

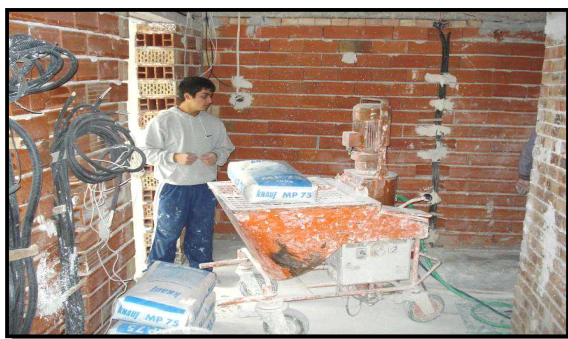
June 2009

Teddi writes.....

The 2009 global economic crisis has reduced the inflow of funds to the Project, but the building industry in Bulgaria is also suffering, so it has been much easier to find good quality workers and hire them at cheaper rates. We have received a generous gift from the Wardin Trust in the USA who, despite the US downturn, were extra generous this year. We also received sponsorship from a member of Sofia Baptist Church to help us buy materials. I am delighted to say that we were therefore able to start plastering the walls on level 6 in April.

We're getting plastered!

Interestingly, a team of young Roma people has proved to be very good at plastering. Having been tested on one of the most difficult rooms in the roof, we were happy to allow them to continue working on the rest of the walls. It really is very exciting to see rooms finished with white plaster. It makes them look as if we at last have a nearly completed 'home'— not simply a shell of brick walls.



Security and maintenance

We are also now starting to install the security system. SOT Pirelli Ltd. have given us good service in the past, protecting our old church building, and have offered us a discounted price as 'valued customers', so they are now installing the wiring on floors 4 to 6. The second stage of fixing the fittings on walls and ceilings will have to await completion of these surfaces.

The system will provide security throughout the entire building, controlled from a small security office in the entrance foyer, but every office on floors 5 and 6, and the shops at ground level, will also be able to control their own security with the system. We shall have about ten video cameras and recording equipment that will retain records for 30 days.



You may recall that we had problems with the sewage system and waste pipe outside the main building. A small pumping station has had to be constructed in the floor of the underground car-park, containing two pumps attached to a water monitoring system, all of which are being installed shortly.

Also, the work on the terraces has been successfully completed and the 5 terraces are now completely water-tight and looking finished except for their handrails.



The youngsters get involved

Anna-Margarita Oprenova and Ruslan Apostolov, two of our young musicians in the church, took the initiative to raise the money necessary to plaster the walls of the youth and Sunday school rooms in the new Centre. They organised and performed in a classical music concert of very high quality, held in the 'Central Architects Club' in the centre of Sofia.

They invited other talented young musicians from the National Music School and the Bulgarian State Conservatoire to play with them, and alongside our 4 young church musicians, were performers from 3 other churches in the city. Altogether 12 musicians and an additional 10 young people took part.

Over 130 tickets were sold at 5 levs, (£2.40) each, and a generous sponsor from Sofia Baptist Church doubled the value of every one. A number of people who could not come to the concert made donations.



The quality of the music and entertainment was exceptional,



and the concert a great success. After hearing about this initiative, one of the top music professors at the National Music Academy, Dr. Joseph Radionov, came to a rehearsal and coached the performers without charging, not a common occurrence in Bulgaria!

The total amount raised, including an additional collection at the event, was just over 3,000 levs, well over £1,000.



However, more important in some ways was the encouragement to us all seeing the younger generation taking this project so much to their hearts demonstrating a deep commitment and ownership of the Project's vision and mission.



My final piece of exciting news is that two young architects in the church have teamed up with a friend of theirs and are helping complete the interior design of the building as their contribution to the Project. The team of three visited the site with Teddy on Sunday and spent 3 hours getting acquainted with details of the building and its design.

This initiative is very welcome as we are right now planning the tiles, ceilings, floors and colour schemes.

To obtain such internal design-services in Bulgaria would normally require the additional cost of buying in an architect at great cost.

We are very grateful to you our supporters for your encouragement, and thankful to God for what He has achieved through you.

Teddy and Didi Oprenov

How can you help? ...from Geoff Wallis, Trust Hon. Secretary..... Grand Auction

We have two dozen lots so far, ready for our Grand Auction in October, but need many more. People have donated some interesting things to sell, including a vintage bottle of wine, gardening services, computer diagnostics, time in a recording studio, and conducted tours around some amazing grand historic houses.

Could you please think about what **you** could contribute.

On three occasions when visiting historic buildings, some not open to the public, I have asked the owner if he or she would 'donate' a tour for auctioning. All have said 'yes' and created unique opportunities for us at no cost!

What about getting permission to offer a tour of your place of work? You will be surprised how many people would like to visit a factory, building site, utility, computer centre, workshop, etc.

Do you have a sport, skill or past-time you could give someone experience in? One kind donor has offered harp lessons and loan of a harp between lessons to practice on!

Could you loan a caravan for a week? Or your house whilst on holiday?

If you have lost the donation form I sent recently, no problem, please phone me on 077395-22075 at any time and I'll send you another.

PLEASE ACT TODAYWE NEED YOU TO THINK CREATIVELY.....an auction without lots of lots will not succeed!

Remember, if you are donating an item, I will collect it from anywhere in southern England/Wales provided it will fit into an estate car!

Giving monthly

Thank you to those generous folk who have started giving monthly following my appeal last month. Your regular donations help the Project Team to plan future expenditure and keep cost down.

If you are considering this, please call me on my mobile 077395-22075 at any time and I'll send you a brief, painless form to fill in, or e-mail me on wallis@care4free.net

Thank you again for supporting our friends in Bulgaria.

Blessings.

Geoff Wallis

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P.S. If your membership details have changed recently (address, phone number or e-mail) then please let me know so I can update the database, or contact Kate by mail at kateg@fairinvestment.co.uk or by telephone, 0117 9335508.