

In Bulgaria Spring has finally arrived and the weather is now perfect for building. Work on the air-conditioning and heating is being completed with the installation of insulation, weathering of the roof, and finalising their work. They are still insulating the different elements of the system.



We have now let a contract to SOT Pirelli Ltd. to install the security system. They have given us good service in the past protecting the old building, and have offered us a discount as 'valued customers'. The wiring is now installed on floors 4 to 6, but the second stage of fixing the fittings on walls and ceilings will have to await completion of these surfaces. (See photo to the left)

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.

The work on the terraces has been successfully completed and the 5 terraces are now completely water-tight.





You may recall that we had problems with the sewerage outside the main building flooding back. 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.



Inevitably 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, which despite the US downturn was extra generous this year, and 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.

Interestingly, a team of young Roma people have proven to be very good at plastering.



Having been tested on one of the most difficult rooms in the roof, we were very 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.



We would like to conclude with two exciting pieces of news.



Two of our young musicians in the church, Anna-Margarita Oprenova and Ruslan Apostolov 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 Club of the Architects' in the centre of Sofia.

4 young 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.

They invited other talented young musicians from the National Music School and the Bulgarian State Conservatoire to play with them, and alongside our church musicians, were performers from 3 other



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 helped the performers practice without charging anything for his expertise, 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 from seeing the younger generation taking this project so

much in their hearts demonstrating a deep commitment and ownership of the vision of the Project and its mission.

The second 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 right now, as we are planning the tiles, ceilings, floors and colour schemes. In Bulgaria to obtain such an internal design services would normally require the additional cost of buying in architectural services.

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

*Teddy and Didi Oprenov*

