

## LeFevres

## To the Turks in Eastern Europe

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"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest...

And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."

(Luke 10:1,2, 23,24)

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who has called us by his grace into this ministry. In the passage above we see how the Lord had sent these seventy before him to every city and village that he himself would go. Later, they returned with good news of all the things they had seen. The Lord told them not to rejoice as much in the miracles that they had witnessed, but rather to rejoice that their names were written in heaven. In the end, though, he did tell them what a blessing it was to have seen the things with their eyes that they had seen. Today we see the Lord working in a similar fashion. He does not go himself to every city and village in the world, but rather, sends his missionaries out to preach his gospel. Those who hear the message of the missionaries and receive them, also receive the Lord; his spirit enters into their hearts to dwell. The preaching is done by men, but the power to save is only from God. As missionaries, we confess that we are but small vessels to be used of the Lord; our greatest joy is not in our works, but that our names are written in heaven. However, it is a tremendous blessing to be able to see and hear the things that we do.

Recently, one lady testified that they had been without electricity for six years. Their home was old, and run down. She, her husband, and their daughter got saved. One evening they were reading the Bible by candle light when they came across the verse "...and they shall call his name Emmanuel," her daughter asked, "What does that name mean?" The mother said, "I don't know. I've never heard of it." Then they kept reading, and the verse said, "which being interpreted is, God with us." She told her daughter, "Look, God is with us." I'm glad that the poorest of the poor, the people that sit in darkness can read a Bible and know that God is with them. Thank you to all who have helped us print Bibles.

One of the pastors told the story of how several of their churches were started. Over ten years ago there was a village rather far away that had sent a man to find Brother Ralph Cheatwood and ask him to come start a church in their village. He went, along with two national pastors, and two churches were started in that village. Those two national pastors continued to drive there every week for the meetings.

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One day Brother Ralph called the pastors to come look at a map. He told them not to take the highway to that village, but to take the back roads. That would mean a longer drive on winding roads in bad condition. When the pastors asked why, Brother Ralph said that because there were villages along the way that one day would want a church. Although it was more difficult, and it meant more wear and tear on the vehicles, they agreed to take those back roads every week. Six months later they went to church out there, and there was a visitor. The man was older, and walked with a cane. It had taken him six hours that morning to walk the two miles from his village to the village where the church was. He had walked it to ask those preachers if they would come to his village to preach. Within a year there were six other villages that had opened up along those back roads. The national pastor said, "From now on, I'm going to do whatever Ralph Cheatwood says, because he is God's man." Thank you to all who have helped us buy vehicles for these pastors.

This summer we've already had about a dozen people baptized, and there's several more who want to be baptized. We continue to produce new testaments and hymnbooks. Several people have returned from Western Europe to Bulgaria on their summer vacations. They told us how that during the Covid lockdowns, when no one was allowed to go out in public, they were able to sing hymns and read the Bible in their homes with their neighbors. Now they need more Bibles and hymnbooks for those neighbors.

Thank you to all who pray for this work.

In Christ.

Zachary LeFevre