

## September Newsletter from Dragan and Biljana Manev, 2018 Resen, Macedonia

### Something about us and call of God of the Evangelical Church in Macedonia.

Since we come, in the south of Macedonia in the town Resen, passed around one year and three months. We came in this town Resen, send by God and by the main eldership of Evangelical Church in Macedonia and our previous Evangelical Church in Veles. Evangelical Church in R. Macedonia is a denomination with around 30 churches all over Macedonia and the vision of the Evangelical denomination is to open and established new churches in places where there is not any Evangelical Church. We (as an Evangelical Church in Republic of Macedonia) want to have witness (even small churches) in places without any Evangelical church. In Macedonia, Evangelical Churches are in a period of “breakthrough” (because people are used only to Orthodox Church as a main church and Islam) and, in general, almost all churches are 20 – 30 people. Growing of the churches is very difficult and we are praying for revival in all over Macedonia. Because of this entire situation, we (our denomination) were led by the Holy Spirit to open churches in many places in Macedonia and then to establish them and work on their growing and organization. We want to have, even small, church in every town and big village all over Macedonia. The important thing is that we are in great unity and many times we are helping each other and work together to cover the need of other churches in our denomination. I and my wife and our children are “flowing” in that vision of our Evangelical church in R. Macedonia. I, as a pastor, am also in the main eldership of our Evangelical denomination in R. Macedonia and together with an excellent unity with other pastors that are in the main eldership, “flowing” in a vision for opening as much as we can, new churches, and then to establish and grow them. On the 3th of September we had pastoral meeting of the main eldership in the main Evangelical church in Skopje and talk about all issues that are important for our denomination and churches. Please pray for all of us as we are doing God’s ministry in the Kingdom of God in Macedonia.



### Ministry and establishing a strong Evangelical Church in our town Resen, where God send us.

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of July we had a wonderful team from St. Stephen church (David and Joy Wilson and Josh Askwith). They stayed 5 night in our rented house (and home church) in Resen and then we were together two days in Ohrid (town next to our). The team from St. Stephen church was very committed to the ministry that we did together and they were also very humble servant of God. We

would like to have them again. In 5<sup>th</sup> of July, we had ministry in our town Resen. First, we visited home for disabled children with name “Mobilnost” and did small evangelism there. David, Joy and Josh had worship songs for the children and after that David shared from the Word of God. He was very sensitive to the children and people there and shared very proper verses from the Bible to that organisation for children with disabilities.



This was great evangelism and great open door for us to continue to work with this organisation (stuff and children and their parents). We already visited parents of some of these children and shared with them some food and Good News.

After this evangelism we went with the team from St. Stephen church to the very poor Roma community and shared with them three boxes of food for three families there. I and my wife are going there from time to time to show love to them and help them with something. This is also a will of God for our town. We need to show love and care for the poor people around us as a good testimony for God, good acts, and opportunity to share about Jesus Christ.



These Roma people are living by the rubbish and trash from the town Resen. Our next step for there is to bring to them empty bottles (because they are collecting that for money) and some second hand clothes and share about Christ if there is an open door for that.



Then in the evening of the day (5<sup>th</sup> of July) we had our home church in our rentd house with the team from St. Stephen church – England. Sister Joy had some worship songs and David shared from the Word of God. Josh shared also something that was



on his heart. It was excellent encouragement for the members from our Evangelical Church in Resen.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, we visited two families in a village Strugovo, together with the team from St. Stephen church and pick up some mushrooms with one man from there. It was great blessing for the people there. David shared the Word of God with them and Josh gave testimony. We are continuing to visit them (in general two times per month) and in the same time we are building brother Vasko (he is from that village) to continue with the Bible group in his village, because our focus is in the church in Resen. In the evening of that day, we come back to Resen and had some kind of evangelism event in the Home of the Culture in Resen (organized by somebody else, but we used opportunity to have a table with New Testimonies there and some Christian literature).



Bible study group in village Strugovo (with the team)



Home of Culture, Resen

Some of the other days we, together with the team from St. Stephen church, helped with ministry with some of the other Evangelical Churches from our Evangelical denomination. We had Sunday morning service in Bitola (David preached, and Joy and Josh led children's class) and then we had children and teen class in Roma church in Prilep. The team had excellent children class. Thanks God for the great help of St. Stephen team. They were great blessing to us and the ministry that we are doing. They said that they would like to send more teams.

