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This is a true story of life, of our:

IMPOSSIBLE LOVE

PRELUDE:

*This is our story of how GOD created a love that would have been impossible to have under normal conditions. How **HE** orchestrated the lives of two people that would never even have the chance to meet and made miracles happen that brought us together in an answer to prayer. The story begins with SAUDRA'S STORY and then you can read the parallels in VAUGHN'S STORY. Last this writing concludes with OUR STORY TOGETHER. As you read note that GOD is not only alive today, but in the life of a true believer GOD takes an active part in the DAILY life and conditions of each person. If you do not have that in your life, we pray that this story draws you closer to GOD such that the HOLY SPIRIT will guide your steps DAILY!*



SAUDRA'S STORY

Introduction:

This is a story of my Impossible Love, which began with a prayer. My prayer was about an Impossible Love for my life. I had a need to pray for something impossible because I had not seen a good married life. I knew only of the bad married life that many experience in Latvia. I wanted something different – something that I thought was IMPOSSIBLE.

Life seemed to me very fair, if you are fair first. Because I had an understanding of good and evil, it meant that there was the possibility for me to find the **right** way in life. Right – not that it would always mean an easy life, because right is right and a narrow way that is always harder than the wide easy way.

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My prayer was a very unusual prayer because I asked God for everything opposite of the normal (not for riches, or many things, but to be able to serve Him). The most beautiful part of all is that I now see that God answered every little detail that I can now remember. That is because my prayer was on my mind and in my thoughts for many years. Later when my prayer was answered it confirmed to me that God is faithful in all that His promises to loyal mankind. See; Psalms 116:1 *I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my prayers.* And 1John 5:14 *And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He will hear us.*

This is our story of how God put us together; of how our marriage was God's answer to my prayer. If you are willing to let the Holy Spirit guide your life, you also will be wonderfully blessed with a love and peace that surpasses all understanding as I have been blessed. And that is my prayer for you!

The Beginning:

I had a very beautiful childhood until about 10 years of age. As a child, I thought I had the most wonderful family I could imagine. Lots of laughter, happiness, a full tummy, and a warm bed were all I needed at that time. Constantly God was speaking to my heart. Many times, I felt – *I need to go, just simply go to serve the Lord.* I never went because it was not allowed by the Highest and secondly by my parents. They (parents) never knew it anyway, because I never talked about it. Neither of my parents ever took me to church and discussions of God were only what I saw on the TV.

Then later on things changed between my parents and my life changed. At times they were fighting like cat & dog. Also once, I heard my parent's story and many comments about men vs. women etc. After that time, I decided not to be ever pushed around by anyone in any way. To make this happen, I asked for God's help.

My Prayer:

Even though I had never been in a church service, I was completely certain of Whom I was talking with. Then, I began my first serious prayer. I prayed to God for an Impossible Love, and that He would send this person to me. Impossible Love to me meant a future husband, who would be perfect for me. My Impossible Love would be chosen by the Highest.

Later on I realized that there is no way I can recognize my Impossible Love when he comes. And I said to God: *“Let my Impossible Love say a sentence to me that normally no one will say or can imagine to say. Let my Impossible Love say: **“If you will come with me – at times we will have nothing and at times we will have a lot, but we will be happy serving God”**. Let him be like I am and let him come when I least expect him.”*

God prepares me for my Impossible Love:

1. Lady

A long time went by and many things happened in between. One of them was about my first step towards God that was shown to me through a dream. It was a time in my parent’s house, that there was no food around. So I went to bed very hungry and I had a dream. In my dream, I saw a long, clean table with lots of chairs. Table was very long like 3 meters (33 feet). The feeling was as if I was in an abandon castle. I was on the side of the table, but on other side there was a big wardrobe, with lots of spider webs. The place was foreign to me, but I could not just simply have a seat. I was so hungry and I came closer to wardrobe to see what is in it. When I opened it, there was lots of beautiful food which I wanted to take and eat.

Then a voice stopped me and said: “You can not have anything of it till your job is finished.” I woke up and cried. Then I saw the same dream for two more nights. Each time I felt better and safer and I knew that God is saying something to me, but I did not understand the dream at that time.

The dream was fulfilled three years later when I left my parents place and went to serve this older **lady**. She really cared about me; she taught me how to do things and did not let anyone hurt me. And I spent all three of my high school years with her. I later realized that God was showing me in the dream the love and protection this wonderful lady would provide for me as the “full wardrobe” of my teen life. This **lady** is still a very important person in my life.

One of the things the **lady** talked to me about was her marriage to an “older man” early in her life, even though he was later killed in an accident. She told of the beautiful life as it had been. I wondered at the time why she was telling me this story.

Actually, I had heard a similar story from another lady that I worked for in which she also told of a very happy marriage to an “older man”. These were steps in God’s preparing me for my Impossible Love.

II. The Nickname:

In high school a strange thing happened to me. The first day in school, the first lesson is Latvian language. The teacher gave a task to everybody just for fun. We needed to write down in our notebooks as many words with the two of the same letters together in the word. I knew many words and I finished my task by writing: **mamma**, **vecamamma**, **omme**. I was not sure about the last one, because it is slang anyway. Ome (the real spelling) means grandmother in German.

When it was time to see what we had written, I raised my hand. While I read it all, I was considering not reading “**omme**”, but I read it. Everyone laughed and because of that, I was called “Ome” or “Oma” (grandmother) for three years. Sometimes other students from other classes would ask my real name. Everyone starting from 5th graders to 12th would tease me because of my nickname.

I was thinking that there is no reason for having that type of nickname “grandmother” from the first day at school until the last, lest it is God again saying something to me. Many people make many mistakes in spelling, but I did not know that my consequence of one (even an unimportant) mistake in spelling was actually part of an answer of my prayer. For all this time it was not easy to listen to everyone calling me Ome. Was I to be a “grandmother” at an early age? The only consolation was my sports activities in school, and I was very good in this area, enjoyed running, and was awarded top sports girl for the last two years.

III. The Colorado Connection:

During this period everything was connecting to prepare me for my Impossible Love. An American teacher from Boulder Colorado came to my school to teach English. She was different from what I had been expecting from an American and I liked her a lot. I learned more English and thought that people from Colorado must be special. Now I can see how God was showing me life from a different perspective and by Emily Pearson being there I was more excited about learning more English. From all the U.S. states and from all the U.S. cities she came from Boulder Colorado just before I would meet my Impossible Love from Boulder Colorado. You may say this was just a coincidence – but these are just a few of the many many things God did to prepare me for my Impossible Love and it is no doubt that He was directing my path in answer to my prayer.

IV. A “WORD” about the English Language:

It was my last year in school and I was about to graduate. There was a chance in English to increase my own grade by translating a very complicated English text to Latvian using the dictionary. I needed to do it, but then I heard very clearly – a voice speaking to me in my head: **“It is your own choice if you do it or not. Life will teach you English.”** I was wondering – how?

God answers my prayers

I. The Job

When I finished school, it was impossible to get any job, because of the high unemployment in Latvia. There was an opportunity to work at the tourist lodge at Gaizinkalns the highest place in Latvia (357 meters). I applied and prayed to God to help me get the job. What can I say; I got it because the Lord is always there for me at the right time.

II. Our Introduction:

I arrived early for my interview for the job even though it is in a remote area over 80 kilometers (50 miles) from my home. I was early, because I got a ride right to the gate of Gaizinkalns. Again the Lord provided as I would have had to walk 20 kilometers from the nearest highway. When I rang the bell, a consultant of Gaizinkalns, who usually does not open the door for either customers or employees, opened the door. Vaughn was the consultant and **American** grandfather from **Boulder, Colorado**. Later on, I was wondering: "What are you doing here? There are so many other places to go in Latvia..." I did my work and helped with translation for communication with two other employees that spoke little English.

III. Accepting Jesus into My Life:

At the time Vaughn was preaching in local churches and working to help people in Latvia. At the early breakfast meetings with the staff, he would lead discussions about the Bible and was talking to one employee "the fireman" about accepting Jesus as his Savior and letting the Holy Spirit direct his life. Then after the breakfast discussion one day Vaughn asked if anyone wanted to dedicate their life to the Lord and accept Jesus as Savior, and be led by the Holy Spirit. I said, "I do!" We prayed the sinner's prayer, and some weeks later with additional bible study I was baptized.

