

The Matthew Welch Family

Serving the Lord in BULGARIA and ROMANIA

February/March 2025

Dear Pastors, Churches, and Fellow Saints,

Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. Acts 20:38

In the verse above the believers were sorrowful because they wouldn't see the apostle Paul again. Paul was a blessing to the church at Ephesus. They would miss his preaching and fellowship in the gospel.

For a number of years, I have had the privilege and pleasure of attending local churches with a national pastor, my close friend, Brother Demir. But a few months ago, he became very ill. He lost a lot of weight and grew weak. Nevertheless, he continued going to his churches to preach.

In the month of March, Demir went home to be with the Lord. He was 57 years old. Many of his friends and family attended his funeral and burial. Tears were shed because of his absence, but there was much rejoicing because of his life and testimony.

Demir grew up as a Muslim, but some 33 years ago he heard the Good News of how God loved him, and gave His Son to die for his sins, and that He was buried and rose again from the dead. Demir believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and then God called him to be a preacher of the gospel to his people.



Demir was a faithful pastor. He had a good spirit and a strong faith. He held church services in 11 different villages and cities every week. He pastored churches in Blaskovo, Dalgopol, Gradinarovo, Grozdovo, Komarovo, Kamen dyal, Markovo, Provadia, Sadovo, Snezhina, and Venelin. He could preach in Bulgarian and Turkish. He had the joy of the Lord because the Lord was with him. He was loved by all his churches. Like the apostle Paul, Demir thanked Christ Jesus his Lord, who enabled him, for that He counted him faithful, putting him into the ministry.

Through the years I have come to understand why the Lord's servants were sent out "two by two". Because the Bible says in *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Demir helped me, and I am thankful to God for my brother, my friend, and my fellow preacher.



Demir closed his eyes in death and opened them to life everlasting. I really believe the Lord said to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." *Matthew. 25:21*

Please remember Demir's wife, Asya, his children, and grandchildren in your prayers.

All Because of Calvary,

Matthew and Jane Welch

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