



BULGARIAN CHRISTIAN STUDENT UNION FALL 2022 IN GLANCE

Letter from the Director:

"I tell you, open your eyes and look..." This was an invitation Jesus first extended to His disciples and that he seemed to extend to me personally as we came to the end of this dynamic year. It was a year of unexpected changes in BCSU. It is sometimes hard to see what God is doing when everything is changing at the same time; you must just trust Him. At the end of the year, when I finally was able to stop and think about all that we experienced in BCSU, I was able to see the fruit of our trust and the big picture of what God is doing among students in Bulgaria. As I have had the opportunity this fall to meet regularly with each of the staff workers and visit all the student groups in the country, I have been truly privileged to hear and see testimonies of God's work - many more than when I only observed what was happening in my own city. God's activity among students throughout the country has led me to humble prayers of thanksgiving. For this reason, I want to give glory to God as I tell you about the things I saw when I "opened my eyes and looked." I thank God for students:


- who I heard share that they once again found the joy of their salvation and a new and deep desire to follow Jesus through the ministry of BCSU;
- who I saw praying for their unbelieving friends in their presence, which led to tear-filled embraces;
- who opened the word of God for the first time and began to search for the Truth;
- who were baptized this year;



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- who once thought there were no other believers at their university until they met Christian colleagues through BCSU;
 - who began to love His Word and started studying it in their free time and then brought all their questions to our student group meetings;
 - who did not give up serving in BCSU when there were no other dedicated students in their group and now at every meeting there are non-believing students with whom they are able to share the good news;
 - who openly confessed their sins with another and sought prayer support;
 - who opened their homes to serve the student group in their city;
 - who led Bible studies on their birthdays, helped other students financially, cooked for groups, cleaned up after events, applied what they learned from the Word, and sought new ways to serve in their churches.

All of this would not be possible without your support and the tireless work of the BCSU staff who love Jesus and lead students to sit at His feet. The Lord, in His great mercy, has sent workers to the BCSU team who are making a lasting impact on the lives of students for His glory. In His generosity, He has also blessed us with you as co-workers in this mission. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the loyalty with which you supported our campaign and became part of the 70 who sent a worker to Plovdiv! As a result, in September we welcomed the newest member of our team – Nikoleta Yordanova, who is currently looking after two student groups there. I am proud of Niki as well as the entire BCSU team, who serve wholeheartedly and who, together with your prayers, encouragement and support, are bearing lasting fruit.

At the end of this letter, I also turn my gaze to the new year with all of its new hopes, prayers, challenges and questions. I don't know exactly what to expect, but I do know that it will be a great blessing and joy to be apart of BCSU this year, as we will celebrate 30 years of this ministry. What a great testimony of God's work among the students of Bulgaria, generation after generation, student after student, who have been reached and changed by the Gospel, and who have grown as dedicated disciples of Christ! Again, a verse from John 4 comes to my mind: "I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." I am grateful to walk in the legacy of generations of faithful student leaders, staff, volunteers, donors, workers, and directors who have passed on this ministry to us. And most of all, I thank our faithful Father, who has brought us this far, who has grown our influence and who has shown us His mercy and faithfulness. What a privilege it is to serve a God who can start a student movement from 1 student and make it endure all these years for His glory. What a privilege it is to be sent to share His greatness and beauty in a world that desperately needs Him. Therefore, I most heartily want to invite you to come and celebrate with us these 30 years of BCSU at our National Forum: "City on a Hill". As we give glory to God, let's continue to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus for the next 30 years!

With love and gratitude,

Desislava Momcheva

FALL 2022 IN NUMBERS

- ➔ We have 10 student groups in 4 cities: Sofia, Plovdiv, Veliko Tarnovo and Varna with international student groups in Sofia and Varna.
- ➔ This fall there were about 80 committed students in these groups. In total, this fall we saw 130 Bulgarian students and 42 international students come to at least one event organized by BCSU where the gospel was shared. More than 20% of them are still not followers of Jesus and 50% of them are new to BCSU.
- ➔ Ministers this fall:
 - Full-time workers – 5
 - Part-time workers – 2
 - Interns in the “Barnabas” program - 3
 - Volunteers in the “Faithful” program – 3
 - Student leaders - 23

LOCAL INITIATIVES

- ➔ We held various evangelistic events: investigative studies on John’s Gospel entitled “Discover”, discussions about “Faith and Science” for international students, Alpha groups, a movie night on the Christian Reformation, Christmas and Easter parties with messages from the Word, Thanksgiving for international students, two “The Amazing Race” events in Sofia and Varna, escape rooms, game nights, hikes and more.
- ➔ We organized a total of 5 regional leadership days during the year in Sofia, Varna and Veliko Tarnovo.
- ➔ 27 students meet individually with a staff worker or a volunteer for discipleship training and mentoring for spiritual growth. One of them is still an unbeliever.



NATIONAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- ➔ We held a National Forum, with the theme “Seeking His Will”
- ➔ 20 students received leadership training during our Leadership Conference, called “Get Out of the Boat”
- ➔ We organized a summer camp “Trilogy” that covered the first half of Mark’s Gospel. This event had such an impact on the participants that they committed to taking time over the next four months to continue studying the second half together.
- ➔ We held two national meetings in Tryavna for our alumni.
- ➔ We organized a winter retreat for international students, where non-believing students studied the Word with their colleagues.
- ➔ We organized a Festival of Opportunities called “Come and See” in partnership with the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance, where various ministries in the country had the opportunity to present their work.

OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS

- We welcomed a new member onto the staff team – Nikoleta Yordanova, who started two student groups in Plovdiv.
- We welcomed two new members onto the board – Craig Weyrens and Evelina Stankova.



- We welcomed a new national director – Desislava Momcheva.
- We published a total of 40 articles and interviews on BCSU's blog: Misio Dei.
- We created a second season of our video project "YOU", through which we seek to introduce today's students to the Christian faith and answer their questions.
- We sent 2 students to IFES' international student leadership conference "Student Leadership Formacion" where they studied the life of David and thought about the topic of leadership through his actions and the parallels which could be made with Christ.

Testimonies

"4 days may not seem like much, but God knows how to use this time to its fullest. I was able to connect with other Christian students and make close friendships. God used this time to show me more about the meaning of service and trust, and He taught me that He is always in control. I'm leaving this conference with a burning enthusiasm to live out what I have learned and to make a difference in my university." - Katrin Petkova, Sofia about Formacion (photo above)

"I thank God and the BCSU staff for the blessed time all the students had together! I learned many important things about leadership and shepherding! Getting out of the boat requires full faith and patient trust in Jesus!" - Yordan Minovski, Veliko Tarnovo about the Leadership Conference (pictured on the previous page)



"The Leaders' Day was the perfect opportunity to improve on how I lead a group Bible study. I got answers to the questions I had and learned new, interesting ways of studying the Bible." - Dimitar Todorov, Varna about the Leaders' Day (photo on the left)



"For me, the Leaders' Day was significant to remember important things: why we serve and how important our personal attitude in ministry is. We also received a lot of practical information to help us improve our study preparation. It was educational and interesting!" - Danail Cherganski, Sofia (photo on the left)

"Time spent in the study of God's Word is always wonderful, especially when one is surrounded by other seeking people, as was the case last week! It was an extremely valuable experience to come to deep insights and understanding of this text, that was written a long time ago but is still valid and alive today. I was greatly touched and blown away by the greatness of God! The new knowledge we acquired for studying the Bible will help us to reach greater depths that I did not even think existed!" Anastasia Pancheva, Sofia, about Trilogy - Mark (photo below)

The "Trilogy-Mark" event was an emotional and eye-opening experience for me, through which I was able to overcome fear and get to know myself better. Through the hours spent studying (which seemed to me few), I came to the answer of the question, "Who is Jesus?", Whom I had thought I knew enough about. I realized with horror that I had taken the treacherous path of hardening my heart. But Christ rebuked me through the Word for all those times when I made a decision to be faithful to Him and subsequently forgot. In addition to rebuke, this week I also received tremendous encouragement and new knowledge that helped me understand more clearly God's message to us. I highly recommend everyone to experience at least one "Trilogy" and feel the joy of the time devoted to getting to know the person and work of Jesus!" - Elisaveta Floreva, Varna, for Trilogy - Mark (photo on the right)



