

# The Montenegrin Memo



August 2021

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### Open doors and a little strength

Greetings from Montenegro, May the Lord richly bless you with “open doors” and “a little strength.” In John’s letter to the seven churches he wrote, “What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” (Rev 3)

Although we arrived with a little strength, we have had so many open doors. Your prayers and support have allowed us to start at a running pace. The Lord has prepared the way for his Word to go forward and our ministry opportunities are many. We are blessed with great Christian friends and friendly neighbors. The Lord has provided us with a great place to live with beautiful surroundings and plenty of work. We can testify that a little strength and open doors are the best ministry. We have opportunities, but God keeps us close in prayer because we know that we can do nothing without Him. Open doors are easy to walk through with the even the smallest strength! May the Lord show you open doors where you are and give you the strength to walk through them.



Being a disciple means learning to obey all that Jesus Christ commanded. Making disciples is not only for select Christians, but for all Christians for it is impossible to obey what Christ commands without making disciples.

**“Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you.”**  
— Dallas Willard



### *Open Doors!*

Our plans for missions have been many, and often we are surprised to discover how God chooses to use us. We have found that “English Conversation Club” gets us in touch with many new people. With so much work being necessary to complete our house we had to find what we could do right now. This picture is from our second meeting partnering with Marko one of our great friends here to reach out to the unchurched and non-believing citizens of Montenegro. Covid-19 restrictions are dwindling and that means more options are available to us. The great thing about this group is that we meet in social settings like restaurants or coffee bars. We are truly blessed; God has provided us with immediate ministry opportunities in English and in Montenegrin.

As you can see from the background we met in a “Mexican” themed restaurant. In our first meeting we met at a coffee bar. Time continues to fly by as each day is full of so many responsibilities and joyous occasions. Please continue to pray for us that we can continue to meet new people and share the love and hope of Christ with others. The Monday Men’s meeting continues to be a big blessing to me and I hope to expand it as the Lord leads.



### *Family Time*

One aspect of missionary life is maintaining quality family time, whenever we can find moments together. We have discovered that Chinese food is popular in Podgorica and so we enjoy sharing meals together that remind of us of being back in the States.

But more important for family time than eating is devotional time. We enjoyed going through the Lord’s Prayer one sentence per day. Now we are looking at the “Beatitudes” together. Check out



my Facebook posts which included commentary on the Lord’s Prayer, if you get a chance.

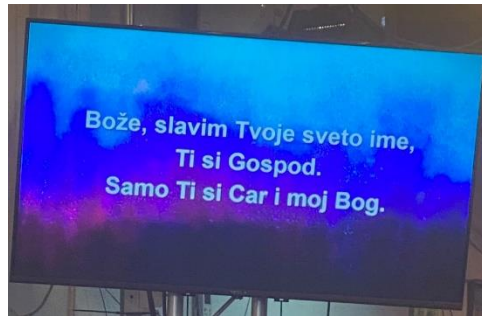
### *Ministry Ready*

We are continuing to work on our house to get it livable and ministry ready. It is a very big project and we have constant delays. My tools have arrived and that has allowed me to do many things myself. Every day I find one project and try to finish that one thing. Ivana is a great motivator and she is never one to piddle around. You can be certain she keeps us all on task. However, finishing the house is going to be a long process.



In the meantime, we are connected with an evangelical bilingual church in Podgorica. We are attending with other missionaries and locals to build up a body of Christ together. It is a real blessing to have other believers to encourage us and to minister to. One of the joys is singing all the songs in Montenegrin. Here is a screen shot of the words. The

translation is: “God, I praise your holy Name, you are Lord. Only you are my King and God.” Some of the songs are translations of recognizable American songs and others are entirely native. There is something special in translating the



words to a song, which makes me think about the meaning more than if I already knew the song. The preaching is more often in Montenegrin, but we are blessed with great translators who provide instant translation through wireless earpieces, so that the English speakers do not miss out. When English speakers preach, we have great translators who can translate for the native speakers.

Please pray that the government will allow us to continue to meet after the summer. All the Covid rules are “relaxed” during tourism season for obvious reasons, but with tourism season ending at the end of August house meetings will be very important to us.

### *Ministry Development*

I had a meeting with our local church leadership to discuss discipleship ministry within the church to help others develop their passion to host small groups and to develop their mentoring skills. I am very excited to find out what God has planned. Pray for us as we plan for small groups in the fall. We have met with some of the church leaders in their homes, and so far, we are blessed with real agreement. In a church this diverse and multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic it is important that we keep all the parts integrated and members of the whole. Pray that we can match spiritual gifts with spiritual passions to encourage and minister to the whole body, and that we will be able to reach the lost in our communities.

### *Kids' Corner*

David continues to make friends wherever he goes. Here is a picture of David with a group of neighborhood kids sharing some “sladoled”, ice cream.

**“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,”**

**1 Thes 3:12**

share the gospel with the lost, disciple the weak, and pour love into their lives.

2. Men’s Meetings – pray that we will be a great encouragement to each other and able to minister to one another.
3. Small groups – pray for our small group leaders. Pray they will have wisdom, patients, love and learn how to disciple their groups. Pray these leaders will be truly driven by divine passion to be disciple makers.
4. Reaching our neighbors and friends. Montenegrins are very relational people. Please pray that we will continue to develop strong relationships with them and that we will have wisdom in sharing the Gospel as the Holy Spirit leads.



### *Quick Prayer Requests:*

1. English Club – pray that we will develop meaningful relationships with those who participate and for opportunities to

### *Difficulties*

As I was finishing this news letter my laptop died. Fortunately, I was able to

recover all of my data and this newsletter. I will have to replace my laptop later in the fall, for now I am using Ivana's laptop. As a result, I will need to find everyone's email addresses again. (Sorry).

Our newest car the Skoda needs to have the power steering pump replaced. It has been at the mechanics for a week. We hope to have operational again soon.

### *Ministry Support*

I cannot thank you enough for your support in your prayers and in your giving. We are so blessed to have such dedicated and loving supporters like yourself. Everything you do makes everything we do possible. Witnessing God's activity in our own lives and in the lives He touches through us is truly awe inspiring and perhaps a little terrifying. It was such a blessing to see a new believer baptized Sunday morning. Our ministry is so new, and yet we are already developing relationship with Muslims and atheist in ways I thought would take years. God is so good to us. Your trust and investment in us are already producing spiritual "dividends." I know that Bible says that we should not expect a harvest in the same season as we sow, but I think God has given us these opportunities so early because of years of prayer preceded our arrival. God was already at work long before we arrived. He is at work still and I am confident He will continue his good work.

Again, we are so very grateful and we love you.

Ways to support us:

We have discovered that the PO Box is the best way to mail a check to our organization. That address is

**Outreach Christian Fellowship**

**P.O. Box 7637**

**Tyler, TX 75711**

**Please add "Montenegro to the Memo line**

You can also give online at through PayPal. Our ministry account is [ocfonmission@gmail.com](mailto:ocfonmission@gmail.com) please add "Montenegro" in the notes.

We also have a direct gift PayPal account, [misions@gtomn.com](mailto:misions@gtomn.com) but those gifts are not tax deductible. Our personal PayPal account is located at the bottom of our website: [gtomn.com](http://gtomn.com).

