

Dear Family and Friends,

If you had a choice between: 1. living in absolute chaos but seeing a greater response from your friends towards the Gospel, or 2. living in a comfortable, convenient, predictable state and experiencing complete indifference from your friends when you share the Gospel with them, what would you choose? Honestly? Do we care about our lost friends more than our own comfort, entertainment, etc? These are hard questions that usually always come to my mind in crisis situations like these. I remember Paul's great spirit of sacrifice for his own nation:

*"My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed – cut off from Christ! – if that would save them."*

What great passion! Paul would have sacrificed even his own salvation – his greatest Treasure, if he could, in order to save his brothers and sisters from eternal damnation!

As a human being with a sinful nature, that I still fight with daily, I must confess that some days I don't have this kind of attitude; some days I care more about my own pleasures, happiness, comfort, conveniences... more than my friends' salvation. But when I'm filled with his Spirit, I'm ready to pour out my whole life as an offering for these Serbs! I'm ready to suffer in all kinds of ways just to see them come to Christ.



*Dušan (a friend of ours), Benny and Hana*

Within a few days, because of the virus crisis, I lost a ton of things I really like (temporarily, I hope!): church services, my gym, cafes, ministry to drug addicts, evangelizing with personal, *real* contact, practicing hospitality, visiting people, entertaining with my keyboard at birthday parties, weddings... Being in quarantine is a real bummer! (Especially for extroverts like myself!)

Like many of you all, I'm having to adjust to this strange situation and I don't think it's going very well. Please pray that God gives me wisdom to know how to continue to oversee this flock here in Temerin and evangelize in these new circumstances. In my limited mind, I see this crisis as a hinderance, but I'm quickly seeing that God is working out some really amazing plans that I would have

never imagined! Non-Christians that are scared to death are being reached through the internet and other means and many Christians that have been lukewarm for years are suddenly waking up and coming back to the Lord (as you will read about below). Leaders in ministry, missionaries, pastors... that are in desperate need of rest are finally getting it. Workaholic friends of mine are getting their priorities straightened out; spending much more quality time with the Lord and their families. It's so cool to see God do so many amazing things through such a terrible situation! He is so awesome! Once again my world is getting shaken up, but He hasn't changed. I've lost a lot of stuff, but I haven't lost Him and I never will. When the desert is hot, dry, miserable... the Living Water is even more appreciated and enjoyed!

Thanks so much for your continual prayers and support. We are so thankful for all you do to help us! Hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Take care!

With much love in Christ,

Greg and Jelena



*My very first online Bible study!*

## One Fine Day – by Jelena

The Balkans are known as a troubled region: civil wars, economic sanctions, hyper-inflation, extreme corruption, high unemployment and poverty, assassinations of political leaders and other people of influence... along with other various things, have plagued this region (in greater and lesser degrees) for generations. So, when the Corona Virus pandemic threat began, quite honestly, many Serbs here first greeted it with an indifferent shrug. But as the government started to implement heavy restrictions, forbidding mobility, social events, closing borders, schools, restaurants... and after more people became hospitalized and a few even died, panic levels began to rise. But as fear begins to seep into people's hearts all over the country, some really great things are starting to happen as well. God is beginning to work in a special way.



Goca

When we first moved to this small town back in the late 90s to start a church, one of the first people to come to Christ was a young lady named Goca. Her husband also became a Christian and they both started coming to church, which at that time was in our coworkers' living room, with their little daughter. We became really good friends. God gave Goca a great gift of evangelism and through her many others heard the Gospel and came to know the Lord. But then unfortunately, a few years later she had an affair and fell away from the Lord. When we moved back here just a few years ago we had her over a few times and tried to encourage her to get back with the Lord, but she was completely uninterested. I kept praying for her hoping that things would change. Then, after this crisis hit, I got a call from her that filled me with joy! She wanted me to be the one she told first about her decision to come back to the Lord! She said that this virus was kind of a "straw that broke the camel's back." It helped her realize that she just couldn't handle life anymore and desperately needed Christ. She came over the other day and we got on our knees and prayed together,

thanking and praising our great God. It was such an incredible time! Now she texts me verses every day. We are so excited!

On that same day a guy named Daniel came over that Benny, our son, met at church last Sunday. It was the first church service Daniel had ever been to! Benny got to share his testimony with him and gave him a Bible. Oh, how God has transformed my son, taking him from death to life! It's amazing to think about where he was just a little over a year ago – completely spiritually lost, in a psychiatric ward then in rehab.

