



*Renaissance Church of Christ
Sofia, Bulgaria
January 20, 2024*

***"I can do everything through
Him who gives me strength"
Philippians 4:13***

Praise the Lord, dear brothers, and sisters! Greetings from Hristo and Vania Arnaudov, servants of the Lord at the Renaissance Church of Christ in Sofia, Bulgaria!

Yet another year of our lives is behind us - a year filled with lots of tension, unknowns, difficulties, tribulations, and inflation. The war in Ukraine, as well as the war between Israel and Hamas create additional fear and uncertainty.

The country started the new year with a new flu epidemic, affecting mostly children in the schools but also, elderly people. Along with this, the number of those who have contracted the newest strain of Covid is also rising.

Last year, we had to say goodbye to dear to our hearts family and friends who went to be with the Lord: my mother, Ruska, Trenka and Elena - our sisters in

the Lord. Our prayers currently are for sisters from all over Bulgaria: Hristina, Rumi and Stefka from Burgas, Yuliana from Pomorie, and Tsvetana from Varna who is battling cancer.

No matter what happens in our life, we always thank God for being His children. Our faith and trust are placed in Him. We believe that He hears our prayers and answers them! We believe that everything is in His control, and we just need to remain faithful to the end, despite the difficult circumstances around us.

We continue with our worship services in person every Sunday, yet still broadcast these via YouTube for brothers and sisters who live in other cities and cannot attend in person. We plan to have our Bible classes also broadcasted in the same manner so that those who are working and unable to attend, can either join us live online or watch them later.

Last year, the Lord added three new souls to His church here in Sofia: Radostina, Veronica, Anabel. They prepared for this by reading and asking a lot of questions about salvation and the Christian life after baptism, and eventually made this decision and commitment to the Lord.

In November, we had several Sunday sermons focused on the Christian family and the relationships between parents and children in the light of the Bible. The new family at our church, Samuel and Radostina (one of the 3 baptisms), are now both in active ministry. Samuel continues to serve the

congregation by preaching while she interprets his sermons. Thus, in addition to Natalie and

Bisser, in the translation & interpretation ministry we now have Radostina as well. We also had fellowship time with the families in the church to observe the Day of the Christian Family (November 21), by gathering for a meal and sharing related thoughts and topics.



In 2023, Nikolay and Yordan were more involved in leading the worship services, prayers, and in serving the Lord Supper.



We encourage them to be even more involved and active not only in the worship services but also outside of that with any maintenance needs our small meeting hall may have. With their help we were able to set up new monitors and a new, bigger desk for all the equipment we use during worship.

We continue our ladies' prayer, praise, and fellowship gatherings. Prior to Christmas, my wife organized another such gathering where the ladies had a chance to fellowship, sing songs, pray, share testimonies, exchange small gifts, and share some delicious finger foods.



Additionally, my wife Vania also spends time with the sisters individually, where they share their challenges and problems and pray together, or with the elderly sisters who cannot attend in person any more due to their advanced age and health challenges, such as sisters Ginka and Veska.

The Sunday school classes are in two groups. My wife works with the younger children, while brother Aaron teaches the teenage class.

The children at the church once again prepared a small program for Christmas with thematic songs and poems.



They are always very excited to do this and put in a lot of effort and due diligence into preparing as they realize that this is a way

to share the good news of the Gospel and may help touch someone's heart and make it open and receptive for the Lord. As you know from years past, we extend a special invitation to family, friends, neighbors to come to church during Christmas.



The Bulgarians seem to be more receptive and willing to come to church on holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

Last year, brother Bill Bynum visited us for a couple of weeks together with his wife Nancy. He currently serves at the church in Prague, in the Czech Republic. He has been among us many times throughout the years, and we have always enjoyed having him come and share the

Word of God with us, whenever possible for him to travel and visit.

Our plan is to have our annual financial reporting meeting as soon as the weather warms up a bit, where besides reporting on the financials we hope to encourage more of the church members to join in the various ministries. We hope to be able to start a new ministry with non-Christian women with whom we plan to meet and talk about the issues and difficulties they are going through, offering them help, and sharing God's love and mercy with them by reading from His Word.

For the past several weeks there has been a new couple attending worship with us. They have expressed interest in the Word of God. We have already begun our individual meetings with them to discuss and answer any questions they have.

We pray and hope to be able to have a seminar and children's camp this summer. The kids and teens have been meeting mostly in the church building for board games and Christian movies, but as soon as the weather allows, we will be planning more activities for them outdoors.

We thank God, brothers, and sisters, for His help, protection, and blessings! We believe there is power in prayer, that He leads us through His spirit, renews our strength, and we will be more than conquerors in this world!

We thank all of you for your encouragement through emails and cards, for the prayers and for the financial support. May the Lord bless you, as you and us - we are all a part of God's family! Glory to God!



The church during prayer and singing

Prayer for the children at Renaissance



*In God's mighty hand and
in His love,*

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