IV. Growing Closer – Finding Common Interests

During this time at Gaizinkalns I came to realize that we shared the same beliefs, enjoyed running up to 10 kilometers together, and Vaughn could answer all my questions about the Bible. It seemed strange, because when I was young I would run with the dog in the summer time. In Latvia people thought such running was a waste of time, and now I found someone that could run more and longer distances than I could. I asked what he would do after completing his work at Gaizinkalns, and He said, “What ever the Holy Spirit guides me as a servant of the Triune God”. I commented that some day I too would like to go and serve the Lord.

The Answer to My Prayer – and I was Surprised

At different times, we would talk about the Bible and about things from earlier in my life. Then one day he said the sentence that nobody usually could ever say to me, unless it is my Impossible Love. And Vaughn said: **“If you will come with me – at times we will have nothing and at times we will have a lot, but we will be happy serving God”.**

I was surprised, confused and I ran away for a moment to pray. The answer to my prayer was “Yes” and I could not understand this – not a little bit. I had **not** asked God for specific details. How can I ask, because God already knows perfect solutions, but I do not. But this person God had chosen was not Latvian, not my age, and yet? All I know is that trusting the Lord is a human being’s best solution. After all, I should not be surprised at anything that God could do, but I was.

It was my free choice to accept or refuse God’s chosen husband for me. But how could I refuse? I said “Yes” to my Impossible Love, because it was God’s will and thus my will. The interesting thing to me is also at the same time a feeling of deep love for my Impossible Love was growing. I cannot explain this, but Who made it happen - HE can and HE did. We left together and married on 13 January 2004. After that many miracles happened and the Lord God has always been blessing us in very amazing ways.

Vaughn's Story

Introduction:

Saudra's story began with her background in a farming area of rural Latvia and how her life changed with difficult things in life at age 13. We are amazed at the parallels or similarities in our early life times. I also was born in a rural farming area and grew up in a family involved in farming and agricultural work. I also had a very happy childhood, and then when I was 13 my father died and I had to accept many responsibilities and grow up quickly.

I will tell you a short summary of some of my early life, and then of my early ministry work. Then I will share how the Lord lead me to Latvia and prepared my way to become the Impossible Love as an answer to the prayer Saudra had prayed.

The Beginning:

Like Saudra I did not want to work in agriculture as a life occupation. Even though I did work on a farm to get money for college, my real interest was in scientific work and research. After 2 years of college (interrupted by 4 years in the U.S. Air Force) I finished with a bachelors degree in mathematics and economics at the University of Colorado.

My first professional work was for a contractor for NASA (National Aeronautical and Space Administration). The work was as an engineer and computer expert for a satellite that still orbits the earth. I had a chance to work on the lunar lander (spaceship) that went to the moon. But instead I went to work in industry as a corporate consultant traveling all over the United States. Working in industry was easy and very rewarding financially. With each success in business the company wanted me to move to the New York City headquarters, but instead I took the corporate money and went to graduate school. I received a masters degree and a Ph.D. (Doctorate) in business consulting. Then while living in Boulder, Colorado I traveled all over the United States working for state and federal government offices in areas such as education, law enforcement, wild life, agriculture imports. During this time, I also returned to the sport of running for health and as God prepared me for Saudra's interest in running and sports.

Ministry Work for the Lord

All of my life I have been involved in working to assist the Christian church, but in the early part of life that was from an earthly perspective (church board member, teacher, counselor). During the years of work in industry and for government agencies, the Lord blessed me extensively, but something was missing and the money and success was not the key to satisfaction and happiness in life. I felt the Lord calling me to be able to work under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help other people. I took additional training and was commissioned as a Christian pastor in the Lutheran Church. In years since I have taken other training as a pastoral counselor (worked as a psychotherapist and assisted with a center for those having autism). I am a licensed Baptist pastor as well as having been “sent-out” for the Lord’s missions work by many Charismatic churches.

After the fall of the Soviet Union I spent years in Armenia (also Russia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan) delivering humanitarian aid and working for spiritual renewal. In later years I was commissioned after special training at the Billy Graham School of Evangelism. Much of the pastoral work in the United States was in Christian Marriage Counseling and training couples with good marriages to help other marriages.

In one case a couple was trained to mentor a Christian couple with many issues in their marriage. The first couple has since started their own ministry (Marriage Mentors) and trained hundreds of other couples and now God is blessing their ministry. This is an example of how “spiritual seeds” I planted for the Lord years ago have grown to produce fruit with hundreds of marriages saved each year. All this for God’s glory, because it is in His name and through the power of the Holy Spirit that this work has been accomplished.

During the years in former Soviet Union my work for the Lord included; leading English speaking church services in capital cities, providing pastoral counseling for the elderly, children and families, and officiating at baptism and memorial services. During this time while on a trip to Israel, I was anointed by the Lord in affirmation of my status as a Pastoral Servant of the Triune God.

How I live life under God's Guidance

In these past years under the guidance of the Holy Spirit I have learned that God's ways are far different from the ways of society and man's ways. That is why Saudra and I know that our marriage is God's will and that He took me to Latvia to be her Impossible Love. I could give hundreds of examples, but perhaps two of the examples will help you to understand how we live guided by the Holy Spirit on a DAILY basis.

Some of you who are reading this may not at this point have such a deep faith to believe the Holy Spirit guides our steps each day and speak to us in many ways. This first example shows one of God's blessings to this servant in the past. At the end of my 30-day travel of the Holy Land in 1993-94, I had been many places all over Israel. Then on a late afternoon after visiting the Golan Heights area I was on a mountainside near the Syrian border with Israel. The fog was so thick that I could not see over the hood of the rental car. (Fog in Armenia and Latvia gets that thick at times). After trying to find my way for an hour, I was next to a barb wire fence and stopped to think about driving through an opening in the fence or trying to retrace my route to get back to the highway. I was totally lost!

At this point I realized that I should quit trying my (human) solution and call on God's assistance. I had been praying for only a short time when the fog lifted and an Israel armored vehicle with ready machine gun was visible. They rushed over to me very upset that I had wandered into this area and explained that the barbwire was part of the security zone separating Israel and Syria. Had I gone through the opening in the fence I would have been in a minefield and if I made it through I would have been captured by Syrian forces. God does answer prayer and protect His servants.

That evening I drove down the mountain road toward the Sea of Galilee with intent to reach Tyberius on the west bank and find a place to stay. All of a sudden I was overcome with such tiredness that I pulled off the highway onto an open spot and was quickly sound asleep. Early on the following morning I woke to find I was on the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee (see Mathew chapters 5 – 7). I was in prayer realizing how God had guided my steps over the past 30 days of travel in Israel, and in prayer I at a small chapel I dedicated my life to following the guidance of the Holy Spirit and preaching the Triune God wherever I was led. When I said, “AMEN” (*let it be so*), church bells rang out in **three** different directions (right, left, and straight ahead). I picked up my field glasses because I could see something on the sea, and saw a small boat on the Sea of Galilee with **three** men fishing. I then gave God thanks for this anointing of my promise to serve HIM.

A second example was some time later back in the United States. I was at a church service conducted by a world famous missionary, and was considering what donation to give to his work for the Lord. I was at one end of a group, with my son-in-law and daughter (both pastors) at the other end of the family group. I thought (having \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills) what should I give, \$10, or \$15, or all \$40. This was all the money I had and no savings existed. I would get paid from a ministry job in one week, but I still wanted to give. I decided to let God decide what I should give and prayed for guidance. Then the Lord spoke directly inside my head saying, “Give \$1000”. I replied, “Lord I only have \$40 how can I give \$1000”, and the Lord answered, “Give a pledge for \$1000 and send the money when I bless you”. I wrote a note saying I would give Mark Rutland’s ministry \$1000 as soon as I received it. I said nothing about this to my daughter or her family that night. The next day my daughter said, “You know I had a strange experience last night at the service, I was deciding how much our family should give, and the Lord told me that I did not need to give much as someone near me was giving \$1000!” Later I received an inheritance that I had not expected and gave the \$1000 to the Mark Rutland ministry. You see God does listen, and if you ask will guide your life.

This summary of the ministry work has not been so short because the Lord has given me the opportunity to serve him in many ways. I could give you a hundred more examples, yet I hope these will help you understand how God does direct our daily life and how God did direct my path to be my wife's Impossible Love. You can see at this point that my background in the beginning was similar to Saudra's. The only difference is my additional years of experience that the Lord has provided to prepare me to help others including my wife, Saudra.

