

Martin's "Happy Thanksgiving" Update



Щаслива Ден на Благодарност! (Shtasliva Den na Blagodarnost!) Happy Thanksgiving Day! There is your Bulgarian lesson for the day... You can read it, say it, and translate it! Don't you feel enriched already?!!



Thanksgiving Greetings from Bulgaria! I have so much for which to be thankful. One thing I am thankful for is that God has placed me in this beautiful country, Bulgaria. I am reminded of Psalm 16:6, "The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my heritage is beautiful." (In the pictures you see some of the waterfalls at Krushuna about an hour from my home where I visited last month, and me perched on the side of the mountain trying not to fall over.)

There are so many things that I have to be thankful for... my family who is always there for me, my friends and supporters who pray for me, keep me company, and make me so happy, my church who has is like my family here in Bulgaria with their constant encouragement and love, my health, and so much more. God has truly blessed me!

I am thankful for the house in Maluk



After some negotiations, and convincing the owner and realtor that I am very serious about purchasing the house, and that we have 25% of the money already raised, they have agreed to take the house off the market until April 30, 2010 to give me the chance to raise the money for this house! The house and converted barn will house fourteen kids! The owner even gave me the keys already! So I still have to raise about \$12,000 to have the full purchase price, and I know that the Lord is more than able!



We have already taken extensive measurements of the house and barn, and have drawn up preliminary floor plans, and designed the septic system. We also did a perk test to check the drainage of the land, and it turned out very well.



If you want to help support this project just send your tax deductible donation to Obedient Life Ministries, P.O. Box 267, Clarion, PA 16214 or go to our website at www.obedientlife.org, click on our "Make a Donation" page, and use our secure PayPal link. Just mark your donation "House". We appreciate your prayers and financial support in this endeavor.

I am thankful for friends that help...



Howard Whittaker



Genadi Petkov



Howard has been like a brother to me for more than two years. Not only has he been good company (he is from England, so he is easy to talk to), but he has helped me do so many things that I don't know how to do. He has carefully measured the house and barn, drawn up the floor plans, and even drawn what they will look like after the renovations are complete. His experience in construction work and mechanical drawing has been invaluable to this project.

Genadi is a young man who came to the church about a year ago. He grew up all his life in a children's home never knowing who his family was until he was nineteen, and has been on his own. He has been a good worker for me doing a lot of the dirty, heavy work, and doing it with joy. He recently had an opportunity to go to Greece to be with his family, and just needed some help to get his documents and money together. He is not lazy, but life is hard for someone without anyone to help them. God really put him on my heart, and I felt that I should give him a hand up. He left for Greece a couple of weeks ago. Before he left he started telling me how it was the first time in his life that anyone had ever really wanted to help him. His tears ran freely as he told me how I was like a father to him, and how he would always remember me, and that one day he wanted to come back to Bulgaria and work for the foundation to help other young people who have not had a family. It made me think how you never know how much showing kindness can mean to somebody. He asked me to give him advice on how to live, and what was important to live a good life. Pray for Genadi. I hear from him several times a week. He is looking for a good church in his new city of Kalamata, Greece. He needs to continue to be discipled. Pray that he will find good friends, and that his relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and become more real every day.

I am thankful for Albena...



The Lord has brought someone very special into my life. Her name is Albena Egova. We met about four years ago. I knew that there was something very special about her back then, but

I was not sure if I was ready to get involved with someone here since dating here is viewed much more seriously than in America. Finally in May we went out for the first time, and it has been wonderful ever since. She is smart, and sweet and funny...and did I say smart? She is a mechanical engineer. She has been really instrumental in developing the floor plans for the house and barn. She is a wonderful, dedicated Christian lady, and I have so much enjoyed getting to know her better every day. It has been so refreshing and fun. I can talk to her about anything. This has really been a wonderful experience for me. I am thankful...and I will keep you posted!

I am thankful for Clifford the big red van...



This year I got my first vehicle outside of America. I knew that it would be more convenient and quite helpful, but it has actually become a ministry in itself. I have been able to help people move, deliver necessary items to pastors and churches, and take people to hospitals and doctors appointments in other cities that

would have been very difficult and much more expensive for them. I not only take them to doctors, but last week I took a group of people with various sicknesses to a healing service in Sofia. One friend of mine asked me if I would mind taking them, and I said, "Why not take some others too? I have plenty of room!" And so we did just that. The service was glorious! God really touched the people that went to that service. They all felt that God had healed them, and I look forward to the confirmation from their doctors!

