

Martin's June Update

June 29, 2009



Greetings from beautiful Bulgaria! Once summer hit, it has been gorgeous. The days have been mostly sunny and warm, but not too hot so far. It has been a long time since I sent out a newsletter, and I thought that I had better get one out before it got any later. Due to lots of work in and out of Sevlievo, and technical problems I

haven't had the chance to get one out. Both my desktop and laptop crashed, and then I lost my Microsoft Publishing program. I finally got it installed, but my laptop keeps crashing—and my desktop for some reason refuses to take it. It happened again today, so I am just going to try to do it in Word, put in some pictures and try my luck that way.

A New Van!

One new blessing that has come my way is a vehicle! I really have put off buying anything all of these years, because I don't mind so much taking buses and taxis—even though that is quite limiting. However, since I have been getting



busier, and having to travel to more remote villages it became apparent that I would have to buy something at some time soon. Well, I still wasn't shopping for one...but there is a British man that attends my church, Brian Rowe, and he and Howard, another British friend at the church, both had LDV (a British make) Convoy cargo vans, and they have often talked about how good, and reliable they are. One Sunday after returning from England, Brian mentioned that he was going to sell his Convoy, because he bought a tipper truck to help with his home renovation work. I just off-handedly asked how much he wanted for it, and he answered 3,000 Bulgarian Leva (that is \$2,000 US). Then I asked him what year it was. He said it is a 2002. How many miles does it have on it? He said 60,000. I then asked him what was wrong with it. He told me, "Nothing". Then he went on to explain how that since it is a British vehicle the steering wheel is on the right-hand side, and in Bulgaria we drive on the right like in America, and Bulgarians don't want to buy these vehicles. To change the steering wheel to the other side would cost so much that it is just as well for him to sell it cheaper here. If he took it back to England he would have to drive it all the way back, re-register it in England, and then fly back, and the amount that he would make off of it that way would not be worth all the expense and effort, so he thought he would just sell it cheap here. I said, "Sold!" I have listened to him and Howard brag about these vehicles for so long that I knew that I was getting a good deal! It has seats for seven, and has a huge space for any humanitarian distributions I want to do—food or clothing, as well as the ability to transport future teams!

I was a bit nervous about driving on the wrong side, and shifting gears with my left hand, but it actually has not been a problem. I am completely accustomed to it now. It is actually quite a big vehicle (3.5 tons), so I have to pay more attention to where I am going on the narrow streets here. That probably is not such a bad thing! (Just a note for those who know my driving abilities!!)



Youth Camp in Romania!

I will be traveling to Romania this week to help a missionary friend of mine, Jackie Ramsey, with a youth camp for poor gypsy young people near the city of Arad. It is always a privilege to work with Jackie, and preach at her churches. I will be with her church

in Vinga on Sunday, July 5, for a water baptism service. It will be an especially special event, because her two granddaughters will be baptized that day, and I have grown to love them so much over the past years.

At the camp I will be helping to transport the young people to the camp and to the swimming area, working as a supervisor to help Jackie, and also doing the Bible Stories. I always enjoyed youth camp when I was a kid, and am excited at the prospect of being involved in one again. Pray that many young people will be saved, and their lives changed. I will stay another week to preach and help Jackie with her many ministries. I will report back with pictures in my next update.

Balkan Hope Foundation News

Well, there's good news, and then there's bad news. Bad news first...The apartment for the children's home that we thought that we had secured in Sofia didn't work out. Then last week two of our board members resigned, because their church was going to pursue starting a children's home of their own. They were instrumental in our getting the license to operate a children's home, because they knew exactly what to do, and where to go to get it. Now the good news...We still have the license to operate a children's home, and now instead of opening our first home in Sofia, we will open one here in the Sevlievo/Gabrovo area. We are now looking into buying a house in a nearby village, and making the necessary renovations. Rents and property here cost less than half than in Sofia. This will allow me to be very involved, and I have contacts here in this area. The former board members already had a lot of the staff lined up in Sofia, and their church had some money to go toward the children's home, so we were going to start there first. I definitely feel personally called to this area, and am excited with this new direction—even though I hate losing two board members. Of course, they are still friends, so it is not all that bad.

Matching Funds Drive

Just to let you know, we reached our goal with the matching funds drive! Thank you for your faithful support—both in finances and prayer. Without you we would not be able to do the work we are doing here in Bulgaria.

Contact Us

If you would like to support our work you can send your tax-exempt donation to

Obedient Life Ministries

P.O. Box 267,

Clarion, PA 16214

or you can donate through our secure PayPal link from our website at

www.obedientlife.org on the make a donation page.

Be blessed in Jesus' Name!

Martin Sutton

