

# IMPACT!

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## JUNE UPDATE



As always, thanks for your  
prayers and partnership  
in our ministry!

## TRAVEL CALENDAR



**Tirana, Albania: June 26-July 7**

- Converge Regional Gathering  
**Lomira, WI: July 23 & 30**

- Springfield Community Church

**UKRAINE: August 30-Sept. 10**

- Meet with local and national  
leaders

**Hartford, WI: September 17**

- Wellspring Community Church

Early this morning, as Carol and I were on our bicycle ride through the surrounding farmland, she began to call out to the fields of newly emerging soybeans to our right and left. "Hello little plants!" She exclaimed, "Grow strong! Reach for the sun!" Then she turned to me and said with a smile, "I'm encouraging the crops. Experts say that plants respond well to encouragement!" Now, I'm no expert at plant encouragement, but when she said that I was reminded of a couple of phone calls I had over the past few days.

Rick, a member of our Ukraine Consortium Team, just returned from a 2 week visit to church leaders in that war-torn nation. Obviously, there are many needs there, but one thing really caught my attention. Rick shared that he spoke to church leaders on a village/city, state, and national level and none of them asked for humanitarian aid. They reported that there is plenty of food, clothing, etc., available. What they crave is relationships! They are emotionally, physically, and spiritually drained. They need someone to talk to. Someone who will listen. Someone who will encourage and pour into them as they pour out to their congregations, communities, and families to the point of exhaustion.

Ivan, a dear friend in Ukraine, echoed that sentiment as he shared a prayer request with me. He asked for prayer for the pastors he works with as they struggle with deep-seated fatigue. Certainly, the exhaustion is physical as many of the pastors minister at daily worship services that are overflowing with displaced people. But even more is the emotional and spiritual tension they feel. They know that their highest calling is to preach the gospel, but they know that the urgent needs are physical, economic, marital, and psychological as many are dealing with post traumatic stress. They know what they must do, but they are filled with self-doubt and guilt as the urgent presses in on the important. They long for coaching and encouragement.

Allan, a pastor friend working in Israel, was sharing with me the challenges of leading a rapidly expanding church-planting movement of God among Philippine expats. With six churches multiplying by local leaders moving to new unreached areas, he's got a lot going on! Suddenly, he said, "Pastor Bob! You are listening to me! I just realized how much I am learning simply by answering the questions you are asking!" I explained that what he needed was not what I have – but what God has for him. My job is not to tell him what to do, but to help him hear what God wants him to do. He said, "Wow! I need to do this with my leaders!"

We covet your prayers as we support gospel movements among the unreached and least-reached peoples living in the 59 nations of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Our goal is to see locally led, locally sustainable, and regionally multiplying disciple-making churches through coaching and encouraging fruitful transformational leaders.