

THE RACES' RACE

"Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24b



Dear Friends,

November 2024

This morning, during my quiet time, I read in Ezra, "In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, the word of the Lord spoken of Jeremiah was fulfilled. The Lord put it into the mind of King Cyrus ... to build the Lord a house in Jerusalem" (Ezra 1:1-2). As I read this I was encouraged and comforted by a good God that fully knows the future and makes it come about for the wellbeing of His children.

Entrust Europe Retreat

In the first part of November the Entrust European field held a retreat in Hungary. It was a wonderful time of coming together to encourage each other, update one another on how God is working in and through us, lift each other up in prayer, and dream about the future. We had 18 people present at the retreat site and another seven that joined online. About half were Americans and the other half nationals, all serving in nine different countries. Two new friends that attended are with the mission organization One Challenge.



European Entrust and OC colleagues

One of the questions that we face is, what does a "team" look like that serves in different languages and in different countries? I do not think that we answered the question, but I do think we have come closer together as a team.

Thanks for your prayers. As Entrust Europe director I had the privilege and responsibility to organize the retreat. My thanks to my unofficial administrative assistant, Agi, who is from Hungary and organized the retreat center logistics. **Praise the Lord for a blessed time together!**

A Reunion of Friends in Budapest

On the way to the Euro retreat Albina, Robert, Sammy, and I spent the weekend in Budapest. Agi welcomed us with authentic Hungarian goulash for Saturday lunch. The evening was spent with Monty Taylor and his wife Ibolya. Monty has ministered in Hungary for over 40 years. Ibolya is from Hungary.

Sunday, Albina and I attended two church services. The first, at Danube International Church, turned out to be a wonderful reunion. We were greeted at the door by James Lauderdale. James and I joined the Evangelical Free Church Mission together in 1993. He served in Ukraine while I was in Russia. Our paths crossed numerous times, but the last time was about twenty years ago.

Then, after talking with James, I went up and said hello to the pastor, Rich Millhouse. Rich welcomed me and my team when we moved into Romania in 1987. The last time I saw Rich was over twenty years ago.

After the service, Gary Rickard came up to me. He went to Colorado University when I was at Colorado

School of Mines. We were both involved with Campus Crusade for Christ. Last time we saw each other was in 1988 in Bulgaria on a Crusade summer project. **Seeing James, Rich, and Gary truly warmed my heart. Praise the Lord! I am looking forward to eternity and catching up with everyone.**



American friends in Bulgaria - 1988

After the first church service we drove into downtown Budapest to visit a Russian speaking church filled with Ukrainians displaced by the war. This is the same church that our daughter Angela served in during the summer of 2022. I had met a couple leaders from the church at a forum held in Serbia in the spring 2024. It was wonderful to worship with faithful brothers and sisters that are going through very challenging times. **Pray that God gives us all wisdom on how better to serve the Russian speaking diaspora.**

New Territory (NT) Church – Novi Sad, Serbia

There are many good things to do in missions, but it still all comes back to the local church. God chose long ago to grow His kingdom through the local church (Matt 16:18). Thus, I encourage you all, no matter where you are at, to be actively involved in your church.

In Novi Sad, God is doing amazing things in the Russian speaking community. In the spring we had no worship group, now our worship group includes eight people. In the spring NT had Sunday services that were only slightly bigger than the church planting team.



Now, each week, we have

50-60 people coming. About 2/3 of the church are Christians that have come from all parts of Russia and settled in Novi Sad. **Praise the Lord for the growing Christian community!**

The other 1/3, amazingly, are seekers. Some are seeking God; many are seeking community. They are seeking at our church service on Sundays, during the week at home groups, on Saturdays at KLIK (our children's outreach), at special events sponsored by our Russian-Serbian cultural club, and through friendships. This is the first time, since the 1990s in Russia, that I have seen so many unsaved regularly attending church. **Praise the Lord for those seeking Him! Pray that they come to know Jesus!**



End of Year Finances

As the calendar year comes to a close, I want to give you a brief financial update. The encouraging news is that we have a fairly healthy fund balance (funds that have been given in the past that are still unspent and available in our Entrust account). The challenging news is that so far in 2024 we have spent significantly more than we have received. Thus, the fund balance has decreased considerably. If you can help with an extra gift at the end of the

year or at the beginning of 2025 that would be very appreciated. Thanks, and **praise the Lord for His generous provision though many of you! God is very good!**

God Bless,
Monte and Albina Race

E-mail: monter@entrust4.org

U.S Phone: 970-415-3502 (I receive texts overseas.) US Home: 1708 34th Ave, Greeley, CO 80634

Please send checks to: Entrust, PO Box 25520, Colorado Springs, CO 80936; indicate that it is for Monte and Albina Race or go online at entrust4.org and hit the "Give" button for opportunities to give electronically.