

Hi Cathy,

Thank you so much for writing.

I hope you and your husband get your vaccinations soon!

I wish I could say I am thriving, but it's been a pretty tough winter.

We had a really bad spike in cases in November and December and while the numbers of new cases has gone down, it is still pretty high each day for our small country. The country got its first batch of 4,500 vaccines last week from Serbia, which is great. However, I heard that morale among the medical personnel is pretty low as they are just exhausted.

The virus has hit the protestant community pretty hard these last few weeks with 2 deaths that I know of in our church, the Evangelical church losing their senior pastor, and an outbreak of infections in another church including several hospitalizations. I thank the Lord that I have thus far been spared from contracting COVID, but many of my friends and colleagues have gotten it and I've spent many an hour in prayer over this disease. I know so many people who have gotten over acute COVID, but continue to struggle with fatigue, brain fog, and even mood swings several weeks out, but have to go to work.

I continue to teach English online to two of our pastors and provide pulpit supply when our pastor here in Skopje is away.

I've been working with the Commission for Work with Children and Youth to plan events for the youth and children during this pandemic. We were glad to have 16 in attendance for our online New Year's Event in which we sang, played games, listened to an encouraging message and prayed in the New Year. We also had an online craft event with 9 in attendance. I included pictures in case you want to share about this. Unfortunately, it has been very difficult to get young people interested in or able to participate in online activities, but we are still trying.

I have also been working with a small team from In Mission Together to see if we can use this time to regroup and revamp our materials during this time of lock-down. Hopefully, this will allow all the IMT Country Coordinators in Southeast Europe and the Balkans to work together better and offer a stronger program to churches in the States who are interested in partnering with us. Lastly, I've been trying to use this time for serious language study. I restarted my efforts to finish "the big red textbook" designed for college courses in Canada and the US. I am mostly doing self-study, but I have a language tutor who checks my work regularly and provides me with both some encouragement and accountability! I am happy to report that I am now on chapter 6



Thank you again for messaging me and checking in on me. It's so easy to feel disconnected as "socially distanced" feels more and more like the norm. I am thankful to be a part of a broader church network and reminded that I am connected to and being prayed for by a larger system of brothers and sisters around the world.

God bless you and let me know if you need any more details or photos or anything .

In Him,

Jennifer

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