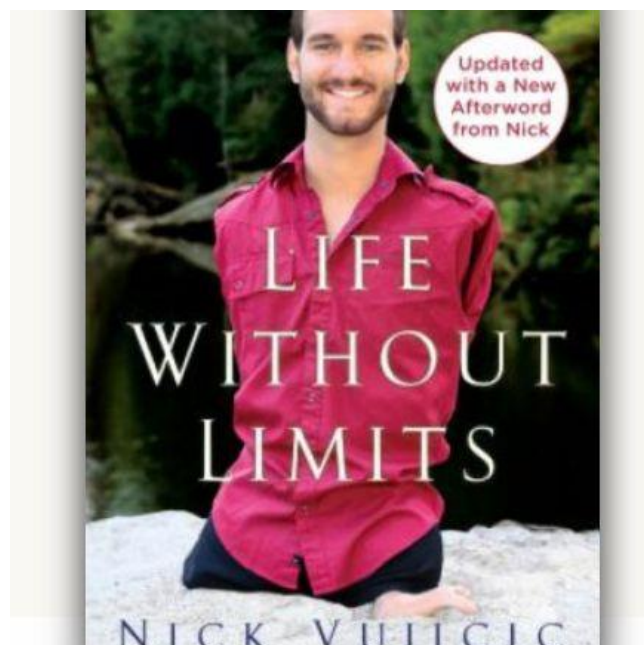
People are so ready to have faith conversations, if we only took a holy risk.



Ministry Starts At Home: “The darkest space of a lighthouse is at the base”. Yes, we are called to be light to the world, but it must start at “the base”, in our family. When you do what you love, it doesn’t feel like work and “in the name of Jesus” we may neglect our family.

After lunch, we study the Bible together in a fun and practical way. Although, Mina found the book of Ecclesiastes the most depressing one... “Meaningless. Everything is meaningless.” For someone who loves a new pair of “meaningless” Vans shoes.

Books We Read



Life Without Limits, Nick Vujicik

- “Half of our life we try to fit in. And half of our life we try to stand out.”
- “You can be buried by the wave, or you can ride it to shore.”

Leading On Empty, Wayne Cordeiro

- **“Our day doesn’t start with our morning coffee, but it starts with the night before.”**
How you sleep at night will dictate your mood, your energy level etc. We decided to protect evenings, so we can have an earlier and healthier start. (I avoid checking my phone after certain hours to not get caught up in conversations, or new problems while my day wraps up.)

The Girls



Bella turned 15 in August. She celebrated it with her 7 cousins from the Moldovan side. They do miss their 22 cousins in America. They connect so quickly with all of them.

They are involved in the worship team, Sunday school as helpers, baking and greeting people when it's their turn. They love interacting with people, and get along with any age. Such a blessing to see them mature.



In between the girls is Flori, the girls biological great aunt. She is the only biological family we allowed in their life. She's a strong believer and has been such a support during the adoption and now.



Romania still struggles with street dogs without owners. They can be very aggressive. One of these dogs got a hold of kitten Garfield. We found him across the street the day before Bella's birthday. Pastor Bill/ "daddy" gave a funeral to little Garfield. He prayed not for the kitten, but for our girls and the 5 little cousins saddened by the unexpected loss. (A month ago, we lost Ponchik too. Lots of tears again.)



Moldovans don't have pets, just dogs. Yet, Bella saved money to get this pup. Meet Skippy. A bark-less doggie. Previous doggie we saved from the street, Phoenix, barked too much, and got "shipped" to Moldova where it's legal to bark :)

It's given Bella the opportunity to connect with some people in a unique way.

Thank you for doing ministry TOGETHER !!!

[GIVE TO UKRAINE](#)

[GIVE TO THE TULLY'S](#)

Copyright (C) |2023 | Naty Tully | All rights reserved