

Martin's August Update: August 28, 2009 Obedient Life Ministries & Balkan Hope Foundation



It has been an eventful couple of months since I sent my last update. For one thing, I turned 46 on July 30, and above is the picture of some of my friends and me out celebrating. We decided to forego the cake, and just get ice cream sundaes since it was a hot July night. They were very good, and we had a good time to boot! It is always good to spend special times with good friends. God has blessed me so much here in Bulgaria with good friends and special times of fellowship. It makes me feel so much at home. Thanks guys!

Youth Camp in Romania



At the writing of my last update at the end of June, a British friend of mine, Howard Whitakker, and I were preparing to go to Romania to help my friend, Jackie Ramsey, with a youth camp that involved youth from her church in the village of Vinga, Romania. The camp was very basic (to be translated—no electricity, no hot water), but it was a great success. There were fifty young people from orphanages and Vinga, a team to do the ministry from Alabama, a team of workers from Scotland, and Romanian young adults to serve as counselors. Howard did a lot of odd jobs helping put things together since the camp was still being built, and I provided transportation with Clifford the big red van. Of the thirteen gypsy youth that we took from Vinga, nine gave their hearts to Jesus for the first time. Two had already invited Him into their lives before the camp. While I was there I learned that I am more of a city guy than I ever even thought. I am now used to being surrounded by asphalt and concrete not grass and nature, so I stayed broken out with various splotches and rashes, but it was all well worth it to see those nine young people give their hearts to the Lord. Even though there was not as much for me to do as I thought there would be, it was a great success for the Kingdom of God.

Balkan Hope Foundation Progress

Rather than take up more time and space here on this topic here. I will just say that we have made some very good progress with regards to establishing a children's home. We have decided to purchase a house in a village near Sevlievo for this purpose. After looking at numbers of homes in several villages around here, I believe I have found one that is quite sufficient to open a home, as well as having the potential for expansion in the future. If after the renovations expert has looked at it, and confirmed that it is advisable structurally and feasible financially, we will proceed, and make the purchase. I have put together another PDF document, and attached it to my email that will provide a pictorial tour of the property. Please be in prayer about this with us.

Prayer Needs

1. Pray for us as we move toward the purchase of a suitable house for the children's home. We need wisdom, discernment, and the favor of God and men as we proceed.
2. Pray for the finances of the ministry so that we can do the work that we feel called to do.
3. My younger cousin, Jeff Robbins, whom I have mentioned before, has had a stroke, and is in great need of prayer for his recovery. Pray that the primary cause of all these health problems be discovered.
4. Another even younger cousin, Rusty Perry, has been diagnosed with a serious liver problem. His condition is improving, but he still has a way to go. Just as important as his healing, pray for him to fully give his heart to the Lord.
5. Pray that my local church here can secure a larger facility. We are packed to capacity. God is doing a great thing among us, and we need room to grow.
6. Pray for my continued health. A couple of weeks ago I had a bit of a scare, and had to go to the hospital. Praise the Lord it was nothing serious, but it reminded me more that I need to continue to try to improve my physical self.
7. A precious elderly lady from my church here, Lelya Penka (Aunt Penka) fell and broke her hip last week. She has been crippled and on crutches for twenty years due to arthritis. She has been so faithful to walk to church every Sunday, and has the sweetest disposition. She has been such an inspiration to me. Pray that she recover, and is able to come home soon.
8. My pastor's father, Dyado Sasho (Grandpa Sasho), is suffering with congestive heart failure and is in and out of the hospital. He often breaks down crying when I go to visit him. He knows the Lord, but I can't help thinking that he is afraid. Pray for his healing, and for him to have God's peace that passes all understanding.

As always, I thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. Without both of those we could not do what we are doing here today. If you would like to support us financially, you can send your tax deductible check or money order to: Obedient Life Ministries, P.O. Box 267, Clarion, PA 16214. Or you could donate by credit card through our secure PayPal link from our website at www.obedientlife.org. Just click on the "Make a Donation" link on our front page. Thank you, and be blessed in Jesus' Name!

Martin Sutton