Going to Latvia:

I was in the United States and was convinced the Lord would send me back to Armenia for more missions work. The Lord was leading me through some very difficult times (as a grape vine being pruned) so I could produce more fruit at a later time. See: "Secrets of the Vine" by Bruce Wilkinson. Many physical things and personal relationships were being taken from me to prepare me for Latvia. One Sunday, I was asked by an individual at a church where I was a member, how can I go overseas and be an evangelist for the Lord? I said, "Check out YWAM (Youth With A Mission). Later this person said, "They have two opportunities for me, Africa or Latvia". I said, "I don't think you are ready for Africa – try Latvia".

Before this person could depart for Latvia on 9/13 the world trade center and pentagon were attacked on 9/11. This friend had a nephew that was missing in the pentagon, and I assisted in driving to Washington D.C. as no planes were flying and the trains and buses were full. Following the pentagon attack I was able to provide pastoral counseling to those having lost loved ones. When the planes were flying the friend continued on to Latvia and I returned to Colorado still thinking about Armenia.

Soon this evangelist returned from Latvia with health issues, but wanting to send a full truck container of humanitarian aid to a school of abandon children. I agreed to help with my experience in delivering aid and would assist with obtaining the relief items if the evangelist would raise the money by speaking in many churches. Over \$8500 was raised with a pledge by one church to send another \$8500 in matching funds. The Lord blessed the purchases and gifts for the container and the value of the full container was over \$100,000 of new coats, boots, socks, sweaters, and donated computers, as well as 40 tons of 7 types of pasta (and a hy-gene packet of toothpaste, toothbrush, and soap).

The Lord had told me to leave the hy-gene kits behind, but the evangelist insisted on sending them. The container was shipped and the evangelist was to return to Latvia to see it delivered. Then the evangelist had more medical problems and I was asked to go to see that nothing was taken as the container passed through ex-soviet customs in Latvia. I agreed to go and put my personal property in storage under the agreement that the storage charges would be paid while I was gone. Yes, the Lord had arranged a way to get me to Latvia!

Delivering the Container in Latvia

The container was locked with my padlock and I had the key. It would take about 8 weeks for the container to arrive in Latvia. Then I was off to Latvia with a round trip ticket. I flew to Latvia knowing that I had plenty of time to arrange the paperwork for customs to admit the container of aid for the school of abandon children. A youth from the YWAM school (where the evangelist had studied) met me at the airport and said I could stay in his Riga apartment in the capital city for one month until I found a place to stay.

The youth asked when I would return to the United States and I responded that my ticket back was good for three months. I asked the Lord in prayer if I should stay in Latvia, and asked the Lord to give me a sign if I should plan to stay. I asked the Lord to arrange a teaching contract as a professor with Latvian University for \$XXXX per month. The YWAM youth said it would be impossible to get a meeting with the Dean of the Business School at the university since it was mid summer. We called and the Dean said he was in for a short time that day only and would meet with us. When I showed the Dean my university faculty teaching experience, he said, "Why don't you teach for us this fall, we will give you \$XXXX per month!" This was a direct answer from the Lord that I should stay in Latvia as the Lord was directing my steps to be in position to meet Sandra.

The YWAM youth drove a friend's old car and we went into the country and toured the school of abandon children (and were introduced to the director of Gaizinkalns, which was near by the school). Later, back in Riga, the YWAM youth wanted me to purchase his friends car, and when I found another vehicle and purchased it, the youth became upset and said, "Where are you going to sleep tonight". This forced me to put all that I had in the car and leave his place with no place to stay. At a local café I saw the director of Gaizinkalns and she arranged a place to stay for a couple of nights at her father's fraternity building. This meeting developed a connection to the director and Gaizinkalns as the Lord was setting in motion the plan for me to meet Saudra at Gaizinkalns one year in the future. The director asked my help in consulting at the ski area at Gaizinkalns, but I said it would have to wait while I delivered the container of aid and worked on other ministry tasks. This was the Lord was giving me work to do until the time was right for Saudra and I to meet.

The next days were busy preparing the paperwork for the container to be received at the port in Riga. The container was expected in another three (3) weeks and at least one week of work remained to get the papers ready, when the phone call from Latvian-American shipping told that the container was already being unloaded at the port. The director of Latvian-American shipping looked at the manifest that listed the contents of the container and said, "Hygiene kits are illegal because of the toothpaste and soap, you will have to wait 90 days to get permission and it will cost a lot of money to store the container each day!" I responded that the Lord wanted the children to have the items on the container and we would have the government permission in one day. The director said it would take a miracle for that to happen.

We prayed to the Lord to soften the hearts of the government officials to give approval in one (1) day and turned in the papers for review and approval. The next day approval was given and took the approval to the director of Latvian American shipping. He said, "It's a miracle – It has never happened and could not happen!" You see God does move mountains when it serves HIS purpose in response to prayer. The container of aid was delivered without a problem.

Other Ministry Work in Latvia

I spent the next year involved with various churches and ministries in work for the Lord. This consisted of teaching at Bible Schools, speaking at conferences, counseling and marriage renewal, baptisms, helping with meetings between government officials and church leaders, and preaching. The preaching was in large churches in the capital city (Riga) and small country churches, and the largest service was at a cemetery when Latvians gathered to clean up the cemetery and honor those that had died. With two other pastors we set up music and then I preached on having God's peace in your heart in spite of the physical conditions of life. Over 1500 gathered around to listen during the one hour service, and the prayer line lasted over an hour and one half. Praise the Lord for He was blessing the ministry work with abundant fruit.

During this time I was also involved in a ministry to street people – specifically in the **Girls-Of-the-Darkest-Street** GOD'S project. This had been an important issue identified by the previous evangelist that had been in Latvia. Books could be written on the research I did, and what I learned in establishing a pilot program to assist these girls in need and to bring them to the Lord. When I was interviewing two that worked on the street; one said, "I don't believe in God or I would not be caught in this situation with no escape". Her friend said, "Well who do you think sent this man to help us?" The first girl thought for some time and replied, "Maybe God did!" They and others are now free from the street life and are believers in the one true Triune God.

The Lord takes all material things away

This all changed suddenly – you see the Lord has a sense of humor. The prayer had been for a contract to teach at the University of Latvia, and I do have a signed contract in answer to the prayer. BUT the university officials were required to let several Latvian faculty go because of budget cuts and the officials said sorry we cannot schedule you for any classes. Yes, I do still have a signed contract, but with out any teaching schedule my contract did not produce any income. But the Lord had a purpose in this and the following.

The church in America never did send any of the promised money. I consulted for a computer company and then they lost all funding, and suddenly the owner of the house from which my ministry was being conducted beat me, choked me, and forced me out with only a few belongings in my car. Yes a year of fruitful work was suddenly changed as I now had no income, no support, and only a few things with which to continue my work in Latvia. The Lord had watched it all be taken away for a purpose.

By chance I again met with the director of Gaizinkalns and agreed at this time to consult to assist this ski area at the highest point in Latvia. I had a room, meals, and worked to produce a business plan to revive the area. This fit in with the GOD'S project work as many girls ride the train or bus to Riga to work on the street, and a demonstration tourism project would show how such girls could have other work.

At the same time I contacted the church in America that had promised to send the funds, (remember the payment of the storage of all my possessions was also promised as a condition of my going to Latvia). At that time and found out that even this payment for storage of all my possessions in Colorado had not been made and everything had been sold! Later even my family home in Nebraska that I would inherit was sold and everything from the past in life was gone. God did set up the conditions in which I would have nothing to offer Saudra, except to serve God together.

The Lord sets up our meeting

During this time of work at Gaizinkalns, the director needed a new worker and many were interviewed. Each time although I recommended some of them the director was not satisfied. She had one girl on the list from a farming area and refused to invite her for an interview even though I said lets at least try her. After many others were rejected the director said, "I have to go on a trip – I have called this farm girl and asked her to come - You decide if she can do any good work for us". The director left for Riga the next morning and later that day I opened the door to welcome Inese Grave to Gaizinkalns. The Lord and put the final phase in motion by placing us together at Gaizinkalns.

From Saudra's story you know most of the rest of the story, but a few final comments are essential. You see the Lord had taken so much away from me that *when the Lord told me to take Saudra with me*, I **could not** say, "I have the necessary support we need and can always provide for you in comfort". I could only tell the truth and say, *"If you will come with me – at times we will have nothing and at times we will have a lot, but we will be happy serving God"*.

