



Bible Soccer!

You can see me here preaching with my interpreter, Dani. Behind us is the "Bibleiski Futbol" (Bible Soccer) field. I came up with the game as a way to get more interest with the youth.

By answering Bible questions teams can move the soccer ball across the field. They can try to "kick" the ball 10, 20, or 30 meters according to the difficulty of the question. When a team gets the ball to their goal, and the goalie is not able to block it by answering a difficult bible question, they get the point. (Your goalie should be the one on the team with the most Bible knowledge.) It is a lot of fun, and we have talked to other congregations about playing this with us, and there seems to be a lot of enthusiasm about it!



Mission Team

Last week I hosted a Canadian/Bulgarian/Romanian mission team. They ministered in two services, and in several homes. The guys stayed with me, and the girls stayed in the office apartment. In ten days I will have another team from Rotterdam, Holland to do an outreach with businessmen!



Obedient Life Ministries & Balkan Hope Foundation



Happy Labor Day Update

September 2, 2008

Dear Friends and Family,

Here it has already been over a month, and it is time to write another update! Time really gets away from me sometimes! It has been both a difficult and a very exciting month for me. Let me expound...

Update on My Mother

My mother had just gone into the hospital when I wrote my last update. She was in the hospital for just short of four weeks, and is now home, and feeling much better. There are still some unanswered questions, and she still is not back to work, and will not be for some time yet. She still is suffering from some shortness of breath and occasional fever, and we still don't know why that is. She has been diagnosed with chronic leukemia, which is a non-fatal form of leukemia. Doctors say that there is no cure for this, but they can treat the symptoms if they get severe. We are still waiting on results on the biopsy on the mass in her chest, but we are expecting a good report. So it has been a very stressful time for me being so far away, not to mention for my mother and family back in America. Please continue to pray for Mother's full recovery. God is more than able to completely heal her to better than new! Jesus is the Great Physician, and we trust completely in Him! Thank you for all your prayers and emails.

Balkan Hope Foundation

I have been working very hard to get everything in order with our new board of directors before I travel back to America in a couple of weeks. All of the documents are now in the courts, and we hope to get the court ruling before the end of next week. The court clerks have been very helpful and friendly, and thank the Lord for their favor! We have had a couple of board meetings already, and I have been very pleased with the way the board interacts. I will have one last meeting with them the evening before I travel to America. I have gotten all the necessary documents to apply for the license to open a Children's Home in Sofia, and when I return I will be applying for a license to open a foster parent assessment and training agency here in Sevlievo. I will be meeting with the mayor regarding a building for this work in the next week or so, so be praying about this. Recently a rumor that I am working for the CIA has been going around town, and I understand that it is coming from someone who is close to the mayor. Pray that I will have favor when I meet with him, and this rumor will be exposed to be nothing but the foolishness that it is.

The Church

God has been doing mighty things in the church here in Sevlievo. We are having new people come every week. We are meeting in a small basement room, and now the church is full and people are sitting up the steps during our services! (Pray for our church that we will soon have a new building.) There has been a strong presence of God in the services these last several weeks, and I have been preaching under a particularly strong anointing. People are being healed! It is amazing now that people that I don't know are stopping me on the street and in the park and they are asking me to lay

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the complete healing of my mother.
2. Pray for the licensing process for the Children's Home to go smoothly.
3. Pray for my safe travel back to the States.
4. Pray for the finances of the ministry.
5. Pray that I my time in the States will be enjoyable and profitable for the work of the ministry.
6. Pray that my schedule will be organized by the Lord.



Fellowship time at the church.

To make a donation please send a check or money order to:

**Obedient Life Ministries
P.O. Box 267**

Clarion, PA 16214

Or you can make a donation by credit card through our website:

www.obedientlife.org

Go to the Make a Donation page to find our secure PayPal link. You can also download an **automatic debit form** to have a monthly donation of any size drawn directly from your bank account. Just send the completed form to our office. God bless you for prayers and financial support.

The Church (continued)

hands on them and pray for them. We just step around the corner or behind a tree and I pray for them. A couple of Sunday mornings ago a young Moslem man came to the service. There was a powerful presence of God there, and came forward for me to pray for him. He came back that night with his brother and sister, and all three of them accepted Jesus as their Savior. They were so excited. We went to a café after the service to talk more with them, and they shared that many years ago Jesus had come to their mother in a dream, but she never went to a church. This was their first time to come to a church, and they believed and repented. Pray for Ali, Elisabet, and Biser, that they will continue to grow in faith and become strong Christians!

A Word from Martin

One of my foundation board members, Blaga Popova, organizes a number of summer camps each year for Scripture Union. One camp for high school students went to Athens. While there they toured the famous ruins and sites of the city, but the campers were more interested in being at the malls and internet cafes. At the end of the week she asked them, "What was the most impressive thing you saw in Athens?" They replied, "There were so many pigeons!" Just like Blaga I was shocked by that response! They were not impressed by the magnificent ruins that people flock from all around the world to see. They were not impressed by the thousands of years of history that were staring them in the face. They only saw pigeons. They were more interested in the ordinary things that they had every day of their lives in Bulgaria—shops and the internet.

Later I was telling a missionary friend of mine, Mary Jill Callery, about this, she made a very interesting statement. "I wonder how often in spiritual immaturity I have been surrounded by great things God wanted to show me, and I only saw pigeons?" I wish that I could claim to have made that profound observation, but it is worth repeating.

It is so important that we keep our spiritual antennas up. There is so much that God wants to show us! We distracted by the ordinariness of life we never notice it. I want to challenge you to dare to step outside your everyday mindset, and look for the great things that God wants to show you. He is at work around us every day, but we must seek Him. The Bible tells us that if we seek God, we will find Him if we seek Him with all of our hearts. Don't settle for pigeons walking on the ground, look up and see the spectacular things that God wants to show us. They are out there! Just look!

Heading to the States

I will be traveling back to the States for two months on September 16. Please pray that I will make all the divine appointments that the Lord has for me while I am there. I will be speaking at different churches, meeting with friends and spending time with my family while I am there. If you are interested in me coming to you church please feel free to contact me. Pray that the Lord will bless in the way of finances. I need to raise support for the children's home, the foster parenting agency, and for my personal support while I am there. I am praying for donations and pledges that will cover the expenses of the work here for the next year. God has been faithful through the years, and this will take us to a new level of faith and trust in His provision. I am believing for a large sum of money, and know that God has the provision. I appreciate your prayers for our efforts here, and ask that you pray to see if you are one that God has to give toward these projects. Every offering of any amount is a blessing. If everyone gives what God puts on their hearts it will be more than enough, and it will not be a hardship on anyone only a blessing—and especially for the orphaned children of Bulgaria.