

The William LeFevre Family

Missionaries in Bulgaria

January 2023

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

Hebrews 1:1-2

To the Strangers and Pilgrims scattered here, there, and everywhere,

I can't think of a better start to anything than with “God.” He's enough, and more than enough. The heavens of the heavens can't contain Him. His wisdom is infinite, His power unfathomable, His promise immutable, His love unending. Whatever adjective you use, He excels it. He's the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. The patriarch Moses heard His call, saw His raw power displayed, hung on His every word on Mount Sinai, and when it was all said and done, still asked for more. He's God, and I'm His. Bless His name!

If awareness of the nature of God alone wasn't enough to inspire your heart, our text indicates that the one true all-sufficient, all-powerful God is interested in a close personal relationship with you. He's been an active participant in this human drama from the beginning, conversing with Adam in the garden. Adam's sin separated him from God's intimate fellowship, and so began the period of the prophets, God communicating with man through an intermediary. On the one occasion God spoke to the people directly, they couldn't endure it. Nevertheless, God, by human instrumentation, called. Some came, and some cursed him, but He still had compassion.

God, not content to endure the widening gulf between Him and His creation, at the last, took upon Himself the nature of man, and humbling himself, veiled His eternal power and glory in flesh. Once again God conversed face to face with man. Once again He called, “Come unto me.” Some came, some cursed Him, yet we all crucified Him; still, He conquered. Now, once again through human instrumentation – by preachers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, teachers, Christians – He calls, “Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” What a God! I bless the day, almost thirty-five years ago, I heeded His invitation, and in simple faith, came to Jesus. He took me in. I've been His every day since.

Happy New Year to every last one of you. I hope y'all are doing well. God's been good to us here in Shumen. Winter has come, or rather, shows up sporadically. Most days this month have been in the fifties, and mild. Still, it's winter, and that means our seasonal workers are home from the fields. Church attendance in all of Ahmed's and my villages is up.

In Byala Reka, we've had to switch houses. The man of the house, Mustafa, died. His wife loves us to pieces and would give us the run of the place, but her daughter, returned from Germany on the death of her dad, does not. Praise the Lord, though, on the same day we were told we couldn't have meetings there anymore, another woman opened her house to us. It's much smaller in every way imaginable; the ceiling's only six feet high in places. It's poorer, as these folks have next to nothing. Yet the crowd's still coming, and better than that, the Lord's showing up. Last Thursday the whole place was in tears come praying time. That's worth it. I asked Ahmed what we ought to do about the daughter that kicked us out of the other place. He said, “We'll give her a bag of flour and a bottle of oil and tell her, ‘Jesus loves you, and we do, too.’”

Our poorest folks are in Varbitsa. There they hardly have wood to heat their own houses, let alone enough to spare for the room we meet in. Thursday mornings we dress extra warm in multiple layers, knowing the small fire barely

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keeps it above freezing. Yet, every meeting, regardless of the weather outside or the temperature inside, the crowd comes on. They fill up what few chairs there are and then grab whatever's left to sit on. When the buckets and wood stumps are all occupied, they grab an extra blanket and sit on the floor. We sing through the gypsy hymnbook as long and loud as we can, warming hearts and generating heat. What we lack in insulation, the Lord makes up for in inspiration. I've never been to a meeting there yet where folks didn't leave happier for attending.

In Lovets we've seen the biggest increase of all. For a year or two now, we've endeavored to faithfully minister regardless of who came. There was a long span of time where it was just us and a widow or two. Then when Covid struck again last summer, no one attended for weeks, after which those who survived reemerged to tell how God had delivered again. For the last month, though, it's been standing room only, with both rooms of the little house full. At first, we chuckled and dismissed the surge as those only interested in flour and oil. Yet, it became evident that a number of them were unaware we were distributing anything. They came to see why everyone else was coming. One elderly woman, at the conclusion of last week's service, said, "You preached my life. I lived everything you said." Keep praying; God's still working.

The good Lord willing, and with His help and your prayers, we are planning a furlough come fall. It is early, and it seems odd, out of place even to be mentioning it now, but as so many of our supporting churches plan their calendars well in advance, I thought it best to give early notice to anyone interested in us visiting. If God permits, we'd like to visit those of you up north first. Even if you don't support us, we'd be happy to come in and declare the glad tidings of good things the Lord's doing here. As of right now, our plans are to return later in the fall, nearer Thanksgiving. However, if anyone has a meeting you'd like us to attend earlier in the season, let us know, and we'll see what we can work out. All of our contact information is always in the footer of our prayer letters. Our plans are to return near the end of 2023 and stay through mid-2024. Again, this is all very early and all subject to the will of God and change. "Whatever seems best to the Lord" is always our motto.

Because of a living Savior,



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