The Lord put us together to live a wonderful life filled with married love and blessed by God. But the Lord put us together also for us to testify to you that the Lord does answer prayer and show that the Holy Spirit is active DAILY in our life and your life. Turn your life over to the Holy Spirit and experience the peace and joy that we have. You will never regret your decision. Pray with me the following:

God, my Father in heaven, You have orchestrated the life of this couple to be a witness to me. I believe that You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins, and that only through His cleansing blood will I be able to stand in front of You on judgment day an innocent person. Now please send the Holy Spirit to guide my life every day, and help me to follow this guidance in Your ways and not the ways of the world. Thank you and the glory and honor be to You the Most High God. Amen!

Our Story

Introduction:

In our discussion of “our story” we want to illustrate to you how the Lord has blessed us and protected us in daily life. We have seen additional miracles and have watched God guide us and answer prayer. The full story would take volumes as we now past our sixth year anniversary of being happily married, thus we will share only a snapshot of times during the first two and one half years.

The Beginning:

From the start God watched over us as we were married January 13, 2004 in a private ceremony in Riga, Latvia. That night a friend (a director of the Latvian police academy) arranged a place for us to stay in Jurmala (the Latvian sea side resort), and the next day we enjoyed the beautiful winter views of the sea shore and resort area. Then we journeyed to another resort area at Akmenssala, to stay in a small cabin surrounded by deep snow for a week as we consulted with the owners regarding their business plan. Yes, we were truly blessed by God in providing for us from the start. During this time we had many hours to talk of plans and dreams for the future and to pray. One of Saudra’s prayers was that we could be on an island together. (More on this later)

We had wanted to go to another area of Latvia to work on an economic assistance project (which when completed would help the GOD’S project) and yet God held us in this beautiful peaceful cabin for a week of time. The way God was able to keep us was simple; the clutch on our Mercedes failed and had to be fixed. Of course God assisted; the day the repairs were completed and we were to leave, funds arrived from friends (Jim and Leona) in the United States. God’s timing is always “on time” seldom early and never late. Trust the Lord and He will provide when the time is right. This Christian couple that helped in this time of need have been God’s earthly angels in providing assistance to our ministry work when no other resources were available, and we pray that God continues to bless their marriage and life together.

Project Work Together:

A Time of Testing

All we had at the time was very little (two suitcases), that we could put it in our white Mercedes. We had no money, fuel in car was getting low, and no place to stay. We had both said that we would be happy together serving the Lord even if we had nothing. And for a time the Lord tested us; “Could we really be happy with each other while having nothing?” The answer was a dramatic YES, as we did not worry, and grew in love for each other and in service to the Lord. Then God blessed us with a warm apartment and some furniture in it for some time till we could go to Jersika to begin project work.

During this time we were able to work together with many churches and organizations. Preaching in some churches, assisting with Bible study to children receiving aid, helping with English lessons, and giving lectures on the evils of Trafficking to assist the GOD’S project. All of this while waiting until one morning the apartment was taken away and our opportunity was opened to start project work in Jersika.

The Jersika Tourism Project:

Jersika is one of the great historic parts of Latvia - the Kingdom of Jersika in the 15th century was one of the most powerful and richest in this region. Now it is the poorest county region of all of Europe. This was an excellent place to start a tourism project, which would of be published as an example for all of Latvia.

The Project Start:

As we left the apartment to drive to Jersika we did not know where we would stay, but we knew the Lord would provide. As we explored Jersika and specifically when we drove near the Daugava (the largest river in Latvia) we could see the cold river water through the light misting rain and fog.. It was a grey day, which is very typical in early springtime in Latvia. We drove on and then on what we thought to be solid road near Daugava and we sank in the mud. We could not get out of the mud. The more we tried, the deeper the car sank in the mud. The weather changed to cold hard rain and a sharp wind and we were

very cold. There was a house near this road and older lady who lived in it called a tractor to rescue us. Tractor came and later that night we were invited to stay with the tractor owner and his wife (Stanislovs and Irena) and enjoy their wonderful very hot (100⁰C) sauna. While we stayed there for three days, we also explored the rest of Jersika as much as we could for doing project research for helping this area of Latvia. The Lord had provided and introduction and a wonderful place to stay.

Island of Ice:

As we walked near Daugava one day, we saw two people fishing from a rowboat. The road through this area was covered with water enough so we couldn't get over. The Fisherman's names were Peter and Maria and they were husband and wife. Peter and Maria took across with a small rowboat and invited us to stay with them.. And we did, when we left the couple with the sauna and tractor. Peter and Maria has a small farm home on top of a hill near Daugava. We as a husband and wife were growing closer day by day. Recall the Island prayer mentioned earlier. The prayer of "I want to be on an island with you" was answered. The Daugava was overflowing with melting snow upstream and water from flood came up around the house on top of the hill. People were saying of this flood was largest for 30 years. We see this as one more answer to prayer being a further confirmation from the Lord for us to be together as arranged by the Lord. Also with the Lord's humor as Saudra had again not put in the details about what specific type of island (warm sand and palm trees).

God's Provisions:

After we one week we went on our own again, because the farm area was getting so flooded we were barely getting out on highway and more water was coming in each hour. God led us to a family with an empty apartment and we could stay in it for free if we only cleaned it up as it had not been used for some time. While the apartment was free, we still did not have money for food or gas and did most of our project work on foot and survived by hitch-hiking to the next town to buy package soup that sells for 5 cents a package. We did enjoy seeing much of the area while running together even up to 20 kilometers in a day. God provided at special times for example; one day when we did not have a lot of food and we were fasting, we met a man who had caught three fish that day and he shared and gave us the **three fish**. God provided all we really needed as we preached and did project work to advance the GOD'S project. Later when we tried to contact that man at an address he had given we found he did not exist!!! Three fish delivered from the Lord.

Half A Loaf:

For Easter we wanted to attend a special church in Riga. We hitchhiked 250 kilometers (155 miles) to the capital of Latvia to the church service on Sunday. It was a beautiful church service and some people excepted Jesus in their lives. After the service we walked out of church and as we were walking we recognized this one street lady, who also had excepted Jesus in her life. And we talked to her how wonderful decision she has made. Lady replied “Yes, and I like my new bible, but I am very hungry and I don’t have a place to stay tonight. What I really wanted was some help with food!” All we had was one loaf of white bread and we shared ½ of it. Since then we can testify of things we get for ½ price, because we shared of ½ of the food we had, which was like gold to this street lady. God wants the church to share his love as commanded in Matthew 25:40 *“The King shall answer and say, verily I say unto you. Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me.”* This is the scripture that **Project LOVE** (our mission’s organization) works under and we live to fulfill as we tell others about salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Jersika Project End:

The tourism project for Jersika was designed and turned over to the area board of directors. Then we were praying for the Holy Spirit to guide us for directions to take. Should we continue the work to help Jersika implement the tourism project, or should we go to European Bible schools to learn more of what they did and be able to assist more Bible schools in Eastern Europe and have their assistance with the GOD’S Project. Early one morning the answer was clear as the opportunity to leave Latvia and travel in Europe opened up.

Travel to European Bible Schools:

God Provides the Car:

God’s ways “are perfect”, not even close to the ways of man. We were going again. This time it was out of Latvia. So we started to drive towards Latvian border and the Border Police wouldn’t let us go over the border. Our white Mercedes needed to have an inspection sticker (and many other things). We went through inspection and they would not give an inspection sticker because of rust on the car. Now we had to sell or trade the car and no one would take it even free, except this one dealer in whole capital city of Latvia.

Again, God provided as a wonderful Christian couple (Alex and Irina) provided housing and food for days while we tried to trade the car. During this search for a vehicle that would take us out of Latvia, we saw a beautiful van for \$8,000 and commented how wonderful that would be for travel and ministry to the Eastern European bible schools. Finally, we traded our white Mercedes for a very old green Mazda (our Green Frog we called it). It had inspection sticker and it did not look good at all. We only asked if it would start! Things are not the way they look at all. This green Mazda was great on gas mileage and we drove with it without changing oil for more than 11,000 km (6,800 miles) till it was destroyed by a drunk German driver one year later. We were able to cross the border and drove all night towards the first Bible school in Poland. God knew the old Mercedes would not make the trip and provided all that we needed to do what He wanted us to do.

Bible School in Poland

The Bible school in Gdansk, Poland was an excellent introduction to European Bible schools. They are located in a large house on the bottom of a hill with a forest behind. The forest is full of running trails and we could run together again to our delight. The leaders and staff were very helpful and provided a beautiful room and food while we worshiped and learned with them. Then it was time to travel to the German Bible school. We knew God would provide and did not say anything to the school in Poland that we only had gas enough to reach the German border. Long ago in the presentation by Mark Rutland, the statement was made, *“If you need to go to Washington D.C. and you only have gas enough to get to Atlanta, then trust God and GO! The trip gets interesting when you see how God provides for the rest of the way”*. This quote had been on our hearts and we trusted God to provide and drove toward Germany.

