

October 18, 2020

Scott's Thoughts



“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation,

who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”” (Isaiah 52:7, ESV)

Like most Americans, I am always looking for my next toy, not necessarily something to play with, but something that is the latest and the greatest. I have an item that still works, but the company’s ad describes a new invention or newest version of it to convince me that it is needful for their newly advertised item to replace my working item, none-the-less. Bigger, better, faster, you are familiar with the scenario.

When I come to Ukraine, I am humbled by how people live. Ava and I have a small, modest house, but here in Ukraine it would be very high end. We have three bed rooms and two full baths. The trend in our country is moving toward having four bed rooms with at least two and a half baths. Most homes in Ukraine are in apartment buildings that are only about three to five hundred square feet with a very small bath and what I call a back-in-kitchen. What I mean by that is, the kitchen is so small that if you want to walk out of the kitchen forward, you have to walk in backwards.

I feel so blessed to be here. Just before I left on this trip, a friend sent me some cards that he calls CYBED this stands for *Count Your Blessings Every Day*. The cards list twelve blessings that anyone can appreciate. Being here makes me even more grateful that God has blessed me with many Ukrainian friends. Maybe I can share one of those cards with you sometime.

I have also been blessed today as I listened to a precious woman tell me the story of her conversion from being raised as an atheist in Ukraine. I began to shed tears as she spoke, she thought something was wrong but it was simply hearing how much her salvation means to her. Her joy reminded me of the joy that I felt the day I obeyed the gospel. Her story is the same story many people experience over years in many different countries. She sat here asking me to pray for her husband and asked how she could help teach him.

Tears seem to be a part of teaching the gospel not tears of sorrow but tears of joy as people come to realize what God can and will do for them.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott