

SUMMER 2021

APOSTLE NEWS

A newspaper by a missionary kid in Bulgaria

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VBS for Pleven kids

On June 21st-25th New Life Church Pleven had their first Vacation Bible School. Amy Postlewaite, along with Laura Lee Umphlett & Eden Suggs (see p. 2) led the kids in lessons about Jesus' power. We interviewed one of the kids, Vinnie, for a kid's opinion: "I enjoy coming to the VBS because it is very nice and fun. We learn things about God and what we have to do so we can know Him more." Amy led the kids in some fun songs and games. One of them included oreos and stacking them on your forehead.

We hope our work here can help these kids grow closer to Christ and that we will be able to do this again next summer.



MISSION NOT IMPOSSIBLE

written by Anna Postlewaite

Corona has hit the world like a boxer hits his punching bag. It hurts. Because of it a lot of things have been postponed or canceled: weddings, vacations, plans and more. But still God has a way of helping us during the pandemic. Despite Covid, here in Bulgaria we've been able to welcome some new missionary interns. Keren Delgado arrived in November 2020. It wasn't easy. To enter the borders, she had to come as a student learning Bulgarian. For several hours a day she sat in front of a computer with only audio learning Bulgarian. Through that hard time, Keren was incredibly resilient. She is now living in Varna, the same place as Vanya & Triff Trifonov.

Two other missionary interns were supposed to arrive here in Pleven at the same time as each other, however, Eden Suggs got here two weeks later than Laura Lee Umphlett, due to Covid. Laura Lee is studying music & culture, and Eden - to be a teacher. Thankfully both girls arrived in Pleven, helping out at the church and at camp (see p. 1 &).

And though we are very grateful for Keren, Eden & Laura Lee, some have not been able to come yet. Ken & Jane Cash are studying Bulgarian in the States so that they will be able to finally live in Bulgaria. We'd appreciate it if you'd include the Cashes in your prayers today. Pray that more interns or missionaries come here (and other places) so that they could spread the Good News to everyone they meet.



Editor's Note: Praise God! The Cashes got their visas on August 18th, after this article was written.



Laura Lee's songwriting recipe

1. MELODY
2. RHYTHM
3. LYRICS

FORMS:

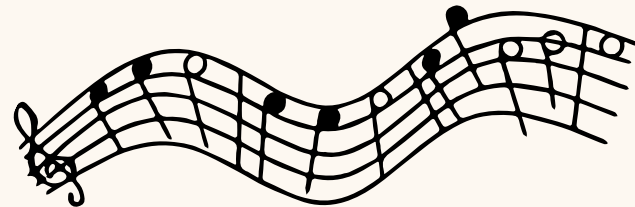
1. VERSE/CHORUS
2. CALL & RESPONSE
3. PRAISE CHORUS

STYLES:

FOLK; POP CHRISTIAN;
HYMN

TEMPO:

UPBEAT/FAST
MEDIUM
SLOW



NATIONAL MUSEUM "VASIL LEVSKI"

Vasil Levski (Vä-sēl Lev-skē), born in Karlovo, lived during the Ottoman rule (1396-1878). His real name was Vasil Ivanov Kunchev but was given the nickname Levski for his incredible 'lion's jump' (lion in old Bulgarian is lev, now however the translation for lion is luv) during his training for war with Georgi Rakovski. His goal was to liberate Bulgaria from the Ottoman Empire. He is also known as the Apostle of Freedom because of his organization and development of a revolutionary network for the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule. He traveled throughout Bulgaria and set up secret revolutionary committees to prepare a general revolution. His dream was a pure and holy republic in which all have equal rights, regardless of their nationality and religion. A famous quote is "If I win, I win for my country, but if I die, I die for myself". He was a monk, before he set his life on the Liberation of Bulgaria. In Karlovo, his hometown, they've made a museum out of his own house.

People in Bulgaria respect Vasil Levski for his love for his country and his love for God.



National Museum "Vasil Levski"

Mysterious Gift

The following is a true story

Keren Delgado grew up in a missionary family. She was born in Cuba, grew up in Panama, and then moved to the United States. She shared an amazing story about an incident in Panama: “So, I was about to start 4th grade and all my professors and all the other professors in the school decided to go on strike because they felt that the government was not paying them enough. So, this mysterious person, we still don’t know who it is, we still don’t know where this person is from, decided to pay a full year in a private school for me and my brothers.” Keren sends a message to their generous giver: “Thank you. It was definitely a gift from God. Thank you for being so generous, thank you for answering that calling from God, because I think it was God who put that desire on you to help us. We’re so, so thankful.”

That really is a moving story. And though there are people like Keren’s giver, still many kids can’t go to school for one reason or another. So I ask you to pray for these kids. Pray that they will be able to get a good education wherever they might be.



Twice in a month!

