



Newsletter: MAY, 2017

„For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and labor of love that you have shown for His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, as you still do!”

Hebrews 6:10

This month we planned to have **David & Julie Leatherberry** visit our school for the first time. Being preoccupied to refresh my mind about their call to Afghanistan, and the years of ministry among the Pashtuns from Central Asia, I decided to read again their book, titled *Afghanistan, my tears*, written by brother David. The book is very encouraging and it is impossible for the reader not to be captivated by the greatness of God and by the miracles He has done for them in all these years of service. Atypically, the last chapter of the book does not present a happy ending in their ministry as missionaries, but rather highlights how God is seriously concerned about every soul. With the title: *God is not playing games with us*, this last chapter was named after Anwar's revelation, a Muslim whom David tried to lead to the Truth. Frustrated about the God's role in the universe, Anwar said: "You know, David, I asked you a year ago if God is playing with the human race, because there is so much evil in the world and so much injustice. I thought perhaps He was." David tried to help Anwar realize that God has given men freedom of choice, but many people "abuse free choice and cause chaos in the world. Yet, without free choice, there would be no love or loving people, but only robots." In the end, overwhelmed by God's love for men, Anwar exclaimed: "That's it, David! That's it! That's the answer ... God loves us! He really loves us. That's why He is not playing games with us!"

After decades spent on the mission field, brother David came to the same conclusion, saying, "Thank you, God, for not playing games with me!" Have you come to this conclusion, too? Or are you a different "Anwar" who needs a revelation?

From the perspective of the verse quoted above, the Christian's labor of love for the cause of the Gospel comes from his or her love for Jesus. God will not forget, and will not neglect to reward the obedience of His children to promote the glory of His Son among the nations, and to do good to His saints. Active obedience sometimes requires huge efforts, but God does not play games with us. He is not unjust, but is very interested about what each of us can do! You know that one is planting, another waters, but God makes it grow! One preaches, another intercedes, but He rewards! Hallelujah!



God will not forget the prayers we lifted up from the street of Turkey!

The first-year students returned safe from Turkey. In three days they will end the course "**Signs and Wonders in Missions**" taught by brother **Everett McKinney**, a man of God who a living proof that Jesus is the Great Physician. Ten months ago he was diagnosed with lymphoma. Chemotherapy followed until February, and doctors said that he is 99% cancer-free. Full of faith for total healing, **Everett & Evelyn McKinney** have been teaching the students and glorified God because he still does miracles! Upon returning from Turkey, the students' desire was to see the miracle of salvation in this nation. This is what brother **Gabriel Šmalberger**, the academic dean of the school, tells us: "*our stay on the Muslim land has reserved remarkable experiences every day: more hours of prayer on the streets of Istanbul, visits to several churches, meetings with pastors and missionaries, but also the observation of culture and people. When listing these experiences, they do not appear to impress someone. Maybe we may even get reactions like, 'what, praying on the streets? Can't we do it at home?' But when you think of the crowded streets of Istanbul, of the countless mosques you see, of the courtyards of schools packed of kids and of the fact that the law forbids to evangelize those younger than 18; of the way some Turks are dressed, with Islamic apparel, of the uncertainty you feel when you hear them speaking; and let us not forget the demonic load that the mosques' loudspeakers broadcast during the hours of prayer, it becomes obvious that the way you pray in the territory of Mohammed's successors is different from the way you pray at home. At the end of the day each of us shared what we felt that the Holy Spirit has placed on our hearts while praying for the people of Turkey. Although the differences between our insights were striking, we felt our hearts being overwhelmed with compassion, love, mercy and the faith that what is impossible for us, is possible with God, that a nation with so many Muslims can experience a revival!*"



Personal exposure to the mission field is not a game!

The second-year students were also excited to return back to school. Their academic training will continue until the 10th of June, but considering the experiences they gained within their internships, it's worth mentioning the following ones:

Alexandra G. writes: *"since I arrived in Mozambique God told me that I must overcome my limits, because He wants to use me at a higher level. It was so relevant that on the mission field I could find the applicability of all the things we studied in the class. I also learned how God supplies: I was the most pressed for funds in the team, but in the end I did not lack the resources I needed. Then I relied on my English knowledge, but I needed Spanish, of which I knew very little. However, while I was in Nacala, my Spanish developed very much."*

This experience from Africa is complemented by one from India, on which **Alexandrina B.** profoundly reflects, saying:

"God offered me the opportunity to get along with my husband in North India, in two capitals of two neighboring states: Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. We faced many challenges since the time we expressed our desire to go to India, and get in contact with one of the largest unreached ethnic groups of India, the Chamar group (which includes 53 million people). I believe that only because of God's love for this people, who are ignorant of the great salvation He offers, the Lord has favored us to go to India. For us, the missionaries we met there were a model to be followed by their example of total commitment, sacrificial serving, humility and dependence on the Lord's help. Although he did not know the local language in his first year of ministry, because of his zeal and faithfulness to the Gospel, one of the missionaries in Uttar Pradesh moved from the village to the village, using as an evangelism tool a TV with a video tape. He carried the TV on his head, and played the Jesus movie, inviting the people to believe in Him. God blessed his commitment, and today he rejoices over much fruit, and ministers among other leaders to over 120 churches in that area of India. At the end of the journey, we could conclude that it may be encouraging or discouraging to listen and make decisions about whether or not to go on a mission field, based on the testimony or the experience of others. I have learned that in making the final decision, it is very important to have our own experience with God on the mission field. He has plans, works, and paths specific to each person and family, and they can only be discovered by walking step by step with Him, who is Savior and Lord."



returned back to school. The wonderful content of the course, and the goal to serve in missions through various forms of counseling, motivated two of our graduates, **Melinda D.** and **Elisabeth C.** to take this course again. Students' feedback shows that the authority God gave brother Erik, plus his teaching skills, qualify him to help the students adopt the healing methods for the emotional wounds from the past, to steadily manage any loss or pain, in the future, and to become aware of the battles against their minds. Thus, by total obedience to Christ, they will live in good emotional and mental health, which will help them last and be effective in ministry.

Another call to prayer, to you, who "have ministered to the saints, as you still do!"

When I talk with my mother about CRST's students, I often hear her saying, *"these young people are saints, Ina!"* Sometimes I wonder if she exaggerates, but 'holy' means to be set aside, and the students are people who set themselves aside for the work of the Lord. Dear partners, your prayers are so precious, that I invite you to set yourselves aside too, and to intercede for:

- **Hiring a new member on CRST's team.** The school's activity is increasingly diverse and demanding. We are looking for a family or a man to take on the role of **Campus Pastor & Practical Ministry Coordinator**. We ask the Lord to send us the right person for this role in the team. We are waiting for candidates to register by the beginning of June. On June 12th, the final interview will take place.

- **The new generation of students.** The renovation work at the apartment bought last year is very advanced. We anticipate that in September every room will accommodate students, and not remain vacant. We have already opened the list for new intake of students for the 2017-2018 school year. We try to do our part. At the end of this week, a group of students will go to **Craiova**, and another group to **Sighisoara**, to invite the believers to see that *"the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few!"* The only One who can send workers in the harvest is the Lord of the Harvest! Ask it from the Lord! He does not play games with the harvest! Every 'Anwar' needs a 'David'!

Thank you! With appreciation, Ileana (INA) Hrișcă – Executive director of CRST

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