I am thankful for... so many things!

I am so blessed in so many ways... I am thankful that my mother is healed, and that she has fully recovered from her illness last year...I am thankful that my niece, Natalie, will be marrying a godly young man, Chris Johnson, in March, and that I will be there to see that...I am thankful that even though my cousin, Jeff Robbins, died this year I will see him again one day in heaven, and he is rejoicing with the Lord right now...

I am thankful that I have lost over 37 pound this year! My blood pressure is under control, and I am not having so much trouble with asthma...I am thankful that in spite of a global financial crisis and the dollar's drop in value that my needs have been met...I am thankful that the wood I bought three winters ago will still be enough for this year and next year too...I am thankful for a nice, warm apartment...I am thankful that I have enough for myself and to give to others as well...I am thankful for the ministry that I have in my local church here—a place to use my spiritual gifts...I am thankful for Maria who gave her heart to the Lord three weeks ago...There just is not enough room here to count my blessings. I am among men most blessed! Thank you, Jesus!!

Other Items of Interest

In a
Pickle!



You may wonder what I do in my spare time...well, last week I canned 29 quarts of Tsarstvo Trushiya. It is a pickled salad of cauliflower, red peppers, and carrots. It is a popular Bulgarian dish, and so I decided to try my hand at it, and it turned out great!!! I put the recipe at the end of this update if you are interested in trying it yourself.

To Market to Market...

The swine flu has been a big news item here in Bulgaria. The schools here in Sevlievo and several other cities were closed for two weeks for "flu vacation". It seems like it is subsiding now, but pray that the people will have strength against this flu. By the way, I'm fine. I didn't kiss a pig!



I just want to close this update with a special thanks to all of you, my friends and supporters. It is through your prayers and financial support that I am able to pursue this vision to help the children of Bulgaria—to give them a home, a chance to be a part of a family, to be loved, and to be taught about the love of Jesus.

I also want to thank my board of directors in Clarion: Craig Rankin, Dave Jones and Brenton Henry for their wisdom, support and guidance. They are truly a gift to me. I am thankful for Cheryl Holyer, the administrative assistant at Rankin & Son Excavating. She faithfully takes care of my bills and banking for the ministry, and makes sure that I have money in my account when I need it. She is also the one who sends out all the receipts for Obedient Life Ministries. I never have to worry about those things, and it is such a blessing.

I have so many things for which to be thankful. My Thanksgiving prayer for you is that you be as blessed as I am, and even more. May the Lord direct your steps in the paths that you should go, and may you know His joy which is your strength.

Be blessed in Jesus' Name!

Martin Sutton

We appreciate your continued prayers for our ministry here in Bulgaria.
We would also appreciate your financial support

If you would like to make a donation to Obedient Life Ministries you can send your check or money order to:

Obedient Life Ministries
P.O. Box 267
Clarion, Pa 16214
or

You can make a donation from our website, www.obedientlife.org, using our secure PayPal link on the "Make a Donation" page.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Tzarstvo Trushiya

Cauliflower florets
Red bell peppers (med. chunks)
Carrot (sliced)
Green tomatoes (optional)
Celery leaves
Garlic cloves
Hot peppers (optional)
Vinegar
Salt
Sugar
Honey
Aspirin (plain, uncoated)

In a sterilized 1 quart jar place 3 sliced garlic cloves, 1 level Tbsp of salt, ½ Tbsp of sugar, ½ Tbsp of honey, 2 aspirin (totaling 1000 mg), 12 Tbsp of vinegar, one or two leafy parts of a celery stalk (to taste), and a hot pepper (if desired).

Pack the jar with cauliflower, red bell peppers, carrot slices, and green tomatoes. (I didn't put in any green tomatoes, but most people here do.)

Fill the rest of the jar with boiling water, and seal with a lid that has been in boiling water. Keep them in a warm place for a few hours, and shake the jars a couple of times a day for the first few days.

It's mnogo vkusno! Very delicious!