

Burkey Beacon

Student Ministry in Macedonia

November 19, 2017



Dear Friend,

It is hard to believe that we are starting our 14th year here in Macedonia! I (Amy) really enjoy looking back and remembering all the growth and changes we have witnessed in this ministry. I hope you will enjoy a little recap of how God has worked. Our staff team has grown from 7 Macedonian Staff to 26 Macedonian Staff. Our ministry, that only consisted of reaching out to college students with God's love, is now also reaching out to high school-



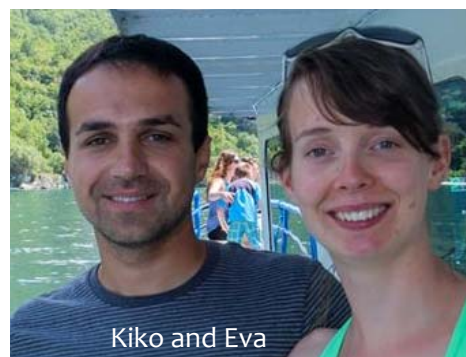
aged young people, young professional leaders, churches, and families! We always dreamed that one day we would become a sending nation, and we realized that dream last year as we began to send staff and interns to Sofia, Bulgaria to help restart their student ministry. That partnership continues this year with a new team working in Sofia. The New Staff training Adam and I came to do is entirely passed on and done by Macedonians now, the curriculum has been updated, and it will soon be coordinated by a Macedonian as I work to hand it over this year to Tanja. **Please pray that Tanja would shepherd our new staff well through their two years of training.**

Over the years, Adam has received training for a multitude of responsibilities, some that he has shouldered alone just because there wasn't anyone else ready to do them. Now, this year, many of those responsibilities are being handed over to individual Macedonian staff and Adam is able to help encourage and coach them as they take their responsibility and run with it!

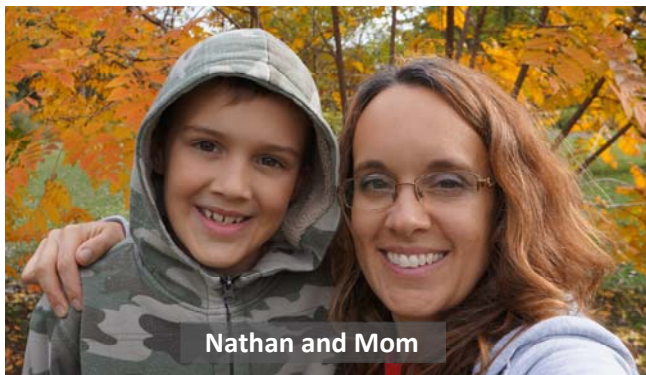
Over the last 8 years in Macedonia, we have loved so many things the Lord has allowed us to do in our free time, like lead youth group, Sunday school, and worship at our church, coach baseball, gather young people for mission conferences, help a few village churches, mentor a young pastor, and volunteer with our student ministry. The only thing Adam didn't enjoy was his specific role with Cru...his day job! We were happy to serve in any way, and operations and finances was a big need, so Adam filled those roles for a long time. Recently though, we felt led by the Lord to make a transition out of that role, to start serving in a place in Cru where Adam could use his God given strengths and passions. We communicated that with other leaders here nearly a year ago, and we all began working to try and find Macedonian staff to step into Adam's main roles of Operations Director and Financial Manager. There weren't any obvious answers. That is why Adam has stayed in these roles so long.

But God is always faithful, & He loves us & you & this ministry very much.

We are so thankful for Tomo, who embraced the responsibility to lead the Operations team. Tomo is the founder and president of Cru Macedonia, who cares so much for the staff, and as founder was already performing several tasks in operations. Adam's main job now is training him to step into the director role fully. **We also are so thankful for Kiko**, Adam's teammate on the financial team. Kiko just got married in July, yet has decided to take on the additional responsibility of becoming the National Financial Manager. This also is a big and critical role. Kiko is gifted in managing details, and fairness is one of his highest values. So his natural strengths will help him serve our staff well in this role. **Please pray for the Lord to enable the transitions into these roles to go smoothly. Please pray for Tomo and Kiko to work together well and enjoy sweet fellowship.**



We praise God and are so THANKFUL for the students He is reaching with the Good News of Jesus, for the men and women He has grown and developed in their faith to be witnesses in their own culture, for the staff He has called to labor with us in helping to fulfill the Great Commission here and around the world. We are THANKFUL for ministry partners like you who are faithful to pray and to give financially to make our ministry and the ministry of our staff even possible. What a joy it is to partner with you and trust God to work in the hearts of people here in Macedonia, and now be able to look back and see His faithfulness and His hand at work in the lives of so many men and women! To God be the Glory!



As the ministry has gone through many challenges and changes, so our family has also experienced many challenges and trials over the years we have lived here. One of the hardest challenges we have faced has been recognizing and attempting to help Nathan overcome a processing delay that makes some school work time-consuming and frustrating for him. We were not aware of his delay until he came out of Macedonian school after 3rd grade and I began to homeschool him solely in English. Last year we used many therapies in order to try and help him progress in his math, spelling, reading, and writing fluencies. These therapies provided little success

but brought a lot of anxiety into my and Nathan's life. By the end of the school year, our whole family was completely exhausted and we were frustrated that we had not seen the progress we were hoping to see. We really didn't know what we were going to do for Nathan's educational needs and emotional health.

As we were seeking answers last spring, we were referred to a woman who works with struggling learners at a private school here in Skopje. Her name is Katerina. She has been trained in a program called Take Flight, a program that is similar to a program I was trained in last January called NILD (National Institute for Learning Development). Here was someone in Macedonia, other than Mom, who was trained to help students struggling with learning and who did it in English! I was so relieved when she began working with him a few times a week last May to see if she thought she could help him. She saw his needs and he responded much better to her than he did with me. I cried tears of relief at the realization that maybe the Lord was leading us to have Nathan attend this school for the coming year.



Our biggest challenge with sending Nathan to this school is the cost. It is a relatively expensive school. As we continued to pray about our options and had meetings with the director, we felt the Lord was making a way for this school to be possible for us. The director reduced the price significantly but we are still having to trust God with

a considerable amount. After prayer and consideration of our options, we enrolled Nathan in this school called QSI of Skopje and we are happy to report that he is doing much better there!

His teacher, Alison, and Katerina the specialist both say he is responding to them and working with them well. They still see his need for help and are able to work together well in order to make sure he gets the individual attention he needs. What a relief this has been to our whole family! Really! Last year was excruciatingly hard for us all as he struggled at home! We are SO THANKFUL for His provision for Nathan with this school and their ability to effectively handle special cases like him. **Please pray for Nathan's progress and witness in his school.**

We pray that you also see the Lord's hand in your life over the last years. As we close this, we want you to know that you guys mean the world to us! We pray that your Thanksgiving celebrations are very blessed!

Thank you so much for your partnership! Adam & Amy

Adam & Amy Burkey Staff# 6207785 Ul. Praska 20; Skopje 1000 Macedonia (740) 334-4315 Adam.Burkey@cru.org