God Provides Gas and Food:

As we drove part of the day we passed a large greenhouse operation that grew BIG tomatoes. We stopped and asked if we could work for some gas. They gave us a tour and our mouth's were watering with hunger as we looked at these giant tomatoes. Then they gave us 10 liters of gas and again we were off. We reached the town on the border and stopped at a Kentucky Fried Chicken and asked if we could work in the kitchen cleaning for a meal. They told us it was illegal to hire anyone that was not Polish, but gave us two complementary dinners. With the extra 10 liters of gas we made it into the first big city in Eastern Germany.

The next day we walked around the city and visited a couple of large churches. The pastors were friendly and the second one said we should talk to a pastor of a charismatic church. That pastor invited us to a church dinner that evening as he had two different congregations and they were combining into one congregation. *How different from many places where congregational members fight over small things until a church splits into two congregations!* At the dinner we were asked to speak about the GOD'S project, and the pastor invited us to stay with him that night. The next day one of the church members called the pastor and said that before last week his business had been failing as there was 30% unemployment in Eastern Germany and few people had money to buy products, but in the past week he had made more than in the many of the preceding months of the year. He said God told him to share his blessings of the past week, and he gave us 200 euros! Yes! Try it, God will also provide for you if you trust Him!

Bible School in Germany:

First, a side note of another prayer example that was before we reached the German Bible School. The school had requested that we delay our visit one week, as they were busy finishing classes. Therefore, we camped by a German river for the week. On Sunday, we traveled into the local village, found the first church, and went in for the worship service. We were midway on the left side with three empty pews in front of us. A man came in and sat in the second pew in front of us. This man was disfigured in back and body (like the hunchback of Notre Dom) and he walked with a very noticeable limp.

We both felt a need to pray for this man, and Vaughn closed his eyes and prayed while Saudra looked at the man's disfigured back and prayed. The prayer lasted only a couple of minutes and when Vaughn opened his eyes, the man was gone. Vaughn asked Saudra, "Where is that man?" and she replied, "I don't know – All of a sudden he was just gone!" Angel or "healed" we do not know, but PRAYER does amazing things!

The German Bible School is located in the center of Germany in Bad Gandersheim. This is a very large facility and we were given housing in a separate apartment for visiting guests. The staff was very helpful in providing an outline of the curriculum they use for the Bible study courses. One of the main administrators assisted us in identifying Wiesbaden as a U.S. military location at which needed medical treatment could be obtained.

Zoe Bible College – Hague Netherlands:

Zoe (Greek for Godly life) Bible college is located in the center of this large city and connected with a very large church organization. We spent 2 days meeting with the directors and staff, and then we were all packed and ready to leave for Wiesbaden in Germany. At that point, we checked all documents and could not find the registration (passport) for the car. We knew it had been in our hands earlier that morning as we packed the car. All other documents (our passports and other items) were right where we left them on the corner of the bed in the guest room we had been given. However, even after unpacking the car we still could not find the car registration. We had to stay another night, in the morning searched again, and still no registration.

Then the oldest pastor at Zoe Bible College arrived and we were talking with him and another visiting pastor. The first pastor's wife was ill and he wanted prayer for her. The three of us took turns asking God's healing power to release his wife from the illness that had kept her isolated at home for some time. At the end of the prayer, we also asked God to locate the car document and put it where we could find it as God knew where it was. After the prayer and saying goodbye, again to the pastors we went back to our room and in plain site on the bed was the car registration document!

God has all the power and all the knowledge, and God is willing to help as the scripture says; *"If two of you shall agree as to anything you shall ask, it shall be done for you by my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* See: Matthew 18:19-20. Ask for God's help when in need and He WILL help you. Also, note that we were held in the Hague until we completed a specific task God wanted (prayer for the health of the pastor's wife). Do not be upset when your plans are disrupted by God's plan for your life – YIELD your life to the Holy Spirits guidance and the adventure will always be right in the long run.

God Provides Gas as far as Wiesbaden:

After arriving in Wiesbaden, we were very low on fuel and again no place to stay. Therefore, we camped in different German forests for a few days. Later on when we were settled with a job and apartment, we drove by these places in the forest. None of those were open like it was when we camped. God kept them open when we really needed it and a week or so later the Germans closed the entry to the forests where we had camped. And we saw again how God took care of us.

God Provides a New Zealand Couple:

On Sundays, we went to several churches. In the first church we attended, this one family had a big house with an extra upstairs room. They invite us to stay with them while we found a job and apartment. It turned out that this Christian couple (Doug and Melanie) was from New Zealand and they arrived in Germany just three months ahead of us. Later we went on our own, and the New Zealand couple left Germany to go back to New Zealand, because it was too expensive for them to live on the German economy. This couple was another answer to our prayers and blessed us extensively. Before we left from Gaizinkalns together, we had talked about going to New Zealand. To us it sounded like God was telling us "I hear your prayers, and I will show you, because I have different plans for you than going to New Zealand". Thus, God send this family from New Zealand to Germany for us to see and confirm even more that God hears our prayers.

God Provides a 1/2 Price Apartment:

The 1/2 of loaf of bread what we shared with this woman in Riga, was so special and so important to the Lord that since then we been having things for 1/2 price. With big things like apartment, ministry van, and furniture for the apartment that we received almost free, blessed with a car to drive and living very cheaply because of having ID cards and SOFA stamps with American military base. God led us to a beautiful and healthy city called Wiesbaden and we lived for two years in wonderful area near down town city. During this time, we grew in love for each other and in our ability to cooperate in our ministry for the Lord.

In fact, during this time (*while many have difficulty with a 10% tithe to the Lord*) we were able to give 90% of our income to the development of the Project LOVE ministry or to Eastern European Bible Schools.

Not that our apartment was big, but we did at one time nine people sleep the night, and have a big Thanksgiving dinner for nine people. The Lord and His ways are amazing and it is so peaceful and gives you so much comfort and many other blessings, which are written in the Bible if you live DAILY for the Lord, who loved the world so much and gave His only Son for you.

Recall the van we saw when we still were in Riga. It was a beautiful van we looked at, of course we could not afford it (\$8,000.00). Because of this ½ of loaf of bread we got the same type of van in Germany for \$4,000.00 and it was a great blessing from the Lord and is for the trips to Eastern Europe. Also, during this time we were given a storage area to utilize for the items to take to Eastern Europe. Yes, the Lord has blessed us DAILY. Note that although everything was taken from Vaughn at one time to set in motion the Impossible LOVE meeting, then later God gave back everything we needed and more than we needed. *See: Job 42:10&12*

We had two years to grow daily in love and prepare for further service to Lord. The Lord's ways are so amazing, but not always such that mankind can understand them. But accepting the ways of The Most High means experiencing of wonderful life full of adventure. In all of this time we been together in a marriage of Impossible Love and the Lord's guidance, nothing seems better than doing what God says.

Conclusion of Our Story

As you can see God did answer Saudra's prayer for an Impossible Love and we are blessed by the Triune God as we serve Him together. We pray that our testimony has given you inspiration to let the Holy Spirit guide your life each and every day. To be at peace (the peace that passes beyond the world's understanding) and to be certain as we are of salvation through Jesus Christ.

We would like to conclude with quotes out of our marriage certificate from January 13, 2004 in Riga, Latvia:

Holy Matrimony is the bond of marriage established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this sacrament by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; therefore this marriage is blessed by God; and all men and nations are to respect this union for life.

In Christ Love, from servants of the Triune God

† Vaughn and Saudra HUCKFELDT †

ADDENDUM

The above summary was written at the end of 3 and ½ years of marriage together. This addendum is to bring up to date the following 2 and ½ years and the way the Lord has continued to bless us and increase our love for each other as we thank HIM daily for putting us together.

MINISTRY TRAVELS IN EUROPE

The time living in Wiesbaden, Germany provided a central European location for ministry trips to all of Europe. During this time while normal living and travel conditions are very expensive the Lord blessed us with jobs working with the US military commercial support services. This allowed us to purchase at a US commissary and to have gas at US prices (about ½ of European prices). With these benefits even though income was very limited we were able to travel to ten (10) countries to Bible schools and to investigate local conditions for future work on GODS project. Such travel would have been impossible without the blessings of the Lord!

