



Worth the Risk

August 2023 Update

Mark Twain famously quipped that "A pessimist is a well-informed optimist," which shows that being well-informed without faith can still lead to inaction. C. S. Lewis addressed human trepidation in the face of uncertainty in his lecture, *Learning in War-Time*. He stated, "The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavorable. Favorable conditions never come." The same can be said of taking the gospel into adverse situations. Like a fireman running into a burning building to save a child, saving a life outweighs the risk to one's own.

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." — John 15:13

These thoughts came to me a few days ago as I communicated with two of our friends in Ukraine, Pastors Igor and Oleg. As usual – a sobering phrase – I reached out to Igor to see if he and our friends were safe after another Russian missile strike in L'viv. He happened to be at a youth camp and was safe. I later spoke with Oleg in Ternopil concerning a video they are preparing for our upcoming world conference that features their team delivering aid to liberated cities near the front and starting new churches. I relate this to illustrate how God's people worldwide are motivated to action by the love of Christ amid adverse circumstances.



Our July North American Church Planters Assessment



My Every Nation classmates at our Asbury Doctor of Ministry intensive with program director Dr. Ellen Marmon (center)

As we continue to pioneer, part of our work is to equip and send the next generation of church planters and missionaries. In July, I was part of a team that assesses new church planters for their readiness to begin their ministries, and we also assist these leaders and their sending churches to determine ongoing training. But to equip these kingdom adventurers, we must constantly upgrade, which is what we are doing with our studies while simultaneously planting a new church and training others to do the same.

Myra has begun her third and final year of PhD courses at Asbury, after which she will write her comprehensive exams and begin her research. She is already publishing her work, participating in academic forums in missiology, and consulting with missionary church planters on how to better reach their contexts. Last week, I completed my second year Doctor of Ministry intensive at Asbury, which was no minor miracle for me after a year of health challenges. My studies also focus on cross-cultural training and spiritual formation.



Zach Meerkreebs (third from right) with several of my classmates



Our spiritual formation lectures with Dr. Steve Seamands

A highlight was finding out that our classmate, [Zach Meerkreebs](#), was the pastor who preached the February 8th chapel at Asbury University that started the [Asbury Outpouring](#). One of our professors, Dr. Steve Seamands, was a student at the Asbury Revival in 1970. Dr. Seamands told us about the long history of prayer that led up to the recent outpouring, and Zach humbly confessed that his chapel message that day was not his best. But God moved the hearts of nineteen students to stay longer to pray, and that prayer lasted two weeks, attracted over 50,000 people, and touched the world.

Partnership Needs

- Travel costs for our South Africa trip and the move to Prague
- Funds to purchase a car in Europe
- Start-up funds for shipping our belongings and establishing a new home in Prague

We are in the final preparations for our move to Prague, and our visa appointment is in September. Abigail and Josh's wedding is at the end of September; we go to South Africa for a week at the beginning of October, return to start packing up our house, and head to Prague as soon as our visas come through. I'm overwhelmed just typing this! This launch requires considerable financial resources, especially for flights and setting up a home in Prague. We also need to purchase a car, so we ask you to consider a special gift to help us start strong. Thank you for your faithfulness, and God bless,

Mike & Myra

Prayer Requests

- Peace for Ukraine and continued resources for refugee relief
- Mike's health: continued energy for this busy ministry season
- New team members for the Prague church plant
- Expedited visas for the Czech Republic

Join Our Partnership Team!

Mail support to:

Global Impact Resources
Attn: Mike & Myra Watkins
P.O. Box 3012Greenville, NC 27836

Note: Michael Watkins acct# 101

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