



Dear Family and Friends,

HAPPY MAY DAY! We hope you are in the midst of a beautiful Spring wherever you are. We seem to have skipped Spring and jumped right into the middle of a long, hot Summer! You never have to wonder what you will wear when you get up in the morning here. Something COOL that will dry quickly is the only criteria!

It seems the last two months have flown by as we have gone in many different directions on this side of the world. Statistical reports have continued to come in steadily, and the Districts have done an outstanding job this year getting their information entered correctly. I am so proud of them! It has made my work so much more manageable.

Rich has kept the airlines in business the last couple of months. And all of those miles without a missed connection or a lost bag are quite a miracle! Your prayers for him have certainly been heard and answered. And I am so thankful for the sense of peace and protection that I feel when Rich is gone. The Lord has certainly been with us both.

This is a "brief" summary of the schedule since the end of February:

Feb. 26 - Rich (and I) flew to Bangkok, Thailand as he started his journey to the north for a month. Because he had a layover there, I went along so that we might do a little sightseeing for a couple of days. What an interesting place! Then on Sunday, we parted ways as he went north to Bangladesh, and I came back to Sri Lanka.

Mar. 1 - Rich arrived in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Bangladesh is currently the largest District in the Church of the Nazarene). Rich first met with the District Superintendent to discuss building needs and possible strategies for meeting those needs. He then went on a 5-day driving tour of the country to see various project areas.

Mar. 7 - Rich flew to Kathmandu, Nepal to help the DS prepare for the arrival of the first W&W team in Nepal. The team arrived on March 13, and everyone worked hard building walls with 50lb. blocks. (No one had trouble sleeping!)

Mar. 24 - After saying goodbye to the team, Rich arrived back home at midnight. His few days at home were spent catching up on emails and preparing a presentation for the South Asia Leadership Team (SALT) Meetings.

Mar. 29-31 - The SALT Meetings, with our Regional Director, Field Strategy Coordinator (FSC), Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) representatives, and all the South Asia District

Superintendents, were held in a beautiful beach hotel just outside of town. Rich and I both had to make presentation to this group of distinguished guests! Unfortunately we were all so busy in the sessions that we didn't have much of a chance to enjoy the ocean and our lovely surroundings.

April 1 – Rich and I flew out at 2:45 am for Romania. (I finally got to go along!) We arrived in Bucharest in the evening, and rode a train to the city of Sigisoara the next day. There we visited compassionate ministries centers and church projects in the area. On Sat. we returned to Bucharest, and on Sunday we had the privilege of worshiping in the Blessing Church, which is also another project site. On Sunday afternoon, we were given a special walking tour of Bucharest led by the pastor's wife, who was a participant in the Revolution in 1989. She makes history come alive!!! What a beautiful country and wonderful people we found in Romania!

April 5 - On Sunday night we were picked up by Jay and Teanna Sunberg, missionaries to Bulgaria, who drove us from Bucharest, Romania, to Razgrad, Bulgaria, where we all spent the night. The next day we visited the Razgrad Church project, where some of you have worked!! We then drove on to the Sunbergs home in Sofia. On Tuesday, Rich and Jay traveled all day visiting projects all over northern Bulgaria. I enjoyed spending time with their four girls and catching up on reports and emails.

April 8 –Rich and I took a little personal side trip and flew back to Cluj Napoca, Romania, to spend a few days with Matt Gibson, our nephew who plays professional basketball for the Mobitelco Club. We had a great time with Matt and Jacelyn, his fiancée. We ate lots of delicious Romanian food, watched a couple of basketball practices, and saw lots of beautiful old buildings and churches. Rich and I slipped into the back of the old Cathedral on Friday night to attend their Good Friday service. What a setting for such a significant service of the Easter season.

April 13 – We flew to Amman, Jordan early on Monday to oversee the Eurasia FSC's Family W&W project. Dr. Crocker started this tradition for families a couple of years ago when the biannual FSC's meeting was scheduled in Sri Lanka up at our Hatton Center. The entire families (married children, too) of the FSC's were invited to come to the site and to work on a project together. This year we painted twelve classrooms in a school in Zarka, Jordan. Everyone worked so hard to transform these well used schoolrooms into a rainbow of colors. (It actually glowed!) We all wished we could have seen the children's faces as they entered the building for the first time. It was a perfect setting for our group of all ages to be involved in working together to make a difference in our world. And the tears of joy and words of appreciation by the School Staff on the last day assured us that God had put us in the right place! The last Sunday we were there was the Orthodox Easter Sunday. We all worshipped together in a special Easter service where our own Pastor David Busic, from Bethany First Church, preached. (He had done the devotionals each day for our team. It was his first visit to the Middle East.) Following the Easter service that day, we all went to Mt. Nebo, where Moses saw the Promise Land before he died. Next we went to the spot where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, and then held a baptismal service of our own. Finally, we ended the afternoon with a swim in the Dead Sea! What an experience! Easter 2009 will never be forgotten!

April 20 – We began our trip back to Sri Lanka, arriving on the morning of the 21st. I spent the next few days getting all of Rich's clothes washed and ironed so that he could repack for his next journey.

April 24 - Rich headed to Kiev, Ukraine on Friday afternoon. As he arrived on Sat. afternoon, so did the members of another W&W team. He and the FSC boarded a train with them that evening and headed to the project site for a couple of days. On Tuesday, Rich and Bob again boarded the train to see other projects in the Ukraine.

April 30 – Early yesterday morning, Rich left Kiev to fly back to India, which is where he is tonight. The next couple of days he will be looking at projects in Western Tamil Nadu (eastern coast of India).

May 4 - Then on Monday he will fly to Bangalore, where I will meet him for the India Leadership Team Meetings. Once again, we will both be making presentations.

May 8 – We both fly back home together where Rich can hopefully unpack his suitcase and stay for a while!! (At least until we pack for General Assembly in June in Orlando!)

I know this schedule of events the last couple of months looks like craziness! (And he is really, really tired.) But as Rich tells me about what he has seen in each place and comments on the work being done by the FSC's in each of the 7 areas of Eurasia, I think it is helping him to develop an appreciation for the vision and dreams that each Field Strategy Coordinator has for his countries and his peoples. I believe that God has allowed Rich the opportunity to be able to spend some quality time with each of them and to be able to share and offer advice where he can. He continues to emphasize to everyone that "God has everything that we need". I ask that you continue to pray for wisdom and patience for Rich as he tries to find and develop resources for the building needs that are so varied across the Eurasia Region. Thank you all for your care and concern for us. We are so blessed to have such an angelic host watching over us and praying for us constantly. We love you all.

Rich and Betty