

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Praise the Lord for His mercy, for many open doors and opportunities to serve Him. Every day we experience the presence of His grace and we are thankful to Him for protection and guidance. .

Just as it is happening in the most parts of the world, virus COVID-19 disrupted normal life also in Serbia. Lot of people got corona virus and every day the number is growing. Some people stopped working and some are working from homes. We are not allowed to go out from 5 pm till 5 am. It is recommended for everybody to stay home, just go out if there a need for food or medicine. Most of the shops are closed and only for essential necessities supermarkets and pharmacies are working. When outside of homes everyone must wear a mask and gloves. People older than 65 are not allowed to go out from homes at all. This is really hard but we have to behave according with the present circumstances. This is second week when children are out of schools. Our two children and plus my brother David came with his three boys, so we have five children in the house. They are doing home schooling what is totally new and soused a bit of confusion because the teachers are not well prepared to teach online and we parents try to help.

Just at this specific time a month ago we got humanitarian aid packages with food to help poor families, which is very much needed now. We are helping old people in the church and neighborhood to supply anything they need, because they are not allowed to go out.

We canceled Sunday services and women's meetings. But are in contact with all believers and friends, talking to each other, praying for one another and being one in the Spirit, even we can't meet each other. This entire situation is unpredictable, but we trust God with confidence in Him, knowing for sure that He is in control. We can't do many things in this moment and can't change this situation but here are the encouraging words: Isaiah 55:8-9 says: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, or your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Although we do not understand God will fulfill His plans.



In our previous prayer letter we mention that on Saturday 21st of December, we organized in the Church Christmas Tea party for women. There were 30 ladies, 16 non believers, 6 of them for the first time were present at Christian fellowship. We prepared a program which included: Christmas songs, Bible truth about Jesus birth and interesting Christmas story. Afterwards all the ladies enjoyed together friendship with nice food and friendly conversation. Some of non believer ladies were really opened to talking and asked questions about the Christmas. We are still in contact with some of them and few came to our ladies meetings from time to time. Praise the Lord for this great opportunity to preach the

Gospel.

Like every year we planned to distribute Christmas shoe boxes from Samaritans Purse. Usually, we were giving these boxes to poor children, through some association working with children with disabilities and give personally to the poor children in their families. It was always a great opportunity to share the Gospel with children and their parents. There was a promise that we will get 150 shoe boxes, but unfortunately we got only 30. So we canceled distributions in all associations, schools and poor families we planned. We are still not sure what happened in the main organization Samaritan Purse Serbia, but we got

explanation from them that they forgot us by mistake. We were very sorry because many children were disappointed, but we couldn't change anything. God knows why these doors were closed and we hope in the future it will be resolved.

This winter was not cold as usual, it was not any snow till last week. Novica was able continuously to work on the camp facilities to finish the job that is needed to be completed for the summer. Lately workers have been working on bathrooms behind the dormitory and on the loft above the dormitory and meeting hall. There is a plan to make few more sleeping rooms, library and rooms for larger groups organizing games and leisure time.



We want to thank everyone who donating the money for 25 bunk beds that we asked you to pray for in our previous letter. Now 50 persons can sleep at the camp. Now for the second phase project is a need for 50 mattresses, for what we trust the Lord to raise £84/\$100 per piece, what is total £4200/\$5000

We are planning summer activities for this year at the camp Timok:

- in the middle of May we are planning to have bigger women's meeting where we are expecting about 50 ladies from different part of Serbia
- in the beginning of June we are planning to have conference for churches in our area
- in June it was a plan to organized two camps for children with disabilities from Christian organization "Hanna's hope", but they postponed it because of the corona virus crises
- in July we are planning to have children's camp and in August music camp for teenagers

- in the middle of September pastoral conference, for mission workers and pastors

We trust the Lord that everything will go as planned but we will be ready to adapt to the new situation with corona virus crises and postpone some camps till the end of July and August.

Please pray:

- to God to have mercy on people and stop this corona virus in the world, in your and our country
- for us to serve God and be testimony to the people in this situation, so that they can call on the name of the Lord
- for our and my brother's children, as they are doing home schooling for the first time
- for our church fellowship and women's group, believers and non believers, because we cannot meet during this time
- to accomplish all the plans we have at the camp, finish all the work preparation for the summer time and organize summer camps and conferences as planned
- to adapt to the new situation, accept it and completely trust that God has this in control and that in Him we are safe and secure

Thanks to all of you for your care, prayers, love, support and anything else you do for us and our Ministry. We pray for you that God will keep you safe and healthy in this situation. May God bless you in everything you do and guide you as you are serving Him!

With much love in the Lord Jesus
Tamara & Novica, Martha and Jacob.