

Dear Friends & Family,

Truly God is good to those who seek Him; to those who trust in His name!!

It has been such a full month since we last wrote to you! There is much cause to praise and thank the Lord for, and we have some requests for your prayers as well. July was a month of blessings and perseverance at the same time. Part of what required our patient endurance was the stifling heat that seemed to drive the structure of our very days and much of our activity, but by the mercy of God it cooled off last night. This is a wonderful fulfillment of Isaiah 25:4 ~ *"For you have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat."*

On the Healthier Side

Please extend your forgiveness to us for not replying sooner concerning the situation with Julie's health. We visited two doctors the last week of June, had several tests done, and they discovered two separate, but possibly linked, conditions. First, she had an imbalance of hormones which caused much upset in her body systems. Secondly, her blood tests revealed *Epstein-Barr virus*, which is the virus that causes *mononucleosis*. In light of all her symptoms, the doctor suspected this was possible and the test confirmed it.

We don't know how she got it, or how long she's had it, but probably since April. Her heart trouble is linked directly to this virus because the tissue around the heart can become inflamed with this infection, as well as the spleen and liver. Since we weren't aware of her having the virus, we were starting to be very physically active, even jogging, and this probably triggered the heart trouble. No more of that!! She was prescribed medication to balance the hormone trouble and plenty of rest and fluids for the mono. This has caused a change of pace for us, but we are both relieved to know what the problems are and that they aren't too serious. We will be checking back with the doctors to track her progress, as it may take several months for everything to balance and clear out. Please pray for a swift and complete recovery.

The Last & First Concerts

Our time in Baja, Hungary at the *SOZO International Arts & Music Festival* July 19-23 was a great blessing and God was glorified in many ways. We are convinced that is largely due to your prayers! Ákos was able to come as well as all the other members from both bands! Some friends from the church there hosted us and Dejan spent time catching up with friends from his past summers working with SOZO.



xUprightx on stage



Both bands w/friends
Greg (back left) and
Chicco (2nd from right)

The final and "reunion" concert for *S.O.S.* was a lot of fun for the guys and the crowd as well. Our host and one of the SOZO staff guys even became guest "vocalists" for the last song. There were several technical difficulties during the *xUprightx* concert and both Dejan and Akos were sick with a cold, but for their "debut" it went quite well. The festival was a safe place to try things on for size, and it was a blessing to finally be able to do what they've waited these several years for. You can see some video clips and other band information on their website:

www.myspace.com/xuprightx.

"Talitha cumi"

We wrote in May petitioning your prayers for Ramona, a young girl from our fellowship who had emergency brain surgery for meningitis and went into a coma. Her life was in such a delicate state for many weeks that it was unknown whether she would continue to live on in this life, but the LORD has awakened her! She is still diagnosed as comatose by the doctors, but they moved her from the Belgrade Children's Hospital to the local hospital here in Subotica in the middle of July because her condition was stabilizing and she no longer needs life support. She worsened at first but improved in a few days.

We went to see her yesterday, and it was a touching but encouraging visit. Her hair is growing back and her eyes are open. She can look at the people around her and responds to questions by answering with a blink. She is also able to cry, though there are no tears. Her mother said she has even uttered a few words. What a miracle her life is! And God has been using it to draw her father back to Himself! This dear little Christian sister is still in need of great prayer. There is still some infection in her sinuses which may require operation. She is bed-ridden, immobile, very thin and unable to do anything by herself except breathe and sleep. We are praying for her to know the Presence of Jesus with her during this time, believing together that He will raise her up for His glory. We ask you to join us in seeking her healing and recovery. She will have her 14th birthday on August 25.



Ramona awakened in mid-July



Dejan & Srđan in Vajta during the Foundations Conference

Growing & Serving

Our friend and brother Srđan just came back from five weeks of Summer of Service at the castle in Hungary! This time was a big step in faith for both him and his mother, as Srđan believed that he had ruined his life and had no future. God gave him the grace to complete his commitment, and we also rejoiced to hear that he was baptized there! He is now in a time of transitioning back to life in Subotica and it is kind of tough for him. We know that salvation is God's work from new birth to glory in heaven, so we are trusting that He will carry Srđan through this time and further strengthen him in His grace.

Fellowship in the Gospel

We have been very blessed lately for open doors to share the Gospel with several people in various settings: neighbors, relatives of Dejan, and peculiarly, a man who is quite high up in the Catholic church here but has many questions of the Bible's authority and veracity. There has also been a small group from the church who are interested in growing in evangelism, and they are coming over to our place for fellowship. We were lent a set of DVDs which was invaluable to us in exemplifying how to share the Gospel more effectively. There is definitely a good stirring going on in the hearts of many in our church body, and it is exciting to think about what the Lord is putting together here in Subotica!

