



*Renaissance Church of Christ
Sofia, Bulgaria
April 15, 2022*

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

Dear friends, brothers and sisters, greetings from Hristo and Vania Arnaudov, servants of the Lord at the Renaissance Church of Christ in Sofia, Bulgaria!

Grace and peace be to all of you who pray for us and support us in our ministry in Bulgaria! We hope that our newsletter finds you in good health and that the peace of God, which the world doesn't know, fills your hearts! We thank God for you as we all, on both sides of the ocean, serve our Heavenly Father together.

With the help of God, we made it through yet another winter season. Despite the very cold, icy, snowy, and overall uneasy and harsh winter conditions however, the brothers and sisters from the Renaissance Church of Christ did not miss any of the worship services, except for those who were ill. As we had mentioned before, mostly all church members went through the covid challenge, and especially

through its final variant. And, as the news started getting better in that regard and the measures in place were slowly reduced or completely removed, a new trial came - the war in Ukraine and along with it, an inflation of about 15-20% on basic food items, fuel, and energy carriers.

What else could we possibly do but pray and believe that God is in control of everything.

Everyone tries to get involved and help Ukrainian refugees. Our prayers were specifically for the family of our sister Natasha (who is from Ukraine but lives in Bulgaria). Her sister's family lived in Mariupol and were trapped there for over a month. During that time, there was a period of about 3 weeks when there was no news from them, and we did not know if they were alive. But Praise the Lord, about 10 days ago, they messaged Natasha. They were alive, although they say they do not even know HOW that is

possible. They were able to escape Mariupol on foot, literally walking over dead bodies as they were crossing the city and then ran through a forest, going East. For about a week they were in the Donetsk Republic where they recovered for a few days from colds and the nightmares they had lived through, while also waiting to have their documents prepared to attempt and leave Ukraine through Russia. This was a very risky move but the only one available to them. After some challenges and problems entering and exiting Russia, they are now safely in Estonia where brethren from the church there have put them up until they are able to board a bus towards Poland this Saturday. They plan to then travel through Slovakia and arrive in Bulgaria sometime during the next week. In the meantime, we prepare for their arrival and thanks to a sister in Christ and a friend of ours, we will be able to put them up in her apartment until they will have the time to get some much-needed rest, recover from the stress and fear, go through the process of registration, find a school for the children, and eventually, some work.

All these events mobilize us even more and encourage us in our ministry for the Lord! We

have been able to continue meeting and praising the Lord despite the measures around Covid that hung over us for two years - we had our worship services, whether in person or online, held our Sunday school with the children, as well as our ladies' prayer and study meetings. We had the opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day with our sisters at the church building in a wonderful fellowship time, where we praised God with songs and then had some snacks and finger foods as a treat.

Our main priority, however, remains and it is the children - the future of the church and of this country. They are still split into two groups. With the older group - tweens/teens - we now study the Bible at a much deeper level, while with the younger ones, we cover more simplified version of the Biblical stories and give them the opportunity to do crafts and to draw - something, they enjoy very much.

Brothers Rafik Hanna and Samuel Amadin have been actively engaging in ministry by preaching on a regular basis, while Nikki and Dani (Yordan) are taking their first steps into serving the church and the Lord by leading the worship services.

As of April 1, all covid-related measures have been

removed, including the digital “green” certificate, which used to be required for meeting in public places, at most big stores, art and cultural events, and other places. Currently, the number of covid cases reported is significantly lower, however, the news are flooded with the war in Ukraine and people’s hearts are filled with fear once again.

Despite all this, we trust the Lord will keep us safe in His hand and our plans are to have the children’s summer camp again this July and a seminar for the adults around the same time. We are thrilled to have our dear friends, brothers, and sisters, from the WestArk church of Christ, come be with us and help us in this venture. Everyone here is looking forward to both events (it’s been 3 long years since the last time we were able to do it).

Our petition currently, is for your support in prayer for this 7-member family from Mariupol, Ukraine. We pray that they may arrive in Sofia safely. They were members of the church there and have spent long days and weeks in the bomb shelters, walking for many miles to reach a somewhat safer place, and now need to travel several days before reaching Sofia. They are exhausted and weak. They need us

to lift them up to our Father in prayer.

As always, we thank all of you for your help, support, and encouragement! We need your prayers for God to keep us strong, give us patience, love, health, and for His peace to fill all our hearts! Be blessed!

With much love and in His
Grace,

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