



*Renaissance Church of Christ
Sofia, Bulgaria
January 21, 2023*

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

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

We wish all of you a Happy New Year! May 2023 be a year filled with peace and grace for all!

With God's help yet another year of our life went by - a year, filled with many trials and tribulations. The Covid pandemic, which is slowly subsiding, was suddenly replaced by the start of war in neighboring Ukraine, which unfortunately continues and deepens. Following that, the rising inflation is impacting not only Bulgaria, but all of Europe. In the past year we lost many beloved brothers, sisters, and relatives, mostly due to Covid.

Despite all difficulties, the church persevered, and we have been able to carry on with most of the church events as planned. We

had guest-speakers, brother Bill Bynum, Nathan Fritz, and Sam White, who were able to visit the Renaissance church family and preach, as well as have a short seminar. It was a wonderful and blessed time of fellowship and mutual encouragement for all.

Brother Bynum Preaching



Seminar lesson by brother Sam White



Sermon by brother Nathan Fritz



In the Summer, during the visit of the WestArk youth group from the US led by Rick Odell, we were abundantly blessed to be able to once again have our annual children's camp, as well as a weekend seminar. The camp activities and lessons for the children, as well as the parenting seminars, played an enormous role in uniting the families at the Renaissance church even more. The weekend seminar, attended by many believers from all over Bulgaria, was a great blessing and encouragement. We are beyond grateful to brother Rick Odell for this and the many other seminars and camps during the past 10+ years. He has been sharing his experience in working with youth with us and the church and thanks to this, the young families at Renaissance are now more eager to participate in the life of their children within the church - getting together to brainstorm

and plan various activities and events with the youth every month. We praise God for using brother Rick as an instrument in His hand for the work in Bulgaria. We hope that we can continue our ministry work together in the future.

The children and teens began their preparation for the Christmas program sometime in October. It is a tradition at the Renaissance church, each year to have a short play (prepared and presented by the children) which depicts the events around and the actual birth of Christ, our Savior. The play has a narrator, the children playing the different parts speak the specific Scripture passages pertaining to the scene, and in addition to the play, they also recite Christmas poems (written by Bulgarian Christians) and sing some of the Christmas songs. The purpose of this program is mostly for the people we invite on that day to church and who are not Christians. They get to listen to a sermon on the birth of the Savior, listen to the songs, hymns and poems, and see the play. This year, some of our guests were, Peter Neshev, who is partially blind, together with his wife, Lidia Georgieva (a prior journalist), and Eva Krалеva - a professional musician. The

children's excitement around presenting the play is enormous and each year, they tend to become better at it, as they realize the impact on non-Christian visitors who come to hear the Gospel.

Christmas Play





Christmas lunch at the church



The congregation continues to meet for worship every Sunday. Ever since the pandemic, we have been broadcasting our worship service through our YouTube

channel for all who are unable to attend in person for various reasons. We plan to use this channel as well when we are ready to reinstate our Bible classes.

As per the parents' planned activities for the youth, there have already been a couple of Christian movie projections at the church building. In the new year, they have also planned time for board games once a month, as well as some outing events in the park or the mountain, weather permitting.

Ladies' fellowship time is also back with meetings at the church building or, on occasion, at someone's home.

Ladies Christmas at the church



Ladies Fellowship at home



In the past quarter, we were also able to make use of the warmer than usual fall/winter weather and had an outing to a historical site in Bulgaria - the King Samuel's Fortress - a mid-century fortress, situated between Belasitza and Ograjden mountains, and on the right bank of river Strumeshnitsa, in southwestern Bulgaria. The fortress was built between 1009 - 1013, during the rule of king Samuel - today, it is a National

Park-Museum Samuel's Fortress. The place was a truly interesting one for children and adults alike, as many of the historical artefacts were very well preserved.

Church Outing at Samuel's Fortress





For all this, we are deeply grateful to God, for His help, protection, and blessings! We believe that when we have a constant with Him through prayer, and allow to be led by Him, He will renew our strength and we will be more than conquerors in this world.



We thank all of you for your support, prayers, and emails! Stay blessed! You are an inseparable and important part of God's family here in Sofia! Glory to God!

The past year was a truly blessed one for the Renaissance church family. We can see the progress made in the spiritual growth of our members, as well as in the unison in which we begin to work together.

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

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