

# THE RACES' RACE

"Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24b



Dear Friends,

May 2022

Greetings from Greeley, Colorado. Life is always interesting!

## **The War in Ukraine**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Albina flew out of Denver International Airport headed to see friends and family in Russia. All Russian troops were still on the eastern side of the nearly 1300 miles border with the Ukraine. When she landed in Moscow less than 24 hours later, Russia had crossed into Ukraine for their "special military operation."

Early in the war, one of the things that surprised me was that I, and most of Europe and America with me, was stunned that war of this scale could happen in Europe. It seems that most of us thought we had "evolved" past another large-scale war. **How foolish we are!** "God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong" (Romans 1:28). And "wars and rumors of wars" (Matt 24:6) is what we should expect, not be surprised by.

Another thing that surprised me is how hard it was to convince Albina (especially when she was in Russia but even after she returned) that this was an unprovoked attack. In fact, many Ukrainians in the Ukraine have felt a similar frustration as they have talked with friends and relatives in Russia that refuse to believe the eyewitness testimony of their close relatives and friends. The **Russian propaganda** machine is extremely effective. The average person in Russia believes that Russia is doing a good and necessary duty in the Ukraine. How long this belief will hold I do not know, but at least at the start of the war most Russians are somewhat supportive.



Albina hosting a group from Grace church

There is much more that can be said about the war, but you can read the news for most of it. Instead, I would ask that you pray. **Pray for God to be glorified in this situation!** He is great, but most of Europe ignore or despise Him. Pray that the name of Jesus would be glorified throughout Russia, Ukraine, Europe, and the world. **Pray for a great spiritual revival!** Ukrainian believers are being strewn throughout Europe and the world as they flee their homeland. Pray that God would bring revival through the scattering of the saints. **And pray for peace!** You have seen news reports of the atrocities of this war. Pray for peace.

(By the way, Albina had a wonderful time in Russia. She celebrated with her parents their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, had encouraging fellowship on several occasions with Grace church members, taught school counselors, and was able to spend time with Sofia in Moscow and return to the US with her. **Praise the Lord!**)

## **The Influence of the War on the Races**

Albina and I are trying to determine the effect that the war has on our family and ministry. Russia is not being bombed, and the area we live most likely never will be. We all have Russian citizenship so we could return fairly easily. Our plans originally were to fly "home" in mid-June. However, the war does raise many significant questions, and thus, we are trying to discern God's will for us.

A few relevant questions include: 1) Would it be safe for an American family to reside in Russia as the tensions between our nations increase? The US government says that it isn't safe and encourages all Americans to leave. 2) If we return, would our twin boys be drafted into the Russian army? This has never been an exciting thought for us, but much less so now. 3) What does our sending organization require or recommend? This coming week Albina and I will travel to Colorado Springs to discuss this question with our director. Though the

question of returning in June is not totally answered, it seems likely that our return to our Russian home will be delayed for a period.

That leaves us with another important question. What does God want us doing until it is safe to return? We are investigating that option as I write. We are actively seeking various ministry possibilities including: 1) working with Ukrainian refugees in Poland, 2) assisting a college in Lithuanian, 3) traveling regularly to teach national Christian leaders in different parts of the world, 4) serving locally in an area of need, 5) serving wherever God would lead. **Please pray with us as we seek God's will for ministry during this period.**

### Visiting Supporters

Albina and I, and different kids on different trips, have had a wonderful time visiting you, our faithful supporters! Highlights have included: 1) Swimming in the Pacific Ocean as we visited my former Chinese church in southern CA. This was followed by a day at the Grand Canyon, and Thanksgiving dinner with friends in Albuquerque. 2) Speaking at a district church conference in Idaho. Albina led two talks to the women. I gave one to the men and one to the general meeting. 3) Driving in blizzard conditions as we drove into Fargo and as we drove out 3 days later. We had great fellowship and fairly good weather in between. 4) Watching 10s of thousands of Sandhill Crane roost on the Platte River outside of Kearney, NE as we visited Nebraska churches. Also, on one of the NE trips, we had a wonderful time with Joyce Mills, the lady that led Albina to the Lord in 1994! 5) Hiking in the mountains of Utah as we visited churches there. 6) And so much more.

Albina and I want to say a **HUGE THANKS** to all of you who support us regularly in prayer and in finances. **Thank you for being a key part of our life ministry!**



Albina enjoying time with the saint who led her to Christ in 1994

### Update on the Family

**God is so good!** As I look at my children growing up, I am amazed at God's goodness! Because of the war in the Ukraine Sofia is home (in Greeley) teaching online in Moscow, working as a substitute teacher in Greeley, and coaching middle school track at Dayspring Christian Academy. Zoe and Angela are active in their campus ministry at UNC, studying well, and have helped us at home a lot as we travel. Zoe has a short-term mission project to SE Asia this summer! **Please pray for her trip!**

The boys are doing well too. Albert is working in Denver as a data analyst, active in his local church, and growing in the Lord. Ed and Art are enjoying school, making friends, and active in sports. Rob and Sam are perfecting their English, learning to play the saxophone and basketball (Rob), and playing flag football (Sam).

It is exciting to watch the work that God is doing in all our children's lives. **Please pray that the Race family continues to seek God's will in all that we do.**



God's amazing gift to us – our family

God Bless,  
*Monte and Albina*

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**Please send donations to: Entrust, PO Box 25520, Colorado Springs, CO 80936; indicate that it is for Monte and Albina Race**