Jennifer in North Macedonia

February 10, 2025

GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSIONARIES

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Pastor Lazo Tanchev rejoicing in our Thanksgiving Day harvest for the Miss Stone Center

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." ~ Psalm 136:1

One VIM team, two new family members, three summer camps, five US states visited, and nine potlucks – 2025 was certainly a year with lots for me to be thankful for! The year started off full with a team from Germany coming to visit us. Sixteen young people and two adult leaders spent the weekend with our youth as we learned how we are called to be different as followers of Christ. Two weeks later, I was on a plane headed to the US for itineration, but first I had to find a cat-sitter for the newest member of my family, Maja.

Winter teen event 2025

Maja resting after hip surgery

As you know, I lost my cat of thirteen years, Lizzy, in January of 2024. After a year of grieving, I felt ready to adopt another cat, but thought I should wait until I got back from the US. Unfortunately, the cat distribution system had little regard for my plans. Maja showed up on my doorstep in late December seeking help. I did not know it at the time, but her hip had been dislocated. Fortunately, friends from church were able to watch her while I was in the US and she had a successful femoral head ostectomy (FHO) surgery in November. She has come a long way since last December and I am very thankful to have her in my life.

While in the States, I got to visit with family including my half-brother, Luke. I did not grow up with Luke, so it was really fun getting to know him and his interests. I was amazed by how much he looks like me and my other brother, Ross! Luke is a charming young man, and I am very grateful I got to spend some time with him.

Hanging out with my brother, Luke

Driving through gorgeous Utah

On March 7, I set out for a wild adventure across the Virginia and Mountain Sky conferences. I had a wonderful time reconnecting with familiar congregations, many of whom have supported me for years, and getting to know other congregations for the first time. Despite the difficult time the United Methodist Church is currently going through, I found people very supportive and welcoming. I was glad to be able to share the good things God is doing in North Macedonia with so many people and remind them that no matter what our local circumstances are like, God is still working. There is much to be thankful for in His kingdom.

Sharing my presentation in Windsor, CO

Click here

I had the privilege of sharing my presentation a total of twenty-three times at various church services, United Women of Faith circle groups, gatherings in individuals' homes, once at a restaurant and twice online. I also got to attend several UM conference gatherings that refreshed and uplifted me in my faith. Click here to hear an encouraging song from the "Faith in Troubled Times Symposium" I attended in Waynesboro, Virginia.

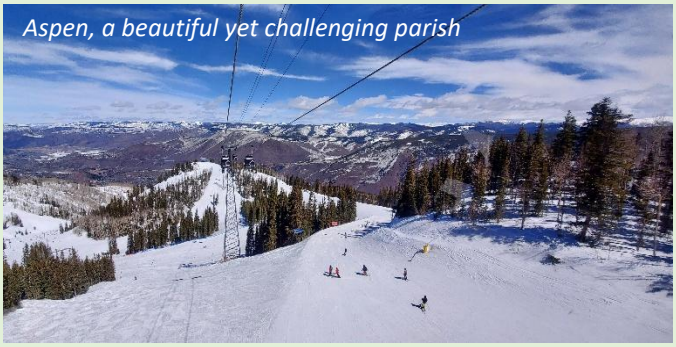
Between presentations, my hosts made sure I got to experience some of the highlights of their area. My most memorable excursion moments on the Virginia district were visiting the Route 11 potato chip factory, visiting Mountain Lake Lodge where the movie *Dirty Dancing* was filmed, driving through an old covered bridge with Ann Klotz and eating at Kline's Dairy bar.

Click here

The churches in the Mountain Sky conference are quite spread out, so I got to experience some amazing scenery during some very long drives. I was routinely overwhelmed by God's creation and by the way His church has spread across all kinds of terrain to reach those He loves. Again, my hosts made sure I got to see some of the beautiful sights their communities had to offer including the Rifle waterfalls, the Rocky Mountain

Rifle Falls

Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, the ski slopes of Aspen and Hotel Colorado where Teddy Rooselvelt stayed and the teddy bear was allegedly invented.


Aspen, a beautiful yet challenging parish

I am thankful beyond measure for so many unique experiences. Near the top of the list is when my itineration coordinator, Kathryn Witte, took me to play golf for the first time in my life. Apparently, it is pretty popular in Colorado. Click the photo below to see how I did!

Experiencing local golf culture in Denver

After I got back from itineration in May, it was time to prepare for our summer camps and the Volunteers In Mission team. In June, Vickie, Eileen and Kira came from Otterbein UMC. They were a tremendous help during our children's camp which focused on the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Children's camp 2025

Also in June, the KRDM sponsored fourteen of our youth along with two adults to attend the international Christian camp "Srcokret" in Croatia. Then in July, I travelled to Cluj, Romania with five of our youth and one other adult sponsor to attend the first international camp for youth on the Conference of Central and Southern Europe since 2013. The camp was called "YouMe" (YouthMethodist) Camp and the theme was "Faith, Love and Hope".

Youth Methodist Camp in Romania - Click here

We were blessed to have Bishop Stefan Zürcher with us the first three days. He led the session and a workshop on love that challenged us to first receive God's love and then extend it to our neighbors of all kinds. The next day, I led the session and workshop on faith. I listed some of the adjectives commonly used to describe faith (unwavering, lack of, growing etc.) and pointed out that the one kind of faith God does not ask us to have is *blind* faith. I also talked about the importance of personally knowing the One in whom we place our faith and how our actions reveal the depth of our faith. On the final day, Ergi Kllogjri from Albania shared how hope sustained his people through difficult times of great religious oppression and we were treated to a fun skit about love, hope and faith. Click here to watch.

Spending July 24-28 with sixty camp participants from eight different countries was an amazing experience I will not soon forget. I encourage you to watch the video I made from the camp and experience some of the games, excursions, teaching times, prayer circles, cultural exchanges and deep fellowship that so blessed us!

In September, I had a thought that it might be good to get Maja a playmate – someone to keep her company when I am out or away. It didn't take long for the cat distribution system to alert me of a kitten found in a parking garage and in desperate need of a home. I took Pepper in on September 21 and now it is hard to imagine life without her.

Pepper at 8 weeks – click here

In October, I focused on finding new members for the Commission for Work with Children and Youth (the KRDM) and working on some of our unfinished projects. Mirjana Alecheva helped me finalize the first book of the Navigator's discipleship series: *Your Life in Christ* and I was able to print a trial set for use in one of our churches. From November 15 to 16, I led our KRDM team building weekend and much to my joy we had three new faces join us this year. Mirjana, her sister, Eli, and Stefan Jankovski all decided to join the commission. I am beyond thankful for these new members. Please pray for them as they take on different roles in the commission.

KRDM members old and new

The highlight of December for me was being a part of a baby shower for my dear friend, Simona.

Baby shower for Simona

Simona and Mihajlo got married last October and now God has blessed them with a child. I had the joy of organizing the games and may or may not have subjected Simona and her friends to the dirty diaper candy bar game (click the photo to find out!).

There was so much to be thankful for in 2025. God granted me another year to participate in a connectional system that spreads blessing, accomplish great things through teamwork and even celebrate new life. May God receive the glory and be glorified even more in this coming year!

In Him,

Jennifer Moore

Mission Accomplished

I am very thankful to my dear friend, Annie Brown, for helping me achieve my longstanding goal of converting several T-shirts from my childhood and youth into a memory quilt. She was patient with me through all the decisions and the end result is a beautiful quilt with reminders of the incredible journey God has taken me on.