SPRING 2006 TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

In 2006 Social Security retirement income started for Vaughn and a payment of several months of back pay allowed us to travel to the US to attend the Ph.D. graduation of Vaughn Huckfeldt Jr. at **Johns Hopkins University** in Baltimore, Maryland. The intent was to also travel across the US and preach and meet congregations in many states to tell of the opportunities for the Lord's work in Eastern Europe.

THE ½ PRICE RV

The start of this trip began in Knoxville, Tennessee where Vaughn Jr. was teaching at the University of Tennessee. With the extra social security funds the Lord blessed us with an RV to use for living and ministry travel. Again this was at less than ½ price and completely furnished with all kitchen needs. You see the Lord continues to provide all needs for those doing his work and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

THE LORD TEST US AGAIN

On the way to Baltimore for the graduation ceremonies, we had to pass either through or go around Richmond, Virginia. We chose to go around rather than drive the RV through the city center. The interstate highway was ancient and with crumbling concrete slabs that had two inch or wider gaps between each slab. The RV went "ca-chunk" "ca-chunk" for 30 miles as we banged our way around Richmond. Little did we know that each "ca-chunk" was tearing apart the transmission that up to this time had worked without a problem. We pulled into a gas station and saw a trail of transmission fluid that was a small river following the path of the RV. Again this was the start of a test by the Lord.

The RV was left in a repair facility to fix the transmission and we continued with a rental car to be blessed to visit the historic area where George Washington defeated the British at the end of the American revolution. Quite an introduction for Saudra into the United States. Then with the rental car we attended the graduation ceremonies and came back to pay for the RV repair. Of course that took almost all of our planned travel funds for the ministry trip around the US. Now what to do --- do we trust the Lord to provide and go on or cancel the trip. In discussing the dilemma with Vaughn Jr., he said, "I would probably wait until I have more funds, but you will probably trust the Lord to provide", and that was just what we did as we drove through 21 states meeting with churches and sharing the missions need in Eastern Europe.

THE BLESSING OF FUNDS AT EACH STAGE OF THE TRIP

Enough funds were available to visit churches and travel from the East Coast to Colorado. Then we were with our last dollars and waiting to see how the Lord would provide. We expected the Lord might use someone at one of the churches to bless us with travel funds as in Eastern Germany in 2004, but while we were welcomed warmly at various churches no one offered any assistance.

We tried temporary work agencies that only had one day of work helping clean up a construction site, and then no other work. We were finished with our meetings in Colorado and ready to travel to Texas, but the gas tank was empty. While in this case the Christian community did not provide, the Lord provided for a chance meeting with a old friend that does not attend any Christian church. We had tried to contact this friend without success and at the last minute when we needed a solution the Lord opened up a contact and the friend needed painting completed on a newly purchased house. A painting contractor had started the job but had made a mess of everything. We took the job and made enough money to have gas to travel to Texas. Thus the next phase of the trip was provided for with the Lord's help.

In Texas, we stayed with the friends Jim and Leona that had helped so much when we were very much in need just like when we were first together in Latvia. We renewed contact with various churches and Christian organizations, and then needed to get back to Knoxville, TN for our flight back to Germany. The Lord blessed Jim and Leona such that they were able to give us an envelope that said, "Knoxville or Bust" and enclosed was gas money to get to Knoxville.

We headed out along the southern gulf coast of the US, in a time period after hurricane Katrina had devastated New Orleans the year before. We passed through New Orleans to make contact with a Christian man operating a business with the military in Germany (he provided our storage unit in Germany for the ministry). We toured the down town area and then we were lost in New Orleans at night not able to find our way and knowing of the many areas of violent crime in that city. We tried to find our way and then being totally lost trusted the Lord that HE had directed us to a safe area, and simply parked the RV to sleep until daylight, not knowing if we were in a safe area or one of the violent crime areas. We woke to see beautiful houses in a state of

destruction as in a war zone, and this was almost a year after the hurricane. But we were safe and the Lord had directed us to a rich neighborhood, with helpful people that gave us directions back to the interstate.

PREACHING IN FL AND THE INVITATION

Before traveling on we called a pastor friend in Florida to let him know that we would not make it to Florida on this trip to the US. He mentioned a local church that did not have anyone to preach that Sunday and had the head elder call us. We stated that we only had funds to get to Knoxville and would not be able to come to Florida. The elder said, “come to preach and we will give you funds to get back to Knoxville”. We traveled along the gulf coast enjoying the white sand beaches and warm water of the gulf at Pensacola as we stayed the night. Note that the RV allowed for all of this travel at a minimum level of expense and in comfort. God is certainly wonderful to provide for us in every way.

The church service was packed full in the small country church building in Yankee Town, FL. All listened intently to God’s word as the Holy Spirit directed what to say. After the service we were invited to a church luncheon and questioned by the leaders of the congregation. Before we could leave the elders said they wanted us to be the new church pastors to lead the ministry work of the church. They could not offer a final formal invitation as two key members were out of town that weekend and the church board would not meet until the following weekend. We said, “if you want us the stay in the US, you must give the formal invitation by the next Wednesday as our flight back to Germany was on Thursday. We drove back to Knoxville and flew back to Germany to conclude our trip to the US, being thankful that God had protected us in our travels and ministry work and had provided for us with all needs in every way.

You see when you give your life to the guidance of the Holy Spirit all things are possible and the Lord does provide for those doing his work. The provisions may be with rich blessings or may be with just enough to survive to do HIS work for God’s kingdom, but HE will provide. Try it and be blessed as we have been blessed. We testify to this to give God the glory and praise and honor that HE deserves, because HE does bless us on a daily basis. Thanks be to the LORD!

THE INVITATION TO BE PASTORS AT THE CHURCH IN YANKEE TOWN, FLORIDA

Within two weeks the invitation came for us to be the pastors at the small country church in Yankee Town, Florida. This opportunity was somewhat confusing to us as our hearts were committed to the Eastern European ministry. To make certain this was the Lord's will; we placed the following "fleece" in front of the Lord to get HIS answer:

- (1st) The contract approved by the church in Florida must include at least two weeks of paid time to continue ministry in Eastern Europe.
- (2nd) The United States Immigration Service must without any problems give Saudra a permanent resident visa for a path to U.S. citizenship.

Recall that a "fleece" was put before the Lord regarding the decision for Vaughn to stay in Latvia or to return to the United States, and the answer was a definite YES! Of course that was how the Lord arranged for us to meet and start this IMPOSSIBLE LOVE STORY!

THE LORD'S ANSWER CONCERNING BEING PASTORS AT THE CHURCH IN FLORIDA

The series of meeting with INS can be very extensive with grueling questions taking hours of time and involving very serious and stern INS employees. In the past Vaughn had helped many in several countries interface with the INS, and had seen the rigorous interrogation that couples were put through. One couple had even been put in separate rooms and each asked what color underwear the spouse was wearing; this was to ensure they were a real married couple!

We submitted the required paper work to INS and in the initial interview meeting with an INS agent we were invited in together and the agent joked with us and only asked how and where we had met. He even commented that he could see no reason that Saudra could not go with a permanent resident visa, but then he joked that since he was also born in Nebraska; "He was certain they did not want Vaughn to return to the U.S. as I had deserted Nebraska for Colorado as a place to live". Then with a laugh he dismissed us saying our final interview would be in one month after they prepared their materials.

In the mean time we asked the Florida church for the requested missions time in the pastors contract under which we would be the pastors of the church. They had no problem with the request and quickly signed our contract with the desired request. It seemed that God was answering in the affirmative that we should go to Florida as half of the “fleece” was already confirmed and the INS seemed very cooperative.

THE LAST MISSIONS TRIP INTO EASTERN EUROPE

In preparation for the possible move to Florida and as a final contact in Eastern Europe, we drove our missions van through Germany, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, and into Bulgaria with stops at Bible schools in the various countries along the way. The weeks drive concluded on the Black Sea port of Varna, Bulgaria, and we made arrangements for the missions van and many personal items to be stored in a private storage area. Now we were ready for a flight to Germany and for the final INS meeting in two days.

