



## **Prayer & Newsletter June 2023**

### **Gisli & Nora Jonsson Counsellors and Church planters in Bulgaria**

**Dear friends, we greet you all once again in Jesus's name. The beginning of this month June 2023 marked a special turning point or milestone in our ministry here in Bulgaria. We graduated the first 4 students in Christian counselling training after 2 years of study. Thank you Albert Boyle for all your hard work, Training and Marking their Work. The Trainees were so nervous of being assessed, Albert did a brilliant job of praising their work and helping them to focus on what they were learning in Lectures and what to do with all the issues their client brings in. A huge thank you to all the Trainers, Albert, Lena, Hazel, David and Keely for absolute quality Material and your Patience and Ability in Presenting it. And last but not least, the Three Counsellors who really helped the Trainees tackle their own stuff, Marion, Rachel and Peter and the two Supervisors, Marion and Jane for your quality steadfast insightful work with the Trainees, they feel very safe to admit what they don't know and encouraged in what they are doing.**

**It's hard to describe for us, Gisli and Norah, what we expected to see or feel at the end of this two years training. Norah had been preparing the curriculum for two years before we started in September 2021. It does feel like we are all involved in a major birthing process. The focus was to bring together biblical truth from the Scripture and Secular theories. To really emphasise the Christian understanding of how we get our needs to be human, met, our security (love and affection) self-worth (valuing ourselves and others as we are) and significance (having meaning and purpose in life). The goal was to point out ultimately that we need a Relationship with the Creator to get these needs met. We are created in his Image therefore we are Relational, Physical, Emotional, Rational beings (can think and process) Volitional beings (we can make choices in life) and Spiritual beings and all these areas are seriously affected when we are not in right Relationship with Him.**

**We believe we have been able to bring this truth out using the Selwyn Hughes/CWR Teaching and Training which we both did from 2007 to 2010.**

**We have had the pleasure to see these 4 individuals grow in their personal lives, Increase their Knowledge, Wisdom, Skills, Patience and Understanding of how we are and live in a broken, dysfunctional and sinful world. They are now able to walk alongside others, Children, Teenagers, Individuals, and couples. To help them understand how they are operating and what choices they have, and for the Christians to understand His grace, wisdom, peace, forgiveness, patience, and love in their relationships.**



**This last weekend, the focus was on helping the Trainees to be more equipped to walk alongside children and young people. We were so thankful to have had in person Keely and her daughter, Bria. They came all the way from North of Ireland to share her experience working for years with children and teenagers using creative methods. We are hugely grateful to the Dunadry Homegroup, Glenabbey Church, for paying for their trip here. We were all blessed.**

**Initially it was a challenge for some of the trainees but at the same time a new tool to help young children and teenagers. She introduced Sand tray Work, Puppets, Telling Stories, Clay, Soft toys, Miniatures, Shaving Cream and Food Colouring, Collage Work etc to help the Client use play to express and work through their issues. It was beautiful to have Bria as a Teen, bring it home to us that Teens are Brilliant in their own right, but also really need adults to accept, encourage and be alongside them as they find their own way. It was lovely to hear her sing, 'Breathe', a beautiful reminder that Teens are bombarded with Expectations from everywhere and under tremendous pressure not to fail.**

**I, Norah have done a lot of Creative Work with Children and have seen the healing that comes from letting a child play but I had forgotten the power of it, and had started to get into Talk Therapy with Children, it was great to be reminded and for the Trainees to experience that to facilitate the Child's natural way to process is empowering and it resolves issues. The key for healing always seems to be Connecting with the Client in Relationship, letting them know they are seen and accepted and using a tool that allows them to find out who they are and understand why and how they are operating.**



**This month is the closing date of participants who want to start the Certificate Counselling Training in September. We need a minimum of 4 people and no more than 8 depending on genders. Two have confirmed and another 6 have shown interest but not given final answer to us. Please pray for ongoing training to equip Bulgarians to help their own.**

**The Trainees have been going back to their families and friends sharing about what they are learning.**

**This Saturday, 17th June, Norah will be presenting on the different stages of development of children and Teenagers at a friend of one of the Trainee's Church. It is an open event. She is hoping to first of all get the Parents to look at what is going on in them, what expectations do they have of themselves and their children, and then look in more detail at what stage the Children are in their learning and what are they learning. We would really value prayer that Norah would be clear in her presentation and that the parents would be helped in greater understanding of what is going on for their kids.**



**We are so pleased and blessed to be prayed for, it is the major tool to do what the Lord is calling us to do. We are grateful for the Team that is behind us from UFM Prayer Teams, SEND, Glenabbey Church, Icelandic Church, Icelandic Mission, Friends and Family who pray for us and send texts and emails of encouragement and support.**

**We know that the healing that is going on regardless of whether the Client knows the Lord personally or not is from Him, we Know that He is Working through us and your prayers to love His Creation and pave the Way to Himself.**

**We will be meeting family and friends this summer. Norah will be going to Ireland to stay and help her mother who turned 90 last month. I Gisli will go to Iceland to celebrate the 100 years of my parent's birth, they would have turned 100 years old this August. We gather with siblings, children and their spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren, what fun we will have. We are both very excited to connect up with family and friends again.**

## **We praise our God for...**

/ The ongoing Regular Prayer, Love, and Financial Support from all who are in our Team

/ For how equipped the trainees are now when they have finished the two years

/ For how the finances was met for the training

## **Pray with us for...**

/ Clients their growth and transformation, that we would listen well to the Lord, that they also might hear Him calling them

/ The Supervisors, Marion, and Jane, that they would have discernment and wisdom how to help Cross-Culturally online their Supervisees

/ The Trainers who are helping with the Diploma year, Albert, Lena, Hazel, David, and Keeley

/ The lady who is stuck in low self-worth and so desperately wants to be loved and have her own family

/ The couple who recently came for counselling from the local area. There is quite a bit of personal issues, and they have gone a couple of times before to counselling. Pray for them to be able to let go of their anger issues towards each other

/ For the Right Trainees, Topics and Trainers for the Certificate year starting in September 2023

/ For us to stay and do His will in everything we are doing

/ That we would find someone to look after our dogs so we can go N. Ireland in October

**If you have any questions or inquiry about our ministry, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you might be interested to support us financially then these are the options below...**



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