**Day 6**

**Sowing Seeds**

01.JPG

IMB missionary Brian Davis says the spiritual climate in Bulgaria is dark. Many people are atheist and disinterested in anything spiritual. But as IMB missionaries continue to build relationships and invite people into their homes to study the Bible, they are seeing God move.

02.JPG

Worshipers gather at an Eastern Orthodox church in Bulgaria. Though Eastern Orthodoxy is the country’s official religion, many people are atheist and disinterested in spiritual things. IMB missionaries say they often face apathy on one side and distrust on the other—the Baptist church and others outside Orthodoxy are viewed as sects. But even in the face of those obstacles, missionaries are seeing glimpses of the gospel moving through local Baptist churches.

03.JPG

George Gardev (right), pastor of a Baptist church in Bulgaria, hugs a shut-in member of his church during a visit to her home. George says he sees obstacles in sharing the gospel broadly, but his church is trying to find ways to share the love of Christ in the context of relationships and community projects.

04.JPG

Bill Wardlaw, an IMB emeritus missionary, looks through photos from the time he and his wife, June, spent in Bulgaria in the early 1990s. He said he has wondered over the years what fruit might have come from their time there, but he was recently able to reunite via video chat with a young man he baptized there more than two decades ago. That young man, George Gardev, is now serving as a pastor of a growing church.

05.JPG

In Bulgaria, IMB missionaries meet people every day who say they hold to atheist views. But as they build relationships, they are also finding people who are hungry for God’s Word. They are seeing God at work as they invite people into their homes to study the Bible.

06.JPG

George Gardev preaches at the Baptist church in Bulgaria where he serves as pastor. George came to faith in the early 1990s and was baptized by Bill Wardlaw, who was serving as an IMB missionary there along with his wife, June. Bill says it brings him ‘indescribable joy’ to hear that George has planted several churches and led dozens of people to faith in Christ over the years.

07.JPG

The statue of Sveta Sofia, or ‘Holy Wisdom,’ looks over Bulgaria’s capital city, a place where the spiritual climate is dark, according to IMB missionary Brian Davis. But IMB missionaries are working to introduce the people there God’s wisdom and the hope He offers. As they study the Word with the people of Sofia, they are seeing God at work.