

LATEST NEWS # 504, May 6, 2008

The following news concerns Serbia.

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Young and old united around the Scriptures in Serbia

SERBIA — “This month is full of activities for the Bible Society!” Vera Mitic, Executive Secretary of the Bible Society in Serbia, had plenty of ideas for raising the profile of the Bible around the time when Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter. One initiative involved uniting the generations by recruiting young people to share God’s Word with the elderly, while another saw young people distributing Scriptures to children with cancer.

Psalm 71 formed the basis for a varied two-hour programme presented by Mrs Mitic and a group of secondary school students at a home for some 300 elderly people in Belgrade. As well as bringing New Testaments and audio Scriptures, the visitors presented Bible readings, songs and folk dances.

All the elderly people who attended were very grateful for the Bible Society’s visit and for the promise of more audio Scriptures in the future. One resident summed up their feelings very emotionally.



“Thank you for these most precious books,” she said. “Look, they are like blooming roses in our old hands!”

For Mrs Mitic, too, this was a very worthwhile visit.

“We really felt the elderly people’s gratitude and we were so happy to be able to bring happiness and joy to their everyday life. Visits like this really help us on the path towards our goal of meeting the Scripture needs of as many of our people as possible.”

Mrs Mitic was also accompanied by secondary school students when she visited the Serbian Children’s Cancer Research Centre. Along with Children’s Bibles and New Testaments, the visitors brought sweets and fruit purchased with money collected by the students at their school. In contrast with the visit to the home for elderly people, they were unable to entertain the children with songs or dances, but they spent time going from bed to bed, talking quietly to the children and reminding them that God cares for them.



This visit made a deep impression on Mrs Mitic and the students. "We were full of emotion," says Mrs Mitic. "It was great that the children were so happy to receive our new illustrated Children's Bible. Some of them started to read it immediately!"

For a previous report about Bible work among the elderly in Serbia, see World Report 419/6.

This report refers to projects 89300 and 89302.

Photo (Bible Society in Serbia):

SER08DJ-120: A resident of a home for elderly people in Belgrade, Serbia, visited by the Bible Society in Serbia and a group of young people in April 2008.

For further information please contact comms@ubs-wsc.org

