

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,**

It is good to meet you again by means of our newsletter, informing you of some of the actualities in our lives. Viewing our physical conditions we are doing very well and know that our Lord surrounds us. However, we have to admit that we are more slowly than 15 years ago, but the people here assure us that we are still meaningful and helpful with our experiences, advices and activities. Your support is important – we count on your prayers – which convinces and strengthens us daily. With God’s help we overcome any problem. Thank you for your prayers and the mail you send us, because they bring us closer together. Real problems develop understanding and lead to maturation of our Spirit-life with our Sender.

**Some of the problems we had to encounter:** Five days in a row no water, just air, came from the faucets. During those days we developed the joke: “It is good that we receive our oxygen from the air around us and not from a company, otherwise that would give breathing problems.” We have been blessed that we could buy mineral water from the shops, which we used for drinking, cooking our rice, brushing our teeth, and refreshing our faces; one full glass for brushing teeth and face-refreshing can do. BUT what about the many families who live on minimum income? They had real problems.

A large number of our members worked the whole summer and at the end of three months they received the following message from their bosses: “We have no money left to pay you.” Few of them received 10% of the promised wages. They have not been able to save any reserve for the winter. Their minds were raging of revenge, anger and curses. We needed to talk with them for hours to calm them down. Finally they could find their peace in Christ again. We thank our Lord that they have been able to forgive these employers and have found rest and trust in their Lord Jesus.

The people who went to earn money in Poland, were hindered by heavy rains and severe floods. The men usually work in factories and the women sell all kind of products in market booths. Many of them did not earn enough to return home before Christmas. However, most men received money at the end of December and they could help even others to return to Balchik between Christmas and New Years Day. It was a rejoicing “Rendez Vous” or homecoming. What a joy to have them back in our meetings, what a happiness to meet one another again.

**A bottomless pit in Bulgaria? No!** Some of my brothers and sisters (family) wrote me: “Willem it is a bottomless pit in Bulgaria.” How dare they? The ones who share this opinion go on vacation abroad several times per year and live in luxury in Holland. None of these ever contributed one single penny to our ministry in Bulgaria. My simple answer is: “A bottomless pit is our greed.” Now the opposite ..., some of our members, earning less than \$ 130.00 US dollar per month, bring us regularly beans and cabbage to make soup. Tezdjan prepares bean and cabbage-soup, made tasty with onions and garlic. In that way they care for their brothers and sisters who are attending the meetings on Sunday. As long as there are such people we have mountains of hope for our churches here! (Proverbs 14:31).

Twenty seven disabled people enjoyed supporting gifts of friends in Holland. They were able to buy clothes and medicines. Tezdjan returned from them overwhelmed by their emotions of Joy. With tears of great happiness they have been expressing their thankfulness. (Continued on page 2)

**The building of our center in Balchik:** The outside of the building has been completed and is winter-proof. Outside the temperature was 27 degrees F. and inside it was still 50 degrees F. without heater. During the last year we received small amounts which helped us to continue building. Lydia and I have been blessed to donate various amounts, which made it possible to buy better quality materials and we paid the outside windows and doors. We do not look for luxury, but for available good quality.

**Two phone-calls:** The first call came from a company that delivers parcels: "There are some parcels with clothes for you from Germany. What is your home-address?" The second call came from Pastor Kosta of our church at Varna. He sounded excited and determined: "We received a request for help of our colleague at Stralya. Twenty-five families are suffering badly, they need food and winter-clothes, the weather is very cold in that region of Bulgaria. Most of our working members contributed tithes of their wages, the church took 10% of their month-budget, are you, in Balchik, able to share something? Everything is welcome and helps in that awful situation." With a full loaded van of Kosta's cousin, who charged fuel only, they drove to Stralya to help our suffering brothers and sisters the other day already. "When I was hungry you gave me food and when I was naked you gave me clothes." (Matthew 25:34-46).

The Lord has laid the people here on our hearts; 99% of our members were born Muslim, yet they have learned that it is by the Spirit of God that they receive Life in Jesus Christ. Bread for the stomach is important; Jesus did feed people with bread and fish. However, bread for the Heart is Most Important. Only with God's guidance we will keep the right balance in these matters. Please, pray for us that we receive God's wisdom in our ministry.

## We Wish You Abundant Blessings In The Year 2011



Dear Pastor, When was the last time you had a Missions Emphasis Sunday? I would welcome an opportunity to visit your church and share a PowerPoint during Sunday school and a mission sermon during the Morning Worship Hour. It is my joy, as Foreign Missions Director, to share what Free Will Baptists are doing around the world. There is no charge for this visit. It is my job, so please give me an invitation. I look forward to hearing from you. (Harold Jones)

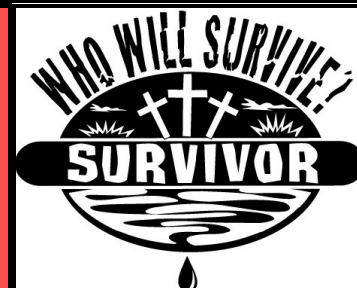
**Contact me at 252-756-9732 or [harold@ofwbi.org](mailto:harold@ofwbi.org).**

### MARCH IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

**TELETHON SUNDAY IS MARCH 27, 2011**

**The Telethon Theme is: WHO WILL SURVIVE?**

**Please join us in prayer for this year's Telethon and for revival in our Free Will Baptist Churches.**



Rev. Toribio Lugo, our oldest pastor in Mexico, went to be with the Lord on Monday night, January 31, 2011. He pioneered the Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church in Acuna, and was also instrumental in establishing "Camp Morelos." He was a wonderful pastor and friend and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Please remember the Lugo Family and our Mexican Brothers and Sisters in your prayers during this time of loss.



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