



Macedonian Quarterly

A Newsletter of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Macedonia - September 2016

New life ... the joy of a newborn. When a child comes to this world, we usually ask: "How was the labor? Was it easy birth, or a difficult one?"

A brother and a sister in our children's camp were a live example of the wait for a baby to be born. I asked them how they feel about the new sibling about to be born any time? With smiles they told me that they expect to have baby brother. "His name will be John" – they proudly declared. There was so much joy and love in the air. (The baby was born few days after the end of camp).

The feeling of expectation ... when the children from my GNC took camp invitations and distributed them to the children in our neighborhood. We hoped for more children, but were happy with the few from our surroundings. We hope the kids will continue coming to the GNC this autumn, too (a mother already called Suzana on the phone to ask when will the club start again – praise the Lord). Nearly 60 kids attended the children's camp. We don't have the numbers yet, we don't know how many children responded to the call for salvation this summer, whether in the camps or in the 5-day clubs, but we know that God's Word will not return empty, and we hope and anticipate more newborn children.

The joy of a newborn ... a 15-year old teen came to our camp this summer. He is from Albanian background. We were excited that he came (there are very, very few Albanian believers in Macedonia). He surprised us with his Bible knowledge. The surprise was even greater when he invited Pavle to his baptismal service few days ago. We were overjoyed. Pray that Ali will grow in his faith. He kept saying to Pavle: "Thank you for being like a father to me at camp". We don't know his home situation, so please pray that God will give him strength to grow in full maturity in Christ.

Sometimes the birth is difficult. There were difficult situations at camp this year, too. Bojan came on recommendation of a Christian psychotherapist, a good friend of ours. She wanted him to have good time, but also to be challenged to change his behavior. We soon found out that he is extremely bright 11 year old, who could repeat the whole lesson at any given time, but, at the same time, had huge outbursts of anger, insubordination, and, in short, presented us with a big challenge. He was part of Suzana's small group, and she spoke regularly with him. We found out that he comes from a family of well educated grandparents, whose only daughter gave birth to him when she was a teen (and already using drugs), that he is a step away from being sent to foster home. He has been taken from his mother because he was abused by her and grandfather. He lives with his grandmother that is in her 70's. We did our best to accommodate him, but, on the last day, we were forced to call his grandmother to come to camp, and we talked to her. Bojan apologized for his behavior, asked if he can come to camp again next



year, and the grandmother spent one day with two of our counsellors that witnessed to her, so she could hear the Good news herself. God uses even bad situations to accomplish his plans.

The anticipation of the future ... In August Pavle taught in Romania, at the CMLC to students that we would like to see in CEF ministry. There is always anticipation, hope for new workers reaching out to children and carrying the Good news to them. Nikola, our co-worker completed the course this year, and we hope and pray that he will be able to raise support and join us as a worker of CEF in Macedonia.

The joy of seeing a newborn is the driving force behind our summer activities. We had day camps and 5-day clubs in few places. This year we had less than last year due to the fact that Suzana is still unable to fully engage in activities in the sun due to the operation in May (she was told to take it slow for six months). Cvetanka, our co-worker in the South is pregnant and will leave on maternity leave this month. Nikola was in Romania to complete his training with CEF. On top of all that, we had unexpected catastrophe in August – flood that killed 25 (officially, unofficially nearly 70) in Skopje, leaving few thousand people on the streets because their homes were heavily damaged. The city is still recovering from this. We believe that God gave us the children He wanted to hear the Gospel this summer, and, regardless of the numbers, we believe that there will be children joining our clubs this autumn as result of summer activities.

September is a month filled with expectation. This weekend we will have camp for 17+ teens and young people where we want to encourage them to get involved in ministry, in their local churches or missions. Right after the camp we plan for three days of team meetings where we will evaluate last season and plan for the next 12 months. Pray that we will have fruitful meetings.

For us as family, we pray that God will give us strength to lead the ministry, to cope with Ana, and hopefully find a day center where she can spend part of the day (she is at present at home). Please pray that David will find work. He is doing his masters in chemistry, and wants to find a placement for practical training and work. Since he couldn't find anything in Macedonia he is looking abroad now.

Please remember to pray for every single child that heard the Gospel this summer, one way or another. May we see the new birth happen in many hearts. Pray for us workers in Macedonia. We thank the Lord for all of you that are alongside us in our effort to teach boys and girls for His glory.

"All you people of the land take courage," declares the Lord, "and work; for I am with you," declares the Lord of hosts". Haggai 2:4

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