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Greetings From Our Hot, Windy Prairie Home!

July, 2010

We've been very busy teaching Equip students, learning about farming in Colorado, and following up on the Bulgaria trip. God has blessed us with a very full schedule.

Bulgaria Update

We want to thank all of you who prayed for our trip and supported us financially. This was the most exciting ministry opportunity that we've experienced since our service began seven years ago. I (Jack) traveled with Richard Beckham and Jonathan Moreno from Greater Europe Mission (GEM). The GEM team has had staff in Bulgaria for years who live and work with the Bulgarian people.

I went to help two great guys, Pavel and Ivo. Pavel lives in the country and has a passion to bring his countrymen to Christ. He wants to see agriculture become productive again after it was dismantled by the communists. Now the land has been returned to the farmers who once owned it. They need a new perspective so that they can be successful. I'm working with Pavel to provide information on orchards, produce farms, creating markets and profitable agricultural businesses. GEM is encouraging some young American farmers to go to Bulgaria and share their knowledge, and I'm in touch with these young farmers to bring them up-to-date on what's going on in Bulgaria. Bulgaria has beautiful, rich farmland. They were once the "bread basket" of the Roman Empire. Please pray with me that the work with GEM and American farmers can create good jobs and a successful agricultural business in Bulgaria, all the while sharing Christ.

The other contact I made in Bulgaria was with Ivo, a fast-talking, God-loving, super-smart force of nature. For Ivo to find time in a very demanding schedule to share ideas with me was a great challenge. But God was gracious, and we finally met late on a Sunday evening. Ivo has about a million great ideas. I'll share some of them.

The Bulgarians, like the rest of Europe, are very much into renewable energy like solar and wind power. Ivo wanted to know everything he could learn about living "off the grid," making his own power as Marilou and I do. Power of any kind is very expensive in Bulgaria. The people feel that they're being ripped off by utility companies. Ivo wants to buy some of the old communist apartment buildings and use renewable energy to save on power costs. The government is selling the horrible buildings very cheaply to be renovated by men like Ivo and to include churches, businesses, and urban garden operations. The opportunities are endless. I'm brainstorming with Ivo to make life more pleasant, safe, and comfortable, while creating jobs for the inhabitants. Ivo's over-riding passion to share Christ will touch every tenant.

Both of these men are moved forward by the love of Christ. Without Jesus, Bulgaria has little chance of successfully throwing off the old debilitating habits of communism. But, Praise God! Men like Pavel and Ivo are great saints. Jesus is shining through them and history will change as a result.

Thank you for your support so that I can serve such great men. I pray for God's grace and help as I strive to provide strategies that will be a blessing to the people of Bulgaria.

In God's grace,
Jack and Marilou Dody

P.S. Marilou and I are excited to let you know that we will be going into full-time ministry. Over the past seven years, God has blessed our ministry and it has grown into a full-time job. We will give you more details in our next newsletter. Your support has allowed us to be a part of a great work of God. Thank you!

Jack and Marilou serve with EQUIP International. Please send your tax-deductible donations to:

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