



## *The Wingets – Missionaries to Bulgaria*

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When will it end? Not Covid-19, but the scorching summer temperatures! June was cool and rainy, but July and August have been the hottest months we've seen here, with most days in the mid to high 90's. The first couple of days in September were cooler, but again today reached 91! Most bizarre is that morning temps have been in the 50's, and every day sees a swing of up to 45<sup>0</sup> between low and high temperatures!

Be that as it may, we are glad for the end of vacation season. In August everyone heads for the Black Sea about 3 hrs. west, and our little city becomes a ghost town. With the start of the school year, we should see more passersby discovering the bookstore. Reaching out to children always helps us contact parents, so please pray that we see more and more kids come in to read, play games, work a puzzle or do a craft. Our new location is across from a city park, and we are already making more contacts than in our old place.

OK, OK – what about the Covid crisis? From the beginning we have been spared from the worst. Bulgaria in general was not very hard hit, and our city specifically has come through mostly unscathed. Our city, Veliko Turnovo, is capital of the region (think of a large county in the US) of 80,000; and there have been only 299 confirmed cases here, and 5 fatalities since the first of the year. We check almost daily, and have seen many days with no new cases, even though the daily number of tests administered continues to be high. None of our church members have been affected, and for this we are grateful.

Perhaps the hardest hit of our congregation is one dear lady, Valya, who lives in the nursing home. None of the residents there have tested positive since the beginning of the crisis, but they have not been allowed to leave the grounds nor have visitors for over 6 months! Not only has Valya, perhaps our most faithful member, been unable to attend church, we have not been able to have our weekly Bible study at the home for all this time. Penny and I and other members of the church make regular visits, but we are restricted to talking, singing, and praying through the wrought iron fence which surrounds the compound. Good may yet come of the situation, as the other residents in the courtyard can see and hear what goes on between us!

The church continues to meet - observing social distancing, of course - yet we were thrilled to have 15 in attendance this past Sunday. As fall approaches, we begin to plan our harvest celebration, where we dedicate one Sunday as a day of Thanksgiving and host a meal in conjunction with the worship service. Our new space gives us room for six or seven tables, so we are praying for our largest harvest outreach yet. Some names to pray for: Yanni, Dancho, Kristo, Plamen and Ariana.

Another exciting development is in the works. We finally hope to have our first Good Soil Evangelism training seminar this fall. It had been our desire to do this in the Spring, but Covid effectively squelched any seminars or conferences across Bulgaria as it did most everywhere. We now have an agreement with a church in Varna, Bulgaria where our colleagues, Phil and Angela Flowers minister, to host the event. Although the date has not been set, the pastor is excited about the material and has promised to fill the seminar with people from his church. Pray that this will spark interest in other churches across the country and that we will soon have many Bulgarian believers reaching out with this evangelism tool.

We want to say a big thank you to all of you who continue to give and pray through this difficult time. God continues to show His loving care for us, and we are grateful to be able to continue the work here in Veliko Turnovo.

As we hear about the turmoil that has seized the United States, please be sure that our hearts as well as our prayers are with our brothers and sisters in our beloved Homeland. Satan is at work, but God is still on the throne. Perhaps the events of this year will help God's people to truly "love His appearing"!

"Even so, come Lord Jesus!"

*David and Penny Winget*

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