



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

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## FELLOWSHIP



ONE HALLMARK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS THAT OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SAINTS. I JOHN 1:7 REMINDS US THAT "IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE HIMSELF IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN." I HAD A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THIS IN A NEW AND DIFFERENT WAY DURING MY RECENT MISSIONS TRIP TO HUNGARY AND LITHUANIA.

MY FIRST SUNDAY IN HUNGARY I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF LISTENING TO A HUNGARIAN CHURCH SERVICE TAKING PLACE IN THE LARGE MEETING HALL RIGHT BELOW MY GUEST ROOM AT THE BIBLE INSTITUTE. I UNDERSTOOD NONE OF THE SERVICE BUT KNEW THAT THEY WERE SINGING "BE THOU MY VISION" AND ENJOYING THEIR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. DURING THE WEEK I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TEACHING 40 FIRST YEAR BIBLE INSTITUTE STUDENTS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS. THE CLASS CONSISTED OF 18-19 YEAR OLDS FROM THIRTEEN COUNTRIES AND TEN NATIVE LANGUAGES. IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE THEM INTERACT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AS THEY LEARN AND GROW IN THEIR WALK WITH CHRIST. EACH EVENING ONE OF THE STAFF OR FACULTY HOSTED MYSELF AND THE TWO OTHER VISITING INSTRUCTORS IN THEIR HOMES FOR DINNER. THEY INCLUDED A RETIRED AMERICAN WIDOW WHO PROVIDED HOSPITALITY TO US IN HER 500 SQUARE FOOT APARTMENT. EACH NIGHT WE ENJOYED FELLOWSHIP WITH THESE WONDERFUL BELIEVERS.

IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA I WAS HOSTED BY PASTOR AUDRIUS SINKEVICIUS AND HIS WIFE DINAH. SHE GLADLY PROVIDED MEALS AND PREPARED PLENTY TO SHARE WITH THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY. PASTOR AUDRIUS SACRIFICIALLY GAVE OF HIS TIME TO FELLOWSHIP AND SHOW ME AROUND HIS CITY. THE CHURCH OF ABOUT 50 BELIEVERS HAS RUSSIAN AND LITHUANIAN SPEAKERS BANDING TOGETHER IN HARMONY AND FELLOWSHIP. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THEIR FRIENDLINESS TO ME AND EACH OTHER. MANY OF THEM EXPRESSED THE FACT THAT THEY WERE MISSING THE FELLOWSHIP OF OUR MISSIONARY TIM STEINBUCH.

DURING MY TRIP I SAT ON A TOTAL OF TEN FLIGHTS FOR 26 HOURS AND SPENT ANOTHER 20 HOURS IN AIRPORTS DURING LAYOVERS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT I HAD FELLOWSHIP WITH NONE OF THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE I SAW AND TRAVELED WITH. IN FACT DURING ALL THOSE FLIGHTS ONLY TWO PASSENGERS SPOKE TO ME AT ALL. WE DIDN'T HAVE FELLOWSHIP.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS WHEREVER THEY LIVE IS A VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC THING. LET US PRAISE THE LORD FOR BINDING US TOGETHER IN HIS CHURCH.

LOOKING UP,  
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE