

Dear friends from Denmark,

We hope you guys are doing well and staying safe.

We would like to share with you a bit how things are here and how the Lord is giving us wisdom to deal with the pandemic.

Some of the info we sent back in June, but now we have a lot more to share.

Lockdown April – June

As everywhere, we also had a lockdown in Bulgaria due to COVID – 19 pandemic. The numbers in Bulgaria were not big at that time, but our government did not know what to do, so it followed the rest.

Thankfully, the churches were not closed. One thing we praise God for right away was the wisdom He gave our government. The words of our prime minister were: *“In a time of fear, how can we close the only institution that fights fear – the church!”*

So, we could meet. Of course, we had to keep the rules: 2m (6ft) distance, masks on and disinfection. The church was never closed, although it was up to the local congregations to decide. Some churches did close for a month, however, because they thought it was necessary.

What we stopped were the other ministries. So we had only service on Sunday and Wednesday and women meeting on Friday, as these are the official services in the church. As many in the world, we were introduced to ZOOM for online gatherings. So we moved all our ministries online. With the younger generation it was ok, but not with the older.



In order to shepherd the older people, I (sometimes with my wife), started to visit them every week. We would stay at the gates or the entrances in the apartment buildings and talk from a distance to the older people. In the beginning aged 65 and up were forbidden to leave their homes – so they could not even come to church. So, these visitations proved to be very good for our elderly brothers and sisters.



Because some lost their work or couldn't get their retirements (stay home orders), the church was making food packages for a moth worth of raw food that they could cook with and eat. We did that in the hardest months – April and May.

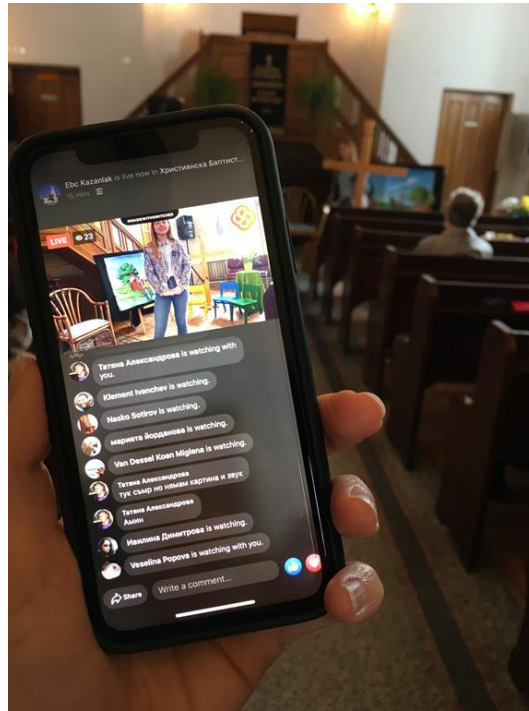


After they lifted the national quarantine more people started to come to church. We would get now about 65 people on Sunday (out of 130) and 15 on Wednesdays. Our church cannot have more due to the regulations.

Needless to say this time a bit hectic for us – the younger generation. On one hand, we have to stay healthy not to infect the older, the older people were not in church ... so for these three months the team that was “doing church” was 5 people under 40 years old. Which

brought a great joy to me, that when the time comes for the older to go be with the Lord, we have good and faithful helpers for the church. I got very encouraged by that.

We started also to livestream our services over Facebook. It was a bit challenging, but the Lord provided the necessary equipment and tools and knowledge to do it ... in two weeks only. So now we stream from our smartphones and it is going well.



June- November – Church Fellowship

After the lockdown, the measures were laxed and people would go out more and be in fresh air. As you know, Laura and I live in a house in a nearby village and took my parents to live with us as they are old and need our care.

So, what God gave us as an idea is that on Sunday after church – the whole church would gather in our yard (picnic style). There were no measured for outside gatherings and that made things easy for us.





So, we would have the whole church (up to 80 people) every Sunday since June 13 up until this last Sunday meet at our place. The people would bring their own food and we would split – man, women, youth and children and have this fellowship – from 12:30 until 4:30pm. Needless to say that worked so good for the church to unite as a family. We have incredible bond between church members now that we never had before. It is a great blessing from God.

Baptism and Wedding

In this time we had two baptisms and because many new people came to church after the lockdown, we are going to have two more in the coming two months. We also had one wedding in church. One of the church board members got married. It was a very joyous occasion.



Youth Online Seminars

At the same time, the national youth work that Laura and I are involved in was going full speed. We organized three youth bible weekends where we studied the book of Habakkuk – since it was very timely. The title of the lectures was “Why does God allow evil, when He can stop it easily?”



Summer Youth Camps

Also, the youth organization organized online youth camp. Because our yard is big, we invited our youth to our yard for the camp. They slept at home but would come to us for the day.



Now, the measures are getting tighter, but they are not affecting the churches, yet. However, we are wise and not pushing the blessing we have at the moment – we keep all the rules.

Soup Kitchen

The European Union provided funds for all the countries to help with food for the needy people. However, that worked only with the ones on record with the government. That leaves a lot more without any help.

Thanks to the funds from many of you, once again we are able to have soup kitchen for the poor people. We praise God for this opportunity and we pray that it doesn't get locked down by the government due to Covid-19 restrictions.

About Laura, my parents, the church and me

We asked my parents not to come to church or go out until June. After June 13 the church medical clinic opened, and my mom could go there and also my dad started doing his administrative duties in church.

For now we are healthy. We had several people in close contact with people infected with Covid 19, but they showed no symptoms. None from church got sick of which we are very grateful, even though it is always on our mind that someone will. We are more worried that the media will learn about it, not so much that people would get sick.

Hope you are doing well. May we never forget, that God, who gave His only Son for the sinners, will give everything else that we need for godly life that impacts others for salvation.

In Him

George, Laura and the rest of the church

