

Burkey Beacon

Student Ministry in Macedonia

December 20, 2017



Dear Friend,

We hope you have found good ways of making family memories celebrating Jesus' birth. Amy and I are looking forward to hosting Cru Macedonia's Christmas party at our home, with a meal, singing worship-Christmas songs, and our white elephant gift exchange. It is so nice to crowd all our staff and their kids in our home to fellowship together for this occasion.

Macedonia celebrates Christmas on January 7th, so it was normal for them to plan a major outreach on December 24th. That night they'll be showing the film, *Magdalena*, (prayerfully) to a full crowd in the town of Kratovo, Macedonia.

The *Magdalena* film is used in many ways, like the *Jesus* film. It stories the life of a woman, maybe like Mary Magdalena, whose life was changed by Jesus. It is well received in most any culture, but especially those that don't place a high value on women. God uses the film many times to instill hope that forgotten individuals have value and hope in Jesus! This will be the second recent outreach of this kind using this film. Let me share how Suzana, one of our dear staff organizing these outreaches, recalls the premiere of the movie, a few weeks ago in the city of Stip, Macedonia.

"The premiere was planned to take place in the National Theatre of Stip. At 10 a.m. on a sunny, beautiful, autumn morning we went to the theatre to check up on the equipment and the film. Everything was working flawlessly. The young man who was in charge of the technical part told us that everything was all right and we wouldn't have any problems.



"Before the start, everything was in its place. The auditorium was filling up, the music was playing... all this until the moment when all the electronics froze and we couldn't show the film on the screen. Alexander (the technician) didn't know what caused the problem, and he tried so many things to solve it. The theatre hall was almost full. Around 140 women were waiting to see the film and at the same time were enjoying the beautiful sounds of the guitars and the meaningful lyrics of the songs "God is in control?" We said to each other, "Yes, He knows, and He is in control."

“Suddenly, we got the film to appear on the screen, but the picture was constantly blinking. We decided to go with it and believed that the blinking would stop. The film started, but the picture didn’t stop blinking. Ten minutes passed. I started wondering if I should postpone the film.



“A moment later, one of the Magdalena volunteers, Daniela, came out of the hall, crying and said: “I had to go out! There is such a strange atmosphere in the hall. I can’t stop crying. I could also hear a lot of other women crying inside and the picture is still blinking, but you don’t even notice it. You’re like enchanted by the words of Jesus.” Another woman named Bilijana said, “The film was blinking, but we didn’t blink – we were crying.”



“The film finished and I came out on the stage to invite the women to fill out the comment cards and join the small discussion groups. I invited the ladies to join us so we could “walk together along the way of hope” as experienced by Magdalena. Most of the women circled that they wanted a DVD of the film. One of them said that she wanted to learn everything that Jesus had said, and show the film to her family.

“And the story isn’t over yet. I don’t know what God was doing in the hearts of those women that stayed until the end of the film, but I learned that God works in imperfect situations and through imperfect people. From that film showing we have seven small group Bible studies started! **How great is our God, who works in His own ways! All the glory belongs to Him!”** By Suzana Petrovski

Please pray for the Magdalena outreach on Christmas Eve to bear fruit, for women’s hearts to be touched and continue to meet in small groups to learn more about Jesus extravagant love for them. For the men reading this, for phase two, we are planning to invite the women participants to bring their husbands for Bible groups that focus on healthy marriages! So please pray for that transition too.

It is such a joy to partner with you and our staff like Suzana to help reach Macedonia with the HOPE of JESUS!

In January we have the opportunity to travel to Cyprus for our Eastern Europe Staff Conference. It’s hard to find a conference site this size in Eastern Europe. This Cru conference takes place every 3 years, and the theme this year is “Rest—Renew—Run.” Rest in the Lord and with each other, Renew our walk with Jesus, and prepare to Run the race Jesus marked out for us. Also MK2MK will be there to lead our kids through a program for young people. On the way home the staff serving in Macedonia will travel for 5 days to Jerusalem for a team excursion. Please pray each of these will be meaningful and refreshing for our walks with God.

With these conferences ahead of us, we will need some special help to make it possible. This last year our income was lessened due to a shortfall in our financial support. Along with that we had increased expenses due to Nathan’s schooling. Yet with all this, praise God, we still have no debt & we really see God taking care of us.

Special Needs: Would you please consider making a special gift to help with some of our expenses?

\$4585 Eastern Europe Staff Conference combined with \$2475 for our Macedonian team trip to Jerusalem.

\$2500 Nathan’s remaining school tuition

\$3000 each in back salary. Over this year Amy and I received \$22,000 instead of our normal salary of \$25,000.

\$650 Monthly Need: In order for us to be at full support, would you consider starting monthly or an increase?

If the Lord leads you to make a special gift or start monthly, please visit the website: <https://give.cru.org/6207785>

Thank you so much for your partnership! Adam & Amy

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