In the morning of that same day I was at a painting class and my teacher started opening up about how nervous he is. After chatting for a while, he became convicted of his backslidden state that he's been in for years and also decided he wanted to get back with the Lord! "I'm tired of this life I'm living. I just can't live without His peace anymore!" he said.

Oh, how wonderful, good and powerful our Father is! Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for He is with me!

*Rom. 15:13 – "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."*



Tatjana interviewing Jelena on a Serbian internet channel about how to deal with fear after the outbreak of the Corona Virus:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=3148890315161721&id=194179853966130%3Fsfnsn%3Dmo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3148890315161721&id=194179853966130%3Fsfnsn%3Dmo)

## **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” This includes the French! – by Greg**

I’ve always loved meeting people from different cultures and learning about their history, customs, food, language, politics... Just a few years ago I met a guy named Patrick from Paris, France through a good friend of mine that lives up in Budapest. He seems to be going through some kind of mid-life crisis. I was surprised how quickly he opened up to me about it. “Greg,” he said, “Do you ever wonder what life is all about? I’ve spent years building up a good profession, but now I’m so miserable! I’m getting older and I feel like everything is so meaningless, like it was all a waste.” Of course, I immediately started sharing the Gospel with him. We spent a few hours talking about the Lord. I could tell he was hungry for Him. He very quickly became a Christian and everything started to change. I got this letter from him a few months later:

**Dear Greg,**

***Thank you so much for your message***

***Since our discussion, I have been reading the bible and related books to try to understand.***

***I do my prayers everyday with great joy and feel much better, quiet and self-confident, lucid and clever.***

***It is amazing because I have felt great changes in me very rapidly. I feel like I am not the same person.***

***Temperance, quiet, strength and so much more.***

***The most incredible of it, is that all of a sudden I am having success or at least great result with all I am doing either personally or professionally.***

***I don’t feel like smoking, drinking or doing stupid things with money but on the contrary it is easy and obvious for me to go to the right way and don’t ask any efforts.***

***So for that I am very greatfull to you and life for having made this possible.***

***Hope to meet you soon and why not next september with Szilvester.***

***Take care,***

***Patrick***



**Patrick**

Ever since his conversion, I’ve been trying to get Patrick into contact with a French pastor named David that has a church in Paris, but unfortunately Patrick kept flaking out on me. Just a few months ago I got to spend a day with Patrick (he was over in Hungary and Serbia on business). Once again we had a great time chatting about the Lord. I could tell that he had really been born-again. I shared with him about the importance of getting into fellowship with other believers and tried to persuade him again to call that pastor friend of mine and after a few days, he did! Here are some texts messages I got from him:

***Patrick: “Hello Greg I met with David. Very nice man. I will go to his church next Sunday and he will start to teach me The Bible next week. That is just great. Thank you.”***

***Greg: “Wow! Really great news! This really makes me so happy! I’m praying for you, brother.”***

***Patrick: “Can you imagine – his church is 300 meters [328 yards] from my home. Life is strange sometimes.”***

***Greg: “Wow! Amazing! No coincidences with God.”***



## Rehab Ministry

A few months ago I noticed there were some new guys in the rehab center. I asked them before our Bible study to introduce themselves. Each one shared what kind of addictions they got messed up with: from heroin to gambling. One guy named Bojan said, "I was on everything! I tried it all!" He's from Serbia, originally, but moved to Italy with his family when he was 11 because of the civil wars. (That was 28 years ago). It was there that he got messed up with drugs. He tried to commit suicide twice and was mad at the doctors for resuscitating him. The last few years before entering rehab he was living on the streets as a homeless man. His sister found the website of the rehab center and signed him up. He had no idea it was a Christian rehab and was shocked the first few days by all the activities the leaders required: reading the Bible daily, going to church where they sing... Fortunately, he stuck it out and actually started to enjoy the strange atmosphere. A few weeks ago, after one of our services, he responded to an invitation to receive Christ. He wanted to talk to me one-on-one:



*Bojan and I right after telling me the great news!*

*"Greg, something happened to me during your sermon. It was like someone was cutting my heart open. I couldn't stop crying! Ever since I entered the center, everybody kept telling me things I didn't really understand; things like: "You have to receive Christ with your heart, not just your head." I wanted to know what they were talking about, but I just didn't get it until that service. It all makes sense now! I'm completely different, changed... I know He's in my heart now!"*

### Please support us!

If you would like to help us financially, here is all you need to know:

1. Support by check - <http://www.serbianoutreach.com/support-us-19>

Or...

2. Support online - [https://pushpay.com/g/calvaryvistamissions?f\[0\]=Greg+Sivulka](https://pushpay.com/g/calvaryvistamissions?f[0]=Greg+Sivulka)