Late that night we arrived at Varna airport for a flight back to Germany the next morning. In the morning we were tired after sleeping on the metal airport benches during the night, and we checked in for our flight, checked luggage, got our boarding passes and went to the customs exit line. Saudra was first in line and the customs official stamped her passport with an exit from Bulgaria. The official took Vaughn’s passport and looked at the page with the small stamp that said that he had driven a private vehicle on entry into Bulgaria. The official said, “You can not fly out – You drove in and **you will drive out!**”. We got an translator and learned that Bulgaria had a rule that did not permit us to leave the missions van in Bulgaria unless special permission was granted and the van was in government storage. The permission (if granted) would take two weeks to obtain! Also, it was unlikely to be granted as it required a legal signature by Vaughn and as an American he was not allowed to sign legal documents in Bulgaria. Well it seemed we had the Lord’s answer as there was no way we could make it back to Germany for the INS meeting and they would cancel the permanent resident visa application. We prayed Lord is this your answer and if so we accept and give you glory in giving us the answer.

THE LORD'S FINAL ANSWER CONCERNING BEING PASTORS AT THE CHURCH IN FLORIDA

Then the translator said, "Go see this woman at this government agency at this location in the center of Varna". We took a taxi to our stored van, retrieved it and located the office and the woman. Explaining the problem to her, she said, "My son speaks English and knows a lawyer that will give you a power-of-attorney to sign such that he can sign the documents for you. To shorten the story; all this was completed in one day, our airline tickets were changed and the next day we took the morning flight back to Germany with out delay. See if you trust God to give you the answer HE will also show you that HE is in charge of everything and makes the impossible happen. As a T-shirt Vaughn has says, "IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING!"

At the embassy interview meeting the next day, we checked into the embassy and we walked into the large interview waiting room that had before been just cold and sterile with no decorations. But this day on entry we found it decorated with flowers and flags as for a special celebration. The official asked Saudra one question as to; "Why do you want to go to the United States?", and asked Vaughn two simple questions about our ministry work in Eastern Europe. He then said, "Your request for a permanent resident visa is approved!" God had indeed make the process so smooth as only HE can do. Yes, God answered the question with approval that we were to move to Florida.

MOVING TO BECOME PASTORS AT THE CHURCH IN FLORIDA

With everything we needed shipped to Florida and the remainder placed in storage in Germany, we started our Fall 2006 trip to become pastors at the church in Florida. As we had let our apartment go, we stayed with good Christian friends for the last bit of time before our flight to the United States. The wife suffered from severe back pain and even though she had attended several healing services and asked for healing prayer from many world renowned ministers, her back was getting worse every day. She was scheduled for a CT scan just before we were to fly out of Germany. This was the second CT scan appointment (as she became claustrophobic at the first appointment when they tried to put her in the CT machine) before having back surgery. The CT scan would give more detail over the x-rays that had been taken earlier.

The day of the appointment her husband drove her to the clinic in the center of Wiesbaden, Germany and then he could not find any parking place closer than ½ mile away. As he was walking back to the clinic, she called us to come to pray for her as she was again feeling claustrophobic. We drove to the center of Wiesbaden and found a parking place right in front of the clinic. Hurrying inside we prayed for her to be relaxed for the CT scan and for complete healing of her back problems. When the technician completed the scan she said, “I need your doctor to see this as I do not see any problems”. On returning home the wife said her back felt fine for the first time in years, and her doctor reported that the back issues seen in previous x-rays were no longer to be found. The wife told the doctor about the prayer to the Christian God and Lord and Savior. The doctor (a muslim) said, “Praise to your God”. YES, our GOD has the power to do anything and certainly the power to heal when the time is right! Give GOD the glory and believe in HIS almighty power.

With many things in storage and the essential items shipped via the U.S. military (as we had been working for the military for support and had an APO address) we were able to depart on a flight paid for by the church in Florida. We arrived in Knoxville, Tennessee where our RV was stored with Vaughn Jr. The entry into the United States was uneventful as the INS visa and documentation made every thing very smooth. Our RV would be our home as the church did not have a regular parsonage and we had been told to park behind the church. After several days we drove from Knoxville toward Florida. This was a Wednesday before Thanks Giving in 2006. We were down to our last dollars and only had enough gas to get just past Atlanta, Ga on the way to Florida. When both gas tanks showed empty on the gas gage we pulled into a gas station with no less than \$5.00 in our bank account and almost no cash. We started the gas pump to put in what was in the bank account trusting the Lord to provide in some way. The pump continued to run until we had \$50.00 of gas. Praise be to the Lord, HE was not going to let us sit on the interstate, but made certain we were able to get to Florida.

You can see our RV on the following page and as it shows we are easily identified as servants of the Triune God.



We arrived late Wednesday evening in Yankee Town, Florida with 93 cents in cash and two empty gas tanks. Praise to the Lord - - - we had made it and were ready to start our new responsibilities as pastors of the local Christian church. Our pastor's contract stated that we would start our duties as soon as we arrived in Yankee Town.

FIRST WEEK AS PASTORS AT THE CHURCH IN FLORIDA

Our first action was to call the chairman of the board of directors and let him know we had arrived. His comment was to be ready for a meeting with the board on Friday morning, and nothing else. No invitation was forthcoming for Thanks Giving by any of the church members. We thought this was strange but were so happy to be starting our positions that we did not question anyone. On Thanks Giving we found a ministry that helped those wanting to recover from drug or alcohol addiction, and joined in a large circle of prayer giving GOD thanks for all the blessings he had brought into our life.

We were dressed in summer shorts and short sleeve shirts as the weather was very warm in comparison to our Northern European past. Everyone else of the over 100 participants was also dressed casually as we had been told to dress, although they all had full length jeans and long sleeve shirts. We wondered about this and during the meal some asked us if we knew about the “no-see-ums” we asked what that was and were told of the tiny insect that bites like a mosquito and leaves an acid bite that itches like fire. We were very blessed by the praise and worship and meal, and later that night found arms and legs on fire as the “no-see-ums” had also had their Thanks Giving feast.

Later in our time in Florida we learned that our frequent 10 mile runs had to be with enough speed to out run the “no-see-ums”. Yes, we knew little about living among the alligators, wild pigs, and large rattle snakes in Florida and were learning quickly. Behind the church was a narrow 10 foot wide clearing where our RV was parked and hooked up to utilities. Beyond that clearing was dense forest and swamp where we knew not what was living. Still we slept peacefully awaiting the start of our pastors work the next day.

On Friday morning Vaughn met with the board of directors, expecting to discuss any specific procedures for the Sunday morning service. They had asked that just Vaughn attend the meeting which was interesting as all previous meetings and communication had involved both of us.

At the meeting Vaughn was informed that the church had someone else they wanted to be pastor of the church and even though we had a contract as pastors and had been brought all the way from Europe with the congregation paying the way, this was to be our final meeting at the church! Vaughn did not object as he trusted that God had something else in our future.

Vaughn came out to the RV and told Saudra that the church did not want us any more as they had found someone else. Saudra said as Vaughn already had been thinking, “I wonder what God has in HIS plans for us; as HE did not bring us all the way from Europe without a purpose”.

Later we would have the answer as God had plans for us to help a small ministry bring many to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, and much later that HE would guide our steps for physical renewal, spiritual guidance regarding methods to reach many in Eastern Europe, and information necessary for GODS project that we would never have discovered had we remained in Europe.

GODS PURPOSE IN MOVING US TO FLORIDA

We moved the RV to a local Bible School location that we had affiliation with and waited for God to show us the next step in our ministry work for HIM. That occurred quickly as the RV starter failed and Vaughn hitched a ride into the larger town of Crystal River with staff from the alcohol and drug recovery center to get a new starter. On the way into Crystal River one staff member pointed out a church / motel complex and said, “They need a pastor”. With the RV running again we drove to the motel front and asked who we should talk to about the ministry at the church. See Joe we were told and we went to the church and introduced ourselves to Joe V the head of SPOT FAMILY MINISTRY. Over the next winter months we assisted SPOT in food distribution and helped as hundreds gave their lives to the Lord. Yes, GOD had a plan for our time in Florida.

We were also blessed with the warm winter weather – a drastic contrast to the cold temperatures of Northern Europe. Being able to run 5 miles to the trails end at the waters edge of the Gulf of Mexico and see the sun set behind the palm trees on small islands out in the water, and then run back 5 miles was one of the blessings God gave us in Florida. This along with visits to Key West and other areas while we worked and assisted the SPOT FAMILY MINISTRY was a real blessings for us and the fruit produced for the Lord is evidence of God’s plan in taking us to Florida.

But God had more for us to learn and soon we were on the move again.

MOVING US BEYOND FLORIDA

Vaughn had never attended a high school reunion in Nebraska since his graduation in 1957. Now in the Spring of 2007, 50 years had passed and we traveled in the RV to Shelton, Nebraska for the celebration with many from the CLASS OF 57. It turned out to be an opportunity to renew friendships and to witness to many about the power of God and the blessings we have experienced as servants of the Triune God.

