

Light of the Gospel Ministries

October 2018

Our dear Friend & Partners,

We send you warm greetings from Serbia.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for being with us, praying for us, encouraging us and supporting us. It sustains us and significantly helps to make a difference and advance the Kingdom of God in central Serbia.

We are in!

After being persistent, focused and committed for 15 long years, five years of searching for the right land and ten years of building, on 9th September we had our **first** service in our **new** church building. Our hall was full, with unbelievers present, too. From that date all our services and all our activities are conducted in our new building. We are so happy and so excited. **God is faithful!**



We were very blessed to have Margaret Pendlebury in our first service. She shared in that service in her's and Bob's name, but we are very sad that Bob was not here to experience that. Bob Pendlebury's role was vital and he contributed enormously to this project.

Please, **pray** that our **neighbours** accepts us well. That is so important. And so far everything is going well. Some of them have already started coming to our meetings. We furnished our main hall and kitchen downstairs, but upstairs is completely empty. We need to furnish it. Please, pray for finances for it.



Baptism - Adam's testimony

We had a baptism service in August, the last in our old hall in Kraljevo, and **three new believers** got baptised. It is always a great joy to see new people publicly commit their lives to Jesus.



One of them has particularly strong testimony of how God miraculously changes your whole life when you come to Him. His name is Adam and he is from Čačak. Throughout his life he was a skinhead and hooligan. He hated all other nations and races.

He has Nazi symbols as tattoos all over his body. He was in jail many times. When people saw him on streets coming they would cross over to the the other side of street, not to be on his side.



Sasha's friend told him about Adam and asked Sasha whether he would like to meet him and witness to him about the Lord. Sasha went to Čačak, they met and talked for the whole day. Adam was open and very interested in the message of Jesus. From that day on Adam is regularly coming to our services in Čačak. He gave his life to the Lord. He got baptised. God changed him completely. He is a new man now, so good and loving. God has taken the hate and anger out of his heart and filled him with His love. He now loves Roma people who before he used to hate and beat. Roma people are now his brothers and sisters. Adam is such a nice person now and a joy to be around. **Only Jesus** can change your life in this powerful way.



Building work in Čačak

Our church in Čačak is growing with new people joining and getting saved. We regularly have meetings there in the home of our sister. The whole upstairs of her home is empty and unfinished without even doors and windows.



In September we started building work there. We put windows and doors upstairs, now we are doing insulation over the whole house outside. We want to completely renovate upstairs so that we can use it for our church. Our sisters have kindly given it to us. So when we finish building work we will have a hall upstairs for our services and we will have a full kitchen,

bathroom and toilets. That would be more space than now, as at present we are meeting in our sister's living room.

Please, **pray** for this project and that God would provide all necessary finances. We are still the only church there in a big geographical area. Two of our sisters are travelling every meeting for three hours because we are the closest church.



UK visit

Sara and Lidija were able to visit some of you in July to minister, share and sing in your churches. It was a great blessing for them, enjoyed their time with you very much and are thankful to each of you. Sasha was not able to come this time as he had to stay in Serbia to look after his mum who was in hospital in a critical condition.



Hard and very sad period

This has been a particularly hard and sad period for us. July last year Sasha's father, Dragan, went to be with the Lord. Then in February this year we lost, Bob, Sara's dad, which was such a big loss for us personally and our ministry.



In April, Sasha's mum, Milica, became very unwell with a serious heart condition. She went to the hospital and after thorough examinations it was diagnosed that she needs an urgent open-heart surgery, but they also concluded that her heart is so weak and will not survive t h a t

operation.

Milica came home and was almost completely bedridden. She was becoming weaker and weaker. In June she was again taken to hospital and after spending a whole



month there she went to be with the Lord on 21 July, almost exactly a year after Sasha's dad passed away.

On 28 July we organised the funeral for Milica in Kragujevac church, where she served alongside Dragan, Sasha's dad, and in the village cemetery in Guncati. Many people came and were able to hear the message of the Gospel. Many unbelieving friends and

relatives were there. Milica was buried in the grave next to Dragan.



Also in September we lost our sister Mira, faithful worker, associate and leader in our church, who went to be with the Lord after a hard and long battle with cancer. She was buried just one day before we entered our new church building in Kraljevo. We feel such a loss.

First international guests

In the month of October we had guests from Scotland, England and Germany visiting us and ministering to us in our new church building. Our first guests were from Scotland,

Chris and Alison Barratt, pastors of Gatehouse Community Church. They blessed and touched us so much with their ministry and friendship.



At the end of October we had Jonatan Seela of Oasis Church Gevelsberg, near Dortmund, Germany, who preached an inspiring message from the Word of God and ministered to us in songs.



Rachel & Katie



It was a joy to have Rachel Issitt and Katie Smith from London in October. They ministered to our people in Kraljevo and Čačak so powerfully and with such enthusiasm which touched many hearts.



Outreach in schools

God has given us opening in schools that almost no other evangelical church has in Serbia. We are on such friendly terms with two school principles who like and support what we do. That is so miraculous here.



In October Rachel Issitt did five excellent British Cultural lessons in three Kraljevo schools and it was very well received by both students and their teachers.

Now we are preparing for our Christmas program in schools in December. Please, pray for that, so that we can touch many young hearts with the message of Jesus and His love.



Our Lidija in Grammar school

Our Lidija is growing. She has finished Serbian Elementary School, and from September she started Secondary Grammar School which is from the age of 15 to 19 in Serbia. It is the best Secondary school in Kraljevo.

Thank you

We would like to really thank all of you for being such faithful and loyal friends to us enabling us to change lives in central Serbia.

God bless you all,
Sasha & Sara

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