On the July 5th-10th and 12th-17th, the Postlewaites helped with TWO weeks of camp! The first camp (5th-10th) was held near Burgas, a city by the beaches of the Black Sea. The kids had fun learning about Jonah, the Lord’s prayer & an annual missionary story – about Nate Saint, Jim Elliot and the other missionaries who traveled to South America for Operation Auca. On the last night of camp these kids displayed some remarkable talents at the talent show through songs, instruments & skits.

The leaders made sure the kids learned something about Jonah. They purchased raw fish from the market and let them sit in the sun for three days (or so I’ve heard). They got a tent, put the fish inside, blindfolded a few kids and stuck them inside the “belly of the fish” (aka: the tent). They squirted the kids with water guns, shook the tent, which smelled like fish, reading out loud the story of Jonah and telling them to “repent”. One of these kids was my sister Jonna Postlewaite.

At the second camp, the kids explored the story of Joseph. In their quiet time every morning they talked about guarding your heart. They swam in the nearby pool, played games, and had a sort of Olympics.

I personally think, as a kid going to camp, that it just feels right to be there with friends, praising and learning more and more about God.



Banitsa

INGREDIENTS

FILO DOUGH;

**FETTA CHEESE (AS MUCH AS YOU WANT -
THE CHEESIER THE BETTER);**

4 EGGS;

ONE CUP REGULAR YOGHURT;

1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA;

OIL

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place one sheet of filo in pan.
2. Stir together the yoghurt and baking soda. Add the eggs and stir again.
3. With a pastry brush, spread oil onto the filo sheets. Count two sheets and flip so that side with oil faces rest of dough.
4. Dump five or more spoonfuls onto sheet and spread. Crush cheese into small chunks and sprinkle over half of sheet.
5. Take corners of sheet and fold it into a roll. Place in pan.
6. If sheet isn't oily, spread some more oil with pastry brush. Flip.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 until pan is full.
8. Bake in preheated at 356 degrees oven until golden brown.

Banitsa is a traditional pastry dish made in Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Serbia, prepared by layering a mixture of whisked eggs, natural yogurt and pieces of white brined cheese between filo pastry and then baking it in an oven. It is regularly made as a New Years tradition, hiding a coin in the banitsa. Whoever finds the coin will be blessed throughout the New Year.



Note: recipe above is for rectangular pan

COMMUNISM THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

Some of you might not know this, but Bulgaria was once a communist country. From 1946 to around 1991 the Communist Party came to rule. We've asked Vanya Triffonova to tell us what it was like during that time, as a kid: "I was born in 1972 and I spent my childhood during the communist rule. I grew up in a small town – Karlovo, in a big family – I have two sisters and a brother. Even before I could walk, I was enrolled in a nursery because my parents had to work and paid maternity was shorter, only a few months.

For me a special moment was New Years. Then, Christmas wasn't celebrated a lot, because Communism denies the existence of God. My dad traveled hundreds of kilometers by train to Sofia to buy us bananas, oranges and a present from CDS – central department store. If at home it smelled like oranges, I knew that New Years was coming.

Going to the movies was the best thing. Every month or every two weeks there were new film titles but only in Bulgarian or from the socialist countries. There weren't any English films or from other Eastern countries because they

were enemies of the country and the 'bad guys' for us, at least that's what they taught us. The same was with music.

As kids growing up during communism we were like all the other kids in the world, but because of growing up during communism we weren't allowed to have or assert our one opinion because the society made all of us think the same things--whatever the communist party said. You couldn't be different, nor in the way you dress and the way you looked, nor in your thinking, nor in your behavior. If you were different there were consequences – scolding, being kicked out of school, some kids were sent to camps, something like mini-prisons for kids.

As kids growing up during communism we were also deprived of knowledge about Christian beliefs and about God, because communism is an atheist ideology and doesn't believe in the existence of God. They taught us that faith was only for the grandmothers. On church holidays like Easter, Christmas, Palm Sunday – there were police or secret agents who would sit at the entrance of the churches and report who would go in and what they would do, and usually after that the Christians would have problems with the authorities.

People were scared to speak in public against the authorities or the bad things they saw around them because if someone told them that you're criticizing, and in the society, there were a lot of snitches and secret agents of the militia (that's what they called the police), you could go to jail or to special camps where it would be awful. Our parents were scared and planted that fear in us.

To be quiet and know when to be quiet was important. To know to flatter and to praise the people in the authority, even if they didn't deserve it was also important. For the kids it was important whether their parents were part of the communist party.

During communism they taught us that we all had to be equal, which was impossible. We didn't have any freedom. People had many fears. This way they were separated in society.

I would compare communism with heresy because it distorted the human and Christian beliefs. Instead of God – the Communist Party with a capital P. instead of Jesus as our Savior – the proletariat (working-class people regarded collectively). Instead of paradise in Heaven – paradise on earth."