After one year and three months official, our new church in Resen is progress very good (praise God). Last service (on 20<sup>th</sup> of September, Thursday evening) in our home church in Resen, we were 13 grown people (with me and my wife) and four children for children class. Also, separately, we have two Roma families (from Muslim background). They are open for God's work and we are sharing Good News with them. The first Roma family received Lord Jesus (4 grown people: mother, father, son and granny) in their heart but is very difficult discipleship with them because all their relatives are Muslim and they need to "pay price" (to stay strong in the Lord against all pressure). We are preparing them step by step. The other family is two people (one of them had water baptism when he was refugee in Finland. His wife is still thinking of that decision). Pray for them (Sevgjul and Asije). From 30<sup>th</sup> of July to 2<sup>nd</sup> of August we had a Roma teen camp in the lake near our town Resen. I had chance to take two teens from Resen (one is from the first Roma family and his friend) and to continue to invest in Roma in our town.



During the summer and even in September, we continued with evangelism in our town Resen, in order to win more souls for Christ and to have more contact with people from our town. On 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August we had two evangelism events in our town Resen. We had help from two couples (one musician brother played some songs, and one artist made some pictures with Christian message in order to bring people.). On 27<sup>th</sup> of August we had street evangelism in the centre of our town and shared bottles with water with John 3:16 verse from the Bible attached to the bottle and our contact details for people to contact us for more information. Second day we invited many people in a restaurant in Resen where we had two local testimonies (me and brother Ljupce from our church), concert and art plus sharing the simple Gospel. It was great response. Now we had new contacts to work with and new people from our town that are interested about Lord Jesus and hungry to learn more about God. Praise God.



27<sup>th</sup> of August



28<sup>th</sup> August, Resen



New people that were open for Christ after event

12<sup>th</sup> of September we visit again organisation “Mobilnost”, who work with children with disabilities. After visitation of St. Stephen team on 5<sup>th</sup> of July, we wanted again to come in this organisation, be a blessing there, and to continue good work that was started there. We had again short evangelism with brother who made one picture for them. Then had few songs and some simple explanation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Also, we brought to them some colour pencils, paper, puzzles and something else like blessing for this organisation in our town.



“Mobilnost” Resen

From September Dragan started again to play football in a hall in Resen with a lot of youth from our town. They are playing two times per week for fun. That is a great opportunity to meet new friends for sharing the faith with them. By, the grace of God, two young men that are playing football, are coming in our home church.

### **Future plans and prayer needs:**

- Pray for growing of our Evangelical Church in Resen. We want to put a good foundation there and to build a strong church. Our strategy for future plan is to strengthen believers that are coming to our home church (there is a water baptism teaching that is going on for some of them. Also, we are planning some membership classes in order to build them and rooted to the church). Our general strategy is that after we become 15 or more rooted believers we will open, by the grace of God, a public Evangelical Church (for sure we will need finance for that, but also, we want to prepare all believers for persecution and suffering that they will have after we open public Evangelical Church in this town where there is not any Evangelical Church).
- Pray for referendum about issues that our country has with Greece about the name Macedonia. Referendum is on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Many of our churches are in fasting and prayers. There is a danger of war also. Please pray for peace and good decision.

- Pray for Christian Woman's Conference that will be in Ohrid (next to our town) for about 400 women from all over Macedonia. Many of the women are not believers or not strong believers. Pray for new souls for Christ and strengthen the faith in sisters. Biljana is in prayer team. They will have prayer department at the conference and pray for many women there.
- Pray for idea for evangelism on 25<sup>th</sup> of October in a restaurant in Resen where we already did one evangelism. The owners are very open for another one and we would like to continue with some short Bible seminars there. The owner of the restaurant in last evangelism there said to us: "When we will build the church?" That is a great testimony. Maybe he will give to us for free his restaurant to be used for the church meeting in the future.
- Pray for preparation for Samaritans Purse project and sharing shoe boxes during the Christmas time in our town and region. Probably from October will start preparation for Samaritans Purse project and we will search open doors for evangelism through shoe boxes.

God bless you. Thank you for all your prayers for us and for supporting us.

## **Dragan and Biljana**

Evangelical Church – Resen, Macedonia