The next desire was to visit churches in Colorado that had helped with the container of aid for the school of abandon children in Latvia. This also fit in with running the 10 kilometer running race of the Boulder Bolder in Boulder, Colorado. While we arrived in Boulder at 12:30 A.M. and had only 5 hours of sleep before running, the result was still positive as Vaughn got a metal for being 15th in his age group.

The next year of being involved with the efforts of several churches taught us about many areas of spiritual guidance regarding methods to reach many in Eastern Europe. For example, Share Fest; a program of over 30 churches in the Boulder, Colorado area, in which hundreds of volunteers help paint and clean school buildings on one weekend. In the school we helped with all the halls, rooms, doors, were freshly painted along with outside cleanup and maintenance. Over a person-year of work was completed at no cost to the community.

In Eastern Europe we can apply the same principle (with slight modifications) to paint and repair palace like school structures that have not had been painted for an estimated 30 years. We would have to supply the paint from the United States as Eastern European paint is of such low quality that it is like whitewash applied to wood – you can see right through the paint. Also we would have to pay some of the participants (but income is so low that the pay would be a small expense), and then all would be fed at a dinner and ministry time after the Share Fest. This is just one example of God teaching us things to use when we return to Eastern Europe.

THREE YEARS OF BLESSINGS IN COLORADO

In the past three years God has blessed us richly during our time in Colorado. Each day we thank God for putting us together and for allowing us to serve HIM, and we pray that he will continue to increase our love for each other and to bless all those we know all over the world and those that need HIS love and salvation. The result has been an increase in the love and closeness we feel in our marriage and our commitment to each other.

One of the special blessings God has given us is our twin daughters; Mary Ann and Miriam Ruth born April 24, 2008. They have been such a joy and it is wonderful to see them develop and now at two years of age they are starting to talk. Actual speaking has been somewhat delayed as they are exposed to 5 languages (English, Latvian, German, Russian, and Armenian) . They manage [LaBreet] Latvian for good morning, and when told thank you – [PalDez] they can respond [Ludzu] Latvian for your welcome. They have not mastered the Armenian thank you [Sho-no-la-ka-lu-zoon] as of yet.

Mary (with brown hair and eyes) is the serious student and has a long attention span with sitting to read on one book or newspaper for over an half an hour. She likes to keep things organized and helps to clean and dust the house. Miriam (with blond curly hair and blue eyes) is the adventurous one that knows how to take apart anything mechanical and is always running around very very active and involved in everything. She is also very helpful as in setting the table before each meal. They say “AMEN” after the meal prayers and love to read their special book; 100 Ways to Know that God Loves Me.



BLESSINGS OF HOUSING, EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

For twenty months after the twins were born the Lord provided lodging much larger than our RV. The below 5000 square foot house as a caretaking living assignment. This gave us space to work on education and GODS project and the ministry documentation required for the board of directors and continued government approval of the non-profit status of NPAC. During this time we were also blessed with many resources which God provided either free or at a very reduced cost. For example we enjoyed every night the free hot tub that God blessed us with; after the day of caring for the twins and doing God's work it was a real blessing to relax in the hot water in the back yard and watch God's beautiful creations of stars in the heavens. While we would not have spent the \$4000 for such a hot tub and would have instead used it in some way to serve the Lord, this and other blessings were provided for free as God's support of our time in education and learning in preparation for a future return to overseas ministry.



The discussion of the house and other resource blessings is not to brag, but to give the Lord credit and thanks for his blessings and to show that when you have been faithful with little the Lord will bless you with the needed resources to do His work. These other resource blessings the Lord provided in this time period are as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>PRICE PAID</u>
New Laptop Computer The old laptop was from 1995 and no longer worked	\$2000	\$1200
POWER POINT PROJECTOR The projector is a much needed item for the ministry work in Eastern Europe	\$1800	\$800
New Suits for Ministry Work Thanks to the Lord – the old suit was from the 1990s	\$600	\$250
Mobil Phone A phone that works in Europe and the U.S. and has internet, scheduling, powerpoint Excel, Word Processing, and Data Base capabilities. Working phone service in Eastern Europe is sometimes a miracle that many in the U.S. do not understand.	\$500	\$250
Web Page–Started for ProjectLOVE	\$2000 in Europe	\$50
Drivers License–Renewal U.S	\$2000	\$20
Drivers License – First Time European expense for a drivers license is very costly and takes months of time	\$3000	\$30
Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited It is great to have a dependable vehicle to drive instead of the motorcycle.	\$8500	\$1200
Medical Exam – Eyes Medicare does not provide coverage overseas	\$250	\$Free
Hearing Aids	\$7000	\$Free
Medical Tests to treat heart & internal issues	\$30,000	\$Free
Hip Pain Therapy over 6 months	\$3000	\$Free
New Trifocel Glasses	\$750	\$Free
Contact Lenses	\$	\$Free
Web Site Software	\$8500	\$1000
TOTALS:	\$59,700	\$4,800 8% of value

Another blessing that God provided during those twenty months was the necessary education and software to create the ministry web site. Saudra was allowed to take a course in web design and then to take at the University of Colorado a graduate course in information systems management. All of this provided the necessary educational resources for future management of ProjectLOVE projects back in Eastern Europe. And even while caring for twins and doing the other ministry work, Saudra maintained a 4.0 “A” grade point average with her university courses.

BLESSINGS OF IMPROVED PHYSICAL HEALTH

An additional area of blessing has been the improved physical health for Vaughn. At 70 real years of age several physical issues had developed that required attention to keep Vaughn operating at a 30 year old level of functionality. Loss of hearing is a heredity issue in the Huckfeldt family and Vaughn's uncles would shout to communicate in the last years of their life as they could not hear what they were saying – or what other were saying. Getting approval for medical treatment with the Veterans Administration took some time, but the VA has provided the necessary hearing aids and that issue is solved. The VA has also provided new trifocal glasses and identified and treated the early stages of Glaucoma to prevent early blindness. And is providing new contact lenses as Lasic eye surgery is not an option. The new contact lenses will again allow 20/20 vision which is essential for the Lord's work in Eastern Europe. The 20/450 eyesight that has been with Vaughn since teen age years had deteriorated to 20/640 and we did not need an eye sight error such as in his teen age years when while playing high school football he ran onto the field and went to the band getting ready for half time instead of his team.

While our budget has always been sufficient, it also has not allowed new items as often as really needed. For example, our running shoes purchased in 2005 in Germany were very very warn and with our distance running caused extensive hip pain. The hip pain was initially handled by increasing the intake of aspirin and then in the Fall of 2009 by stopping the running exercises. The VA provided for physical therapy over 6 months and the hip pain is gone.

The aspirin intake caused upper chest pain at a level 7 or 8 out of 10. This was enough to send us to the VA emergency room as shortness of breath was also part of the problem. After a large series of medical tests over a two month time period it was suggested that the increased use of aspirin was the potential cause of the problem and with any elimination of use of aspirin the pain was gone. The real benefit was the complete series of test not finding any ulcers, kidney stones, heart problems or any other serious issues; thus a determination of excellent health condition to continue God's work. The real answer is God's healing of whatever was the original issue such that the medical test could not find anything. Praise to the Lord for His healing power! Now with new running shoes we are back to a regular exercise routine to keep the body (God's temple) healthy to do His work.

RETURNING TO THE RV AND MINISTRY TRAVEL

Now that the information on the GODS Project and related videos were 95% complete, the Lord was ready for us to be back in our RV and to prepare for ministry travel promoting the GODS Project. The caretaking house was sold and we have moved back into the RV while communicating with various churches and attending a pastors conference in the supreme court chambers in the state capitol building in Denver, Colorado.

Even this conference was delayed a month due to a huge snow storm on the originally scheduled date. With that delay and communications to the staff organizing the conference we were invited to speak at the conference and this was a wonderful opportunity to share what the Lord has put on our hearts as GODS Project. You see when God is behind a project He will arrange even the weather to take advantage of the possibilities. God gets all the credit and we will continue to serve him as the Holy Spirit directs!

ADDENDUM SUMMARY

As you have read God has provided for us, blessed us, enriched our marriage, and allowed us to serve him in fulfillment of HIS purpose in both Florida and Colorado. Now as we start our travels in the RV to promote and develop the training and project activities of GODS project, we trust God for provisions, safety, and continued blessings. This addendum may be continued in the future but we have brought our marriage history up to 2010 and know the Lord is with us in every way.

