

Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord!

It's hard to believe that we have been back in Serbia for a full month already! We are still adjusting in some ways, waiting for a few things to start up again, planning for the changes that are ahead of us, so we aren't exactly in "full swing", but we're far from idle! There are so many different things going on that we're just going to give a snapshot of each, but we hope that the news is as encouraging for you as it is for us! God is working, and He is growing us and our ministries to Him.

We were blessed with many resources while we were in the States, both for Bible teaching and for worship and translation ministries. The Lord hooked us up with a new recording soundboard and headphones, which came at the perfect time and in answer to prayer. Dejan is not only able to use the board for translation but also to convert our pastor's weekly teachings from cassette into mp3 format at home, since the board can be connected to our laptop. ***Please pray for the equipment, which is usually what suffers "mechanical attack", thus slowing progress in translation and other projects.***

Beginning in March, the women's ministry will be meeting twice monthly. We have so many opportunities for hearing Bible teachings, so it will not be a bi-weekly study. Instead, every second Friday, we will meet to hear the testimony of one of the ladies in the fellowship. The heart behind it is to see everyone encouraged in their faith and to get to know their sisters in the Lord in a greater way spiritually. It's amazing how many people we "know" but we don't know how they came to know the Lord! At the end of the month, we will be studying women in the life of Jesus. The men are still meeting for their fellowship and discussion study in the book of Acts every last Tuesday of the month. ***Please pray that the Lord will continue to grow in them greater spiritual leadership, courage, and character.***

The Lord has been pouring grace into the band as they meet for prayer and practices these last weeks. Even despite our absence for 10 weeks, things are coming together more and more, and the guys are all encouraged, curious about what the Lord is preparing them for. ***Please pray for the technical aspects of this ministry***, as equipment is hard to come by here, and the guitar amp has been acting up recently.

This week Dejan went with the guys who have been ministering in the local prison. What a blessing that the Lord has raised up two men, Goran and Christian, to serve there weekly, especially since this is their first time in ministry! God is truly doing a new thing. ***Please pray for favor with the warden and for the prisoners to come and hear the Word of God.*** Only one prisoner came to the meeting this week, and apparently only four came in recent weeks. The man said that for some reason the others aren't allowed to come.

It is very possible that in May there will be a city-wide outreach in Subotica involving all the evangelical churches. An evangelist from England and his team would be coming with their tent for a 5-day event on their way back from ministering in Bulgaria. Our pastor and church was asked to oversee the organization of the city's fellowships and the arrangements with the city officials, advertising, setting up the peripheral details. The event is still undecided and the time is quite short, so ***we ask your prayers for wisdom and direction from the Lord.*** It would be the first outreach in Subotica on such a large scale, so we really need discernment and help.

There is a new ministry that we will likely both be starting in the coming months. After seeking the Lord concerning our pastor's request for working with the worship ministry, we believe that He is leading us to serve in it together. What's on our hearts is to have both a spiritual and practical equipping time twice in a month, as a musician's fellowship. There would be a short time of Biblical instruction and then a larger block for working on voices and instruments separately. God has gifted us both musically, in voice and instrument individually, and we see His hand combining them together into this ministry. ***Please pray for the Lord's guidance as we discuss the details and prepare for this new ministry.*** We have been under quite heavy attacks of discouragement regarding this new work we believe He is doing.

We just wanted to give a little update about Srđan. He has been one year in the Lord already, and it is a blessing to see how God is redeeming his life. After he came back from the Summer of Service in Vajta, Srđan began preparing to take some college entrance exams. It was difficult for him, since his mind was still not functioning well after all the drugs and drug treatment he had, but just last week he announced that he passed his English exam! ***Praise the Lord!*** Once Srđan thought that his life was over and God couldn't do a work in him for much besides getting him free from drugs, but truly, as the Word says, He gives "a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Nebojša is a young man Dejan has known for several years, when he wasn't yet saved. Then he came to the Lord, and finally last year he and his new wife began coming to the church. He has a very teachable spirit, and Dejan would like to begin discipling him one-on-one. ***Please pray for open time in Nebojša's schedule*** as it is very tight with his work hours and responsibilities as a husband and father of two young children.

It has been nine months since our young friend Ramona almost died of cerebral meningitis. We last saw her recovering at home before we went to the States, but we haven't been to see her since we came back, and haven't seen her dad at church. However, we did hear that she has learned to eat again and we are anxious to know how she is doing. ***Please pray that God will open the doors for us to schedule a visit, and for her continued healing and the work of God in her family.***

One very new development that has been in the works for what seems like *forever*, is that we finally have everything worked out with our support! Our sending church, Calvary Chapel Pocatello, is sending us through Shepherd's Staff, a ministry that handles missionary finances. So for those of you who have been waiting in prayer with us and for the Lord to open the door for us to receive support fully, ***thank you!*** It has increased our budget significantly, however, because of taxes, insurance, etc., but we trust the Lord to provide as He guides. If you would like to begin or continue to support us in the ministry here, the details are both at the bottom of this letter and on our website.

Thank you for all of your encouragement, prayers, and support for us! Since we've been back in Subotica, we definitely feel that the battle is more intense, but so is our sense of how loved and cared for we are by you! We absolutely couldn't keep going strong without you. May the Lord bless you in love and mercy and strengthen you this day to continue walking with Him.

In His grace,

Dejan & Julie <><

More Prayer Requests

Please pray for...

- ❖ God's provision and protection
- ❖ for continued growth in our marriage and our spiritual lives individually
- ❖ the Spirit's filling and leading of Dejan in all his areas of ministry: (translation, assisting pastor, band, men's Bible study, discipleship); for Julie: balance in her responsibilities (language study, ministries at church & home)
- ❖ salvation for Dejan's mom, Gizela
- ❖ for us as we prepare to teach this month (*Women's Bible study: Feb. 23rd; Men's Bible study: Feb. 27th*)
- ❖ strength for today; encouragement in the LORD and grace to stand firm in faith during times of spiritual attack
- ❖ that we will maximize daily opportunities to shine the light of Jesus and do all things for His glory
- ❖ the technical details to come together for Dejan to continue recording translation of Pastor Chuck's sermons
- ❖ whatever else God puts on your heart...

How to contact us:

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God Bless YOU!!

Support Address/Instructions

The most thorough information about how to send financial support is on our website:

www.geocities.com/hclife4christ

Checks should be made & mailed to:

Shepherd's Staff

P.O. Box 27220

Albuquerque, NM 87125-7220

In the memo line, write **#1326**

(please *do not* write our names on the check)