Expect in next issue:



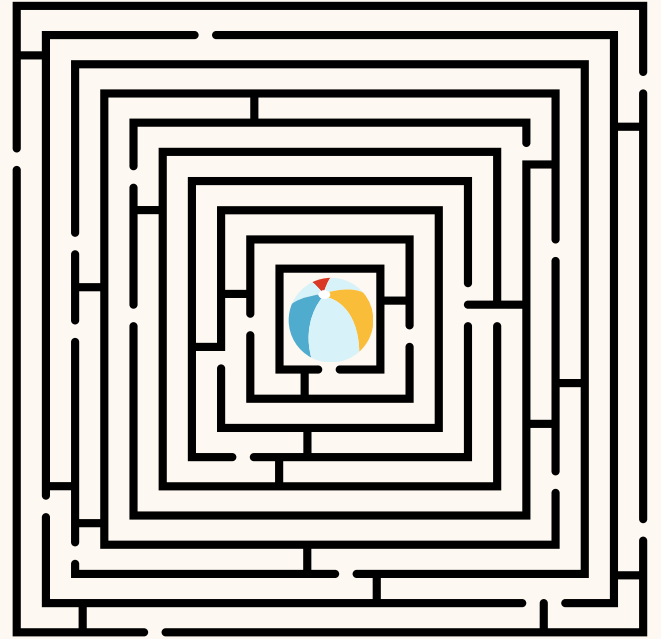
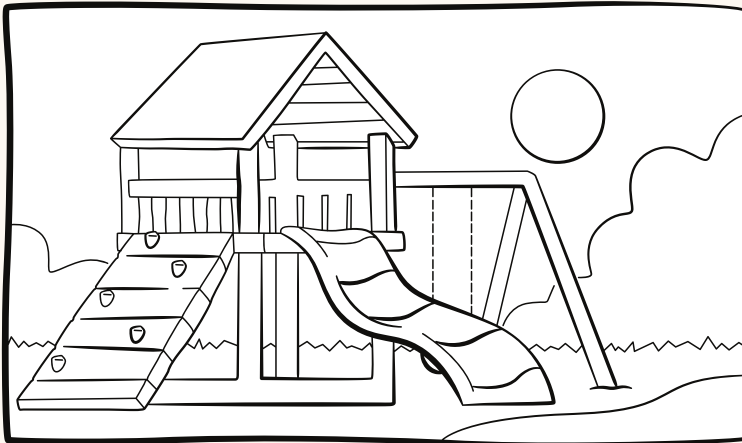
UNICORNS UNITED

by Jonna Postlewaite



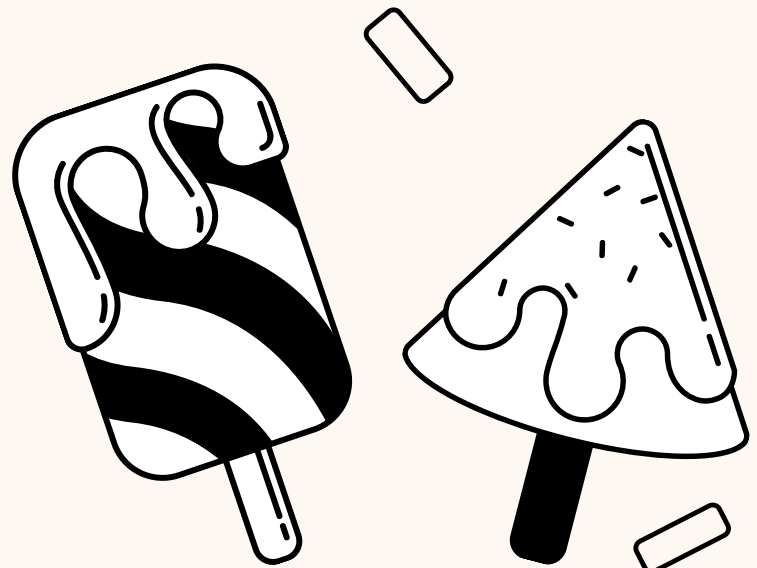
For the kids

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



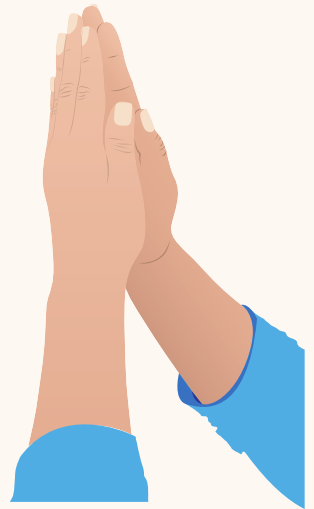
*Ice Cream
Dreams*

COLORING ACTIVITY



PLEASE PRAY FOR BULGARIA

- Pray for churches in Bulgaria
to reach more and more people
- Pray for people in Bulgaria
to hear God's Word and be saved
- Pray for the kids in Bulgaria
to let Jesus in their hearts
- Pray for the Christians in Bulgaria
to keep following Jesus
- Pray for the Postlewaite's
*to be strong when there are difficulties
and changes*



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