Much Study

Last Wednesday, Dejan finished teaching through the book of Hebrews! It was the home-stretch of a long race that took us through the beautiful epistle of the superiority of Jesus and the many exhortations for us to believe and hold on to Him to the end. Thank you for your prayers during these several months. We weren't initially expecting for him to finish all at once, more in piece-meal when the pastor would be absent, but the Lord knew all along! We also learned a lot personally, as to how the enemy wants to undermine the teaching of God's word by picking on the teacher and his family; and how we need to be sober and vigilant, as the Bible says, so we don't fall prey to his devices but stand strong together and have a rich supply of mercy and grace for each other.

The women's Bible ministry has continued to improve each time we meet, which means that the Lord is building us ladies up in our gifts who are serving and building us together as a team to make it all flow smoothly. I finished my first "series" of studies on the role of a woman according to the Bible, and at the end of July we started a series on true beauty. We are also looking ahead to a one-day conference in the fall, for which we will begin planning soon. This is a new endeavor for me and also for the team, so the cry of my heart is for God's wisdom to guide and direct. The little vision He has given is in need of His light, as I want it to be a time for building up Christian women but an outreach to those who do not yet believe.



Time of worship before the Bible study on God's call to women as "Home Maker"

Also concerning teaching, Dejan has been invited to teach in place of the pastor in Vukovar, Croatia while he is out of town later this month. We would like to be able to go, as it was the last city to which we took a team of Bible College students before moving here, and also because the pastor and his wife are good friends (the pastor is the former singer for *S.O.S.*, see above story). The greatest, and only, obstacle is the issue of transportation, since Vukovar is about 2-3 hours away, and being a small town, there aren't public transportation connections, especially on Sunday day or evening. If it's the Lord will, we know He will provide a solution.

Translation

This ministry has taken a bit of a back seat since the end of April when Dejan began teaching weekly. He's at it again, though, now that his study in Hebrews is over, and going full speed. The transcripts for Romans are nearing completion, and audio will begin soon. Dejan's goal for this first year of living here in Subotica is to complete 1 Corinthians, but because he translated John before receiving transcripts, he will cycle back to the gospel before beginning a new book.

Rudi is still doing editing, although recently he has had issues with his job which are preventing him from doing much ministry at all. This is a clear attack from the enemy to thwart God's work, not only in translation, but in Rudi's other ministries as well, including the band, the youth group, and supporting Kris in the outreach Bible study going on in Belgrade. But concerning translation, he is continuing to learn the computer program and find ways to make the editing process better and more efficient.

A Clever Invention, a Helpful Blessing

Whoever invented the wheel was brilliant; whoever invented the bicycle, a genius. Just a few days ago, the Lord amazed us again with His provision for our needs: we were given two bicycles! We were talking about how good it would be to have at least one bike for Dejan to get places faster, and we even tried to borrow one but it needed repairing. Before we could get that far, the Lord brought us a pair to match our tastes. I got an old German touring bike (remarkably like a beach cruiser) with all the bells and whistles, and Dejan got a mountain bike which only needed a few lights and reflectors. We've been all over town since then, and it's how we got to the hospital to visit Ramona yesterday. Truly, our Father "knows what things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matt. 6:8)!

It's amazing how often the temptation can arise to give up on the work that God has called us to, even with all of the good things that He is doing! Jesus called His disciples to "come aside by yourselves, ... and rest a while". He knows our needs. We need rest and refreshment so we can get back into the work and continue at it with our whole hearts. As we enter this last month of summer, our desire is to remain in Him who is "always working and ever at rest" (St. Augustine), that we may run faithfully and experience His endless life in and through us; and more fully walk in the good plans He has for our lives here in Subotica.

We are so thankful to all of you for your interest in our lives and your encouragement and prayers. It's truly the work of God to put such care into your hearts for us, especially since many of you only know one of us and others have never seen either of our faces in the flesh! Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Feel free to send us news from where you are; we'd love to hear from you!

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His grace,

Dejan & Julie <><

Prayer Requests

- growth in grace & love in **our marriage**
- increasing devotion to the LORD
- **women's ministry** team, conference planning, Bible study August 25
- strength for Dejan in **translating**; wisdom in all areas of ministry
- **healing for Ramona** and that she will know God's Presence with her; continued **growth for Srđan**
- **full recovery for Julie** (and for our friend **Ildi**, a missionary in Poland who was also diagnosed last week with *mononeucleosis*)
- more open doors to share the Gospel
- daily filling of the Holy Spirit
- God's will concerning our support situation
- whatever else the Lord puts on your heart...

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