

THE SWEET SPOT

Fall in Bulgaria...

Greetings from Bulgaria! Please keep reading for some updates on our life in Bulgaria...

The most significant development in the past month has been a perspective shift. While we arrived here eager to serve, we have frequently found ourselves on the receiving end of service. Living in a new culture and not speaking the language has created vulnerability that we didn't anticipate. Everything from a broken tooth to plumbing issues have left us basically helpless in this foreign place - literally and figuratively! We have been beyond blessed with great support from the team that is already here with each obstacle. This time has given us a new perspective on the people we are here to serve and hopefully will give us more humility and grace as we do.

After we arrived in Bulgaria, we discovered an unexpected gap in our health insurance coverage. We are extremely thankful that we were able to secure additional coverage, but it comes at a high cost that was not planned in our budget. We are in need of an additional \$750 each month to cover the premium for the coverage. If you feel led to

contribute to our insurance costs, please click here <https://give.fmcusa.org/donation/df-vibgsweet>. We are very grateful for your support!

Updates

- As we mentioned last month, since we arrived, we have been living in the HEAT of summer. Locals assured us that the weather would break with the beginning of school on September 15th. September 15th came and went and it was still in the 90s. On Wednesday afternoon last week, the wind picked up and the temperature dropped significantly. It's been comfortable in the 70s since then. It finally feels like fall weather to us!
- With the start of school (pictured below), we have spent some time with our Petrich team planning outreach programs in the coming months. We are excited about the opportunity to engage with our neighbors and build relationships with the community. Please pray as we begin an English homework help program this week for school children.
- Our language study continues. In the past several lessons, we have been learning vocabulary to help with our weekly trips to the farmer's market. Like most markets in the US, it is a fast paced, socially rich place to observe culture and try locally grown produce. We are growing more confident in our ability to communicate - or at least tell people "I don't understand Bulgarian, can you speak English?" There is still a lot to learn!
- We also began looking for a vehicle this past week. We can get around Petrich without a car, but we do need a car for ministry outside of Petrich. We have been blessed with the help of our bi-vocational pastor in Petrich who also has an auto repair shop.



First day at our local high school

Your prayers and financial support have been so precious to us in our first few months here. We love keeping in touch with you and sharing what God is up to here!