

The Simpsons

Ministering with Hispanics in Birmingham, Alabama, and around the World

FEBRUARY, 2016



November 2015. We received a phone call from a World Reach missionary. His heart was heavy. He serves in an undisclosed location and has been traveling to a border to help with Syrian refugees as they flee. What he has seen and experienced is overwhelming. Three trains stop at this border daily carrying a total of around 2,800 refugees. When he first started going to the border, it was just bare land. People would get off the trains - tired, hungry, thirsty and discouraged. Most have traveled for a month, and have about another month to go. The missionary began to organize local groups to go with him, taking water, sandwiches and clothes. A few weeks later, the government began building temporary structures to help with the relief effort. Today, our missionaries head to the border once a week. It is a two-hour drive and an all-day event as they wait for the trains to arrive. We started a private FaceBook page for the refugees. On this page we have posted the Jesus Film in Arabic, and we have added testimonies of Muslims who have become followers Christ. We have also included information about Germany, to help them reach their destination. (Those cards you see people holding in the pictures have the FaceBook link on it and an email address). The goal is to build the relationship begun at the border.



February 2016. Tim Prewitt, our mission director spoke with this same missionary. He sounded tired. Tim asked how we could help. He said he needed people to come and work. He has realized that his weekly border visit is not enough. His desire is to offer hope to as many refugees as possible and to show the love of Jesus, giving them bread, water, a smile, encouragement. This is a small window of opportunity. We do not know for how much longer the borders will be open to these people who have lost everything. Our missionary asked for Jon and me. His request is that we give him one solid week of hard work, traveling with him to the border every day. His hope is that our hearts will be touched as we join him in reaching out to these lost souls. We will then return to the U.S. and share with others about the harsh reality these people are living. This is a unique opportunity. Our World Reach missionaries are in the right place at the right time in history, and God has opened doors that we may be a part of it.



We plan to travel to this country April 2- April 11. Please join us as we head to Eastern Europe to serve those who have had to flee their homes. Jon and I need about \$2800 to get there. Prayerfully consider partnering with us in this journey.



THE LONG ROAD HOME.

February 5: Jon, Jonathan and I were headed to Auburn University for a school visit where Jonathan will be attending this Fall. We were very excited as we left at 6:00am to be there in time to register. About half the way there, our car began to overheat. So we pulled over to let the car cool, and then continued a bit farther. It was very cold that morning, which helped us eventually get to Auburn after 4 stops, arriving at 8:40, only 10 minutes late. Jon decided to drop Jonathan and me off and drive to the mechanics back home, drop the car off there, pick up Jonathan's car and come pick us up, hopefully by 5pm, when the activity ended. So after the first session, Jon began his drive, leaving at 9:30. (This allowed some time for the car to cool). It was slow going, stopping a lot, allowing the car to cool each time. By 12:30 he clearly was not going to make it home, so he called the insurance company to arrange a tow truck. Jonathan and I were sitting down for lunch, and a family from our church sat at our table. When lunch was over, I asked them for a ride home, and they graciously said yes. We continued our tour of the school. At about 3:00 I received the following text from Jon, "There was some confusion between the insurance company and the tow truck. The tow truck should be here in half an hour." And then another at 4:30 "I'll be home when I'm home. Don't worry about me or the car. We'll figure something out. Not even this will steal our faith in Jesus!" While Jonathan and I had been enjoying our tour, lunch, and more touring, Jon had been sitting on the side of the road. Of course, thoughts of "coulda, shoulda, woulda" went through our heads, but those ideas don't really help when you are in the middle of a crisis. As Jonathan and I were riding home, sipping our lemonade, chatting with our friends, we suddenly saw a Subaru on the side of the road. It was 5:30; surely that wasn't Jon. But it was! We stopped and greeted him. He asked for my phone charger. Then we said good bye, left him on the side of the road, and off we went. After numerous calls to the insurance company and towing service, Jon decided at 7:30 to continue driving home, stopping when necessary to let the car cool. At 10:16, he texted me, "I made it to the mechanics." Another friend, offered to bring Jon home and rented us a car for the trip we had to take the next day to Lynchburg, Virginia to attend Global Focus Week at Liberty University. So Saturday morning, as planned, we headed off for Lynchburg while the Subaru was going to have a long chat with the mechanics! (*Pray for wisdom to know what we should do about our car- we need reliable transportation!*)

We thank God for His presence and provision that came to us through the body of Christ— a ride, a rental, our mechanics. Through it all, we were never alone!



PARTNER WITH JON AND KELLY SIMPSON

Prayerfully consider partnering with us.

___ I will pray for Jon and Kelly as they serve the Lord.

__ I will give a one time gift of _____. (Enclosed is my check)

__ I would like to partner with them monthly. I will give _____ monthly.

__ Please send me information about giving through Electronic Funds Transfer.

And He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

And he said to Him, "If Your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight? Is it not in Your going with us, so that we are distinct..." Ex. 33:14-16

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