"I want to thank you for all the initiative, organization, attention and work you put into this event! I was also very impressed and delighted by the atmosphere and spirit of the event, for which I also thank you personally and on behalf of our organization." - Lydia, Bookstore CLC Bulgaria about the Festival of Opportunities "Come and See" (photo on the left)



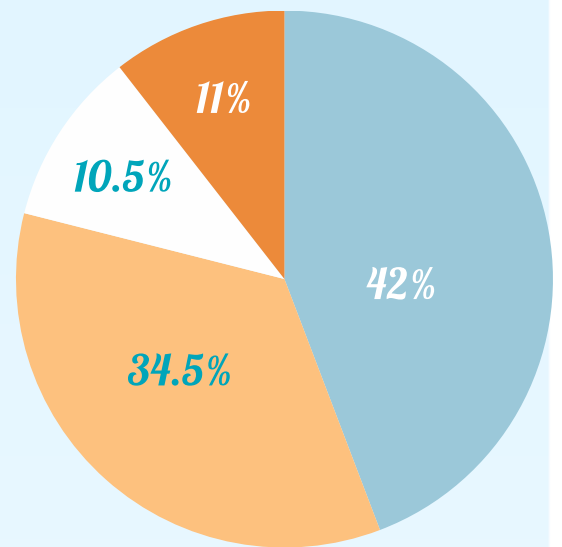
"On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for the wonderful organization of this event and the opportunity to participate in it! I think that the event provided an opportunity to get to know each other and exchange contacts between the organizations, as well as promote our activities among people of faith. I believe that next year, God willing, even more people will come." Katya Raichinova, Young Life about the Festival of Opportunities "Come and See"(photo on the left)

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Income:

● Donations from outside of Bulgaria.....	42 890 lev
● Donations from Bulgaria and BCSU alumni.....	33 516 lev
● Offerings and grants.....	10 300 lev
● "Project 70"	10 840 lev

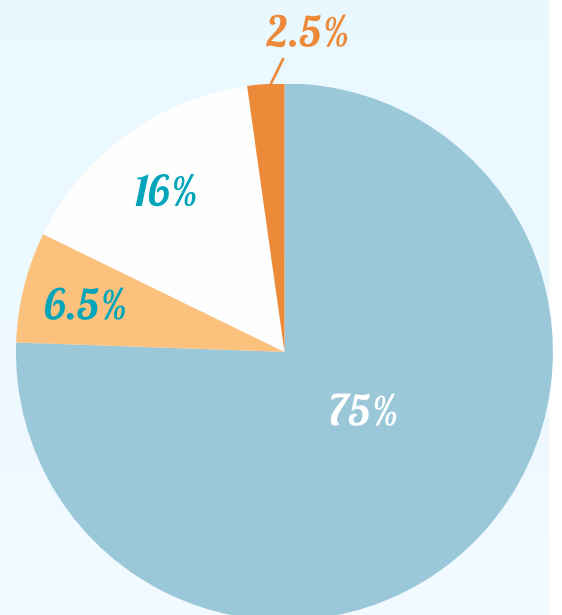
Total: 97 546 lev



Expenses:

● Salaries and benefits.....	68 670 lev
● Staff ministry expenses	6 050 lev
● Office, taxes and administration.....	14 760 lev
● Conferences and training events.....	2 430 lev

Total: 91,910 lev





IN 2023 BCSU IS TURNING 30 YEARS OLD

We invite you to our National Forum "City on a Hill" on 3-5 of March 2023:

- to celebrate these years together, that have been filled with joy, depth and meaning;
- to remember and hear testimonies of generations of BCSU students;
- to encounter God in the Word as we study the Sermon on the Mount together;
- to thank God for all He has given us over the years and to do it together- with current students, alumni, former directors and anyone who feels connected with BCSU.

The conference will be held in the city of Tryavna, Hotel "Seasons". The registration fee of 150 BGN includes accommodation and food for your entire stay, as well as the necessary materials for the conference.

For families with children - there will be organized childcare during the main sessions either with the help of a team of teenagers or by parents taking turns.

When registering, please make a deposit of 50 BGN. Deadline for registration - 1 February 2023.

We look forward to seeing you there!





BCSU IS A MOVEMENT OF STUDENTS
BUILT INTO COMMUNITIES OF DISCIPLES
TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL AND IMPACTING THE UNIVERSITY
THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST.

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