



CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
EUROPE

Darko Srnka, Radoje Dakića 49a/21 18000 Niš Serbia

Dear friends,

It has been almost four years since I moved to the south of Serbia, away from my family, friends and church. Though, unclear and difficult at times, this period has been very significant in my life because I've got to know the Lord even better through my ministry.

I could say, I have been in Christ's school, which is in a way unique for every person who wants to serve God and people with their life. Things I have been learning are essential for my spiritual life and relationship with God, as well as for my ministry to children and the youth.



My responsibilities and ministry are increasing from year to year. This summer I was involved in summer-camp activities in Mrcajevci as a camp organiser. When I think about those activities, I realise how blessed that time was and therefore would love to share some of the experiences with you.



Summer Camps 2011

Preparations of the camp site started in June, with the arrival of an Oak Hall group of Christians, who helped with building an access road, and setting up rooms. The preparations continued when a group from Teen Mission Organisation came. These American teenagers lived in their tents on the camp site for a month. They also worked on arranging the site. Without their help the camp wouldn't be as ready for campers as it was.



This summer, four groups attended camps. There were 143 campers and 40 volunteers from across Serbia who served as teachers, cooks and helpers.

Camp Term 1 was designated for a youth group. As the camp started we faced difficulties due to a lack of teachers. But God united a small team of teachers we had and gave us the wisdom to serve those young people and meet their spiritual needs. During this camp we had a good cooperation with the Youth for Christ (YFC) organisation. The main speaker was Zvonko Valentini. Even though this camp started with difficulties it was a greatest blessing to me because 25 young people from Serbia came forward wanting to accept the Lord Jesus and have their lives changed.





Camp Term 2 was planned as Children's Camp. It went well and after the program several children asked to talk with us about their spiritual needs. As I spoke to one boy from Nis I noticed he knew a lot about God. He then told me he had religious education at school. As he had listened the teaching at school he wished to accept the Lord Jesus in his heart and prayed for that, but he still struggled with doubts as he couldn't see a change in his life. We prayed together and I encouraged him to rely on God's promises written in the Scriptures. I explained to him how he can be saved and have confidence in God's promises. This conversation made me realise that many children, like him, heard about the Lord Jesus at religious classes, but they still didn't know how to accept Him, use the Bible and live according to God's will.

Camp Term 3 was a Teenagers' Camp. During this camp we had a group of our CEF teachers from Slovakia. The guests enriched our program and shared with us some new experiences in working with teenagers. The topic was "Joseph's life". Through the lessons and creative theme-games teenagers could learn and go through the experiences similar to those Joseph had. After the camp a girl from Avala near Belgrade told me: "I can't explain how wonderful it was for me to be at the camp, I just want to come back again."



Other activities:

For more than three years I have been visiting a refugee centre in Bujanovac. During this time I have seen how the Lord can change young people's lives and how He can bring about the wonderful and eternal salvation even in the worst life conditions. A special blessing this summer was our friend Marko. He was born in Kosovo and now lives as a displaced person in Bujanovac. This summer, at a camp, he believed in the Lord Jesus. His testimony and evident hunger for spiritual truths point clearly to a change the Lord made in his life. He said that as the CEF team had been visiting them for over five years, he heard the Gospel from the beginning, but that only this summer he realised that the Gospel concerns him and understood he could also be saved. I believe God has a special plan for this family in which four young people believed in the Lord Jesus, and they talk about their experience to their friends.



Even before, during the summer camps the Lord put on my heart the necessity of visiting the children who attended the camps. This summer, since many children came to know the Lord Jesus, it became clear how important it is for this work to continue all year round.



The children who attended the camp live in a circle of around 400 km, and it is my desire to visit them once a month and encourage them to continue following the Lord Jesus and study the Bible because it is spiritual food. In order to continue the activities and also encourage those who believed during the summer camps, we are planning a winter camp, too. It will take place from 8th to 14th January 2012 in Opovo. Please pray for this wonderful opportunity to encourage these young people in their faith.

In October I attended a seminar for training CEF instructors. The seminar was very intensive and demanding, but it enabled me to teach future teachers and run a seminar for workers with children known as Teaching Children Effectively (TCE). This is how my responsibilities and ministry increased. The first seminar I am to run will take place in January 2012. Please pray for this. It is my desire for the students to be committed while studying at the seminar and to commit to working with children in their home churches after the seminar.

As responsibilities in my ministry increase, the expenses of my ministry as well as my personal expenses also increase. If I leave out the amount I receive from the CEF office, as a help to new workers (this help is only a temporary measure until a worker finds a regular support and it decreases accordingly), then my personal budget is covered only 25% and my ministry's budget 30%. One of my responsibilities is to find a team of people who will pray for me and support me financially. In order to secure my ministry among teenagers and the youth in the long run, I invite you to join the team that will regularly support my ministry with their prayers as well as donations.

When God brought me to the south of Serbia He had a plan He wanted to fulfil through me, but I had to discover that plan. Now, after almost four years I can see how the Lord has been preparing me and using me in saving young people and children in Serbia. But all of this probably wouldn't have happened without you, who stood with me in prayer and financially supported my activities. God showed His care for me through your support and He blessed our mutual ministry to children and the youth in Serbia. I can see now what it means to let God use us for His purpose. My greatest joy and fulfilment of my life is to see God's works in my life and this summer there were many of them.

I would appreciate your prayers for the following activities:

- Regular visits to the children who attended camps
- Two new Good News Clubs in Nis which we started recently. The one is for children and the other for teenagers who attended camps. We pray that other children from Nis may also join in.
- God's guidance in our preparations for the winter camp and for those who will come to be encouraged.
- My supporters who would stand with me in prayer and financial support, in this ministry.

If you want to financially support my ministry:

Child Evangelism Fellowship, PO Box 348, Warrenton, Missouri 63383

Note For "Serbia - Srnka, Darko Account Number".
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