

The William LeFevre Family

Missionaries in Bulgaria

October 2022

“But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.” *Psalms 115:3*

To the Strangers and Pilgrims scattered abroad,

Howdy from Bulgaria, where the country's a mess politically, the people are in darkness spiritually, but God's working miraculously. Does that sound like anywhere else you know? Sounds like the whole world to me. Bro. John (the Apostle, not the preacher you had in mind) said, “The whole world lieth in wickedness.” And instead of repenting, they're just rewriting the definition of what's wicked. In fact, the entire saga of mankind has been a giant attempt at rewriting their own story, blaming the Lord for everything, excusing the devil as a misunderstood victim of circumstances, and portraying themselves as determined overcomers, surmounting impossible odds to surpass the need for an omnipotent God.

You don't think so? Nothing is new under the sun. Remember when Nimrod presided over the first United Nations down in Babel? They drew up a charter of self-determination, resolving that the Almighty was outmoded and unneeded. They instituted a one-world economy centered upon production. Finally, they passed a binding resolution, committing themselves to build a sure defense from future judgment and a means to ascend into the heavens. The good Lord rolled His eyes at their presumption, spoke a word that confounded their words, and derailed their plans, for the time being.

Human history is littered with attempts at supplanting facts forever settled in Heaven with the fictions of fallen man. In our day, it seems like they've doubled down on their own fantasy, to the point they think they can recreate the Garden of Eden, this time without the interference of God. (Ever hear of the Green New Deal?) They're redoubling their efforts at ushering in the Kingdom, minus the King. And the only Christianity they'll tolerate is one curiously lacking the resurrected Christ. What a mess, indeed!

Nevertheless, while the heathen rage, the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, He just laughs and goes about His business. Our God is unaffected, unmoved, and unconcerned over His opposition; they can't do anything to stop Him. They tried once. They assumed they'd put a permanent end to His interference in their affairs. They soon learned their affairs were manipulated to serve His purpose. How can you do anything at all against the One who can do anything at all? In the end, He'll reconcile all things to Himself, by Himself, and take all the deserved glory for Himself. And praise be to His worthy and blessed name, I'll be there to see it for myself!

What's God doing now, you ask? Let me tell you. We had a meeting in late August in Dabravino. It was the biggest meeting we've had in a few years. It was attended by Heaven and a couple hundred Turks and Bulgarians. There was singing, testifying, preaching, and praising the Lord. At some point we adjourned from the meeting house to the riverside, where twenty-three souls, who had confessed their faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ, were baptized.

The first man into the river was called Bayram, from Brestak, where Bro. Mitko is the faithful pastor. He had opened his house for the believers to meet in many years ago. At some point he opened his heart for the Lord to

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reside in, though he was timid and perhaps weak in his faith. Not long ago he was diagnosed with cancer. And though the doctors operated, there wasn't much they could do. It seems he resolved that before he departed this world he'd confess Christ publicly. He was assisted into our meeting and laid upon a makeshift bed, but he entered and exited the river in his own strength. Not long after his baptism, Bro. Mitko took him to see a doctor in Pleven, about four hours away. The doctor confirmed he didn't have much time left, and there was nothing he personally could do. On the trip home from Pleven, however, the great Physician healed him permanently. He slipped off the shackles of this decaying form and entered into life in the presence of Jesus.

An older man from a village close by attended the meeting out of curiosity. He listened intently to the preaching, drank in every testimony, and there at the riverside, he presented himself a candidate for baptism. Young Alish asked him, "Are you a believer?" He said, "I wasn't when I came, but who can deny this? I believe Jesus." He got immersed in Christ, and then we dipped him in water. Bro. Keith Blalock and I visited the meeting in his village several weeks later, and there he was. Not only was he in attendance, but he was translating everything being said for a Polish man who came.

Bro. Demir had several converts from his villages willingly and joyfully acknowledge their faith in Jesus. Ahmed and I were privileged to baptize the brother and sister from Varbitsa who have opened their house to the church. Young Alish said there were seven from his villages, saved during the last year or so, who were baptized.

Speaking personally, as good as all that was, and it was better than good, it was exceeded only when my little boy, Christian Asher, came to be baptized. I say little boy, but he's bigger than his momma now. I've never pushed my boys to do anything, but I sure have prayed, asking God, that in His good time, they'll take His hand in theirs and follow Him whithersoever He would. And He would, and did, lead Christian to declare publicly, to Turks, Bulgarians, and Americans alike, that Jesus Christ was his savior. My heart was full to bursting while raising my hand to Heaven, saying, "I baptize you, *my brother...*" What a God, who'd give His blood to wash a father and son, and make them brothers in the same spiritual family! Carrick Austin, his older brother, says he's waiting to be baptized when we return to America. He's a little like Naaman: He thinks the rivers of his own country are better than these here.

Pray for us. We've got needs and wants we only mention to God. Pray for the work here. Pray for the workers. God sure is good. "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless his holy name.*"

Because of a living Savior,



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