

## EMS 2016 – A Year of God’s Abundant Blessings

December 2016

As 2016 is coming to an end and we reflect on a turbulent year in the world, it gives much peace and joy to serve in God’s Kingdom. God works powerfully—and yet so often without us recognizing His purposes. A year with God is always a good year—no matter the circumstances. And when things are happening that we consider “good” or “bad” we can always rejoice with Paul “that Christ is proclaimed in every way” (Philippians 1:18). In our EMS corner

*But what does it matter?  
The important thing is  
that in every way, whether  
from false motives or true,  
Christ is preached. And  
because of this I rejoice.  
Yes, and I will continue  
to rejoice,...*

of God’s Kingdom we experienced many challenges: from sickness (Maria McHargue, Scott Green, Wyndham Shaw), to visa hurdles (Simmons) and political turmoil (Ukraine). Yet we not only know “that all things work together for good for those who love God” but we can also see how God has rewarded faith by opening doors, changing hearts and performing miracles. Just to name a few:

- He answered our prayers for an approval of EMS Poland, so the path is clear for the Simmons to go to Warsaw permanently in 2017
- He gave young leaders, like Will and Kristen Lambert (will move to Spain in 2017) and Frank and Egle McDonnell (interviewing for leading Prague), the faith to shout “here am I send me!”.
- He blessed all the disciples who gave to missions with sacrificial generosity so that we will have the financial resources to continue His work in Europe.

We are serving an awesome God! May all we do be to His glory only!

**Valdur Koha,  
Board President**

## Madrid Update November 29, 2016

Many of you may know that back in May Will and Kristen Lambert spent almost two weeks in Madrid getting to know the church. They were also able to participate in the campus internship which had already been planned. The leadership group decided after getting much input from the church to offer the Lambert's a language internship. The Lambert's and the church fasted and prayed about this. The Lambert's accepted the offer for



Will and Kristen Lambert

the language internship. The hope was that God would make it abundantly clear to both the Lambert's and the leadership group in Madrid if Will and Kristen would be the right fit to lead the Madrid church. Well, God has made it so clear! After 6 plus weeks of full-immersion language and culture training, Sunday November 27 the leadership group offered the full-time leadership position to Will and Kristen. Naturally Will and Kristen accepted. We are very excited about their future and the future of the Madrid church. Without the partnership of the EMS and the Madrid church this would not be possible. We are also very thankful to the Southern Connecticut church and especially Jeff and Florence Schachinger for being willing to give up the Lambert's to serve the Madrid church. Please continue to pray for this transition and especially the Visa process for Will and Kristen.

*Love in Christ,  
Joe and Annie Silipo*

## Passport to Missions: European Edition

*“The Jesus we know is not the Jesus the majority of Europeans know. At best He is a distant deity, at worst He’s a man who has been the cause of conflict ending in blood. So is it really any wonder they want nothing to do with Him?”*

*-Crisy Charleman, Bethany International-*

As disciples of Jesus committed to helping build up our churches throughout both Eastern and Western Europe, we need to more deeply understand the depth of historical and cultural animosity that has shaped this region into one of the most difficult mission fields in the world. Though first-world politically and, in some places, economically, Europe has been described as a spiritual third-world country and a “Mt. Everest” of mission work, second only to the Middle East in its resistance to the gospel.



Dave Eastman and Joel Nagel have written a reboot of Joel's “Passport to Missions” book, first published in 2014. This volume casts the original thoughts in a European framework, and through on-site interviews and stories, introduces the reader to five European countries, some of the disciples who labor there, and the formidable challenges unique to the work in each area and throughout Eastern and Western Europe.

In this 5-week immersive series, each reader will be encouraged by scripture to **live more frugally** and **give more generously**—to aggressively fight worldliness and learn to live in “The Land of Enough,” so that we can more effectively aid the ongoing work of the gospel in Europe.

**Passport to Missions: European Edition** be available by late January 20, 2017.