



# Macedonian Quarterly

A Newsletter of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Macedonia - April 2016

Last year we had a teenager at our camp. His mother is a schoolteacher and their family does not attend church. After he came back from camp, his mother asked him how did it go. He was reluctant to explain, somewhat baffled, but after nearly a month, when they were on holiday, Aleksandar opened up and started talking about the wonderful time he had, about the beautiful things he heard, songs he learned. In a word – he was overjoyed! His mother was so moved that she came to our office, and asked to see our materials. When she saw how many things were available to teach the children about God, she was excited.

As Easter approaches (our Easter this year is May 1<sup>st</sup>), she decided to take some of our materials and prepare Easter program for her children. Even more, she was asked to join with another teacher and prepare one-hour program that will be recorded for Macedonian national TV and broadcasted for Easter. As Suzana and I came from N. Ireland, she received the following letter from the teacher:

“Hi, Suzana. Sorry for not writing sooner. We received a ban, actually we were censored, and many of the sentences in the Easter dramas that you gave to us had to be changed. Yesterday we finally completed the changes, and I am sending you the text, as it will be recorded. We were told not to mention nails, grave, Romans, blood, dying, rising from the dead. My colleague and I commented – everyone can speak freely about their faith- Buddhists, Muslims ... and we are the only ones that are censored!”

Sadly this is the situation in our “Christian” Macedonia. The part that makes us joyful is that people are noticing and want to know more about the true belief in Christ. As for the

teachers – they managed to squeeze the Gospel in two short dramas. Pray for the Easter clubs – that there will be many places where the children will hear the truth about Easter and why did Jesus die, and rose again.

Our great joy is the Good News Club in our office. We praise the Lord that every single child that lives in our apartment building is coming to the club. Children are inviting their friends from the other buildings. Some come, mostly don't. We are thankful for this open door that God gave us – to teach the children, but even more than that. We have mothers that come regularly and help with cookies, snacks, and keeping the discipline. They can also hear the Good news. We plan to involve the children in the Easter program in our church – to take part in drama, and songs. For the children this will be the first time to do “something” in a church. In the Orthodox Church the children are not encouraged to be part of it in any form. Children are looking forward to the opportunity to be part of the Easter celebration. Pray that everything will be well, and that their parents will attend as well.

We praise the Lord for Teona – she is a shy girl from our building. She came to Suzana little over week ago to tell her that she asked Jesus to become her Savior. Praise the Lord, and pray that He will keep and protect her.

At present we are preparing for the International Book Fair that will take place April 12-16 in Skopje. As you will remember from last year we usually distribute materials to children that come to visit the fair. This year our plan is to reach 5000 children with sets of evangelistic materials. Pray that we will be able to do that. It seems that this year the cost of renting bookstall will be prohibitive for the Christian publishing house, and if they don't find the funds, we will not be able to distribute materials (we need to have “official” publisher present in order to have the right to distribute “promotional” materials.)

It was wonderful to see many of you in person during our deputation time in N. Ireland. Thank you all for your prayers and support of the work of CEF in Macedonia.

We know that, by the time you receive this letter, Easter will be over for you. Actually, we can rejoice in Easter every day as we are on this Earth. We know that Jesus has risen and that is what gives us the motive and strength in our ministry as we preach the Good News: that Christ died for our sins, rose from the grave, and is alive forever.

*Pavle, Suzana, David and Ana Kostadinov*

*“You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.”*

*1 Peter 1:23*