



January 9, 2005

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Dear Friends and Family~

I have little in the way of news to share with you at this time, as my responsibilities here remain the same, and will continue through the Spring semester. There is a very strong urgency within me, however, to seek specifically for **prayer support** as I approach and walk in the good works that the Lord has ordained and made me for.

In November, as I was traveling to Budapest early one morning, I suddenly realized all that I am doing and how much more God *desires* to do. Not only that, but as

I am in a **time of transitioning**, from serving the Lord as a single missionary to serving Him as a married missionary, all of the details of my future life and ministry caused me to become very sober in thought. I sensed an acute need for prayer support.

It is an exciting time in my life because I am preparing others to serve the Lord and to know Jesus while the same is happening to me! The ministry of Calvary Chapel Reaching Europe has been and is a training grounds for missions. I watch new and seasoned missionaries leave here for new places knowing I, too, will go to a new place one day, and soon. So it is a sober time in my life as well.

As Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning preaching and teaching the gospel—the ministries of evangelism and discipleship, i.e. missions—and new doors of opportunity, he said, “And who is sufficient for these things?...our sufficiency comes from God” (2 Cor. 2:16, 3:5). This is my thought exactly. He later wrote to the church in Philippi saying what help prayer was to him (Phil. 1:19-20), and in numerous other places he sought the prayers of others.

My commitment to this ministry extends nine more months, and I want them to be the fullest, most impacting months I have had *yet* because I believe that the Father desires to use me now and to equip me for the future. As I did not have opportunity to **establish a base of committed prayer support** upon leaving the U.S., I am now writing this letter to ask for it. Not that my service here is without power, but I know there is more to be had, and there are many needs for which answers —>

“ NOW I BEG YOU,
BRETHREN, . . . THAT
YOU STRIVE
TOGETHER WITH ME
IN PRAYERS TO GOD
FOR ME . . . ”
- ROMANS 15:30

EPHESIANS 6:17

“ PRAYING ALWAYS
WITH ALL PRAYER
AND
SUPPLICATION IN
THE SPIRIT, BEING
WATCHFUL TO THIS
END WITH ALL
PERSEVERANCE
AND
SUPPLICATION FOR
ALL THE SAINTS—
AND FOR ME... ”

Prayer Requests:

- protection of my daily prayer and devotional times; an ever-deepening fellowship with the Lord
- wisdom and ability to prepare lesson plans
- Spirit-filled teaching to the kids in school (for all the CCA staff) and for Dejan, assistant-teaching the book of Hebrews in the Bible College this semester
- Wisdom in discipling the girls serving in the library
- motivation in studying Serbian despite a busy schedule; God's help to learn & begin speaking
- The LORD's anointing upon Dejan as he works on the Serbian translation project of Pastor Chuck's sermons
- Dejan and I to grow in grace and love; the knowledge of His timing for us
- The salvation of Dejan's mom, Gizela

(continued from front)

do not yet appear. The needs are of course spiritual, material, emotional and physical. These are not the needs of the whole world, but my own, as I serve and am presented with opportunities to serve, to disciple, to evangelize, and to give.

For every soldier on the battlefield, at least *nine* are working to back him up in support, bringing reinforcement if necessary, and I see missionary work as no different. My thanks is to God for all of you who have had it in your heart to pray for me. I would have been unable to stay out here this long without you. Thank you to all who are behind me as I go through and work in spiritual “boot camp” here on the field. I know that it is a challenge to balance your own very full and often fast-paced lives in the States and yet to remember one who is far away from the comforts and community of her homeland. You really are walking in the power of God! It is comforting to be remembered by you.

For any who desire to engage in consistent prayer with me (individuals, couples, families, home fellowships), *please* let me know! I am more than willing and happy to share requests, needs, and answers as frequently as you like. If you desire to join in, but don't know how to begin or go about missionary prayer, the book *Serving As Senders* by Neil Pirolo gives valuable, insightful, practical help.

After returning last week from Christmas in Subotica, hearing of new believers, experiencing the opportunity for Dejan to share the gospel with his mom, hearing of my simple presence creating an impact on a sister's walk with the Lord, and many other such things, I am more excited to pray than ever. I hope it is the same for you. Much love,

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All staff of CCRE are here as missionaries. If you wish to contribute financially, please mail checks payable to **Calvary Chapel** with a note attached “for Julie Mercer”, to the address above.