

October 2015 Newsletter 28

A review of 2015 - focusing on community networks

The team visiting Ruse in May 2015 again illustrated the diversity of our *Frontline Bulgaria* teams. Mary, Esther, Gill, Richard and Rachel are variously involved in Frontline, Brentwood Community Occupational Therapy service, Sawyers Church Brentwood and New Life Church Sudbury.

During this visit we focused mainly on *Friendship Church* where we organised activities with the group of young people with disabilities, visited the kindergarten, helped to plant and harvest vegetables for distribution to needy families and shared in Sunday worship. Meanwhile, back in the UK we continue to support Samuil Teodosiev as he resumes his studies at All Nations Christian College this term, before returning to Ruse next summer. *See overleaf to read about Samuil's placement with Frontline and Sawyers Church*

Also in Ruse, Esther assisted our Bulgarian OT colleagues with postural assessments, we reviewed our provision of childrens' special needs equipment and caught up with many friends, usually over delicious meals!

This year, for various reasons, we made only one trip to Bulgaria. However we've also been involved in a lot of 'long-arm' activity. During 2015 Frontline has facilitated several shipments of childrens' special seating, walkers, trikes, standing frames etc. to Ruse, for distribution to families across Bulgaria through Lily Buyuklieva and her Facebook group.

In addition, equipment has been sent to Ann Todorov (Physio), working in Varna with 60 children who have been resettled from the deprivation of life in remote institutions, into small homes in the city. This included a shipment of ex-demo equipment - donated to *PhysioNet* by Joncare Ltd., transported to Essex by the charity *Legs 4 Africa*, and delivered free to Bulgaria by Delamode Transport - illustrating the generosity and goodwill of our strong network of contacts. We also received grant funding from 'Meetings Industry Meeting Needs' (MIMN) for a final shipment to Varna this month, more or less concluding our *Frontline Bulgaria* activities for 2015. We look forward to returning to Ruse in spring 2016.

Frontline Bulgaria is very grateful for the grants and donations received from 'MIMN', 'Medical Missionary News' and our regular givers - and for the practical, material, financial and prayerful support of everyone who has 'joined us in our journey' during 2015. Thank you!



Frontline Bulgaria seeks to build strong and enduring networks of support with, and between, groups, organisations, churches, individuals and funders for the mutual benefit of all. Samuil's story is another example of this in practice

A brief reflection on my time with Sawyers Church and Frontline by Samuil Teodosiev

"It's a pleasure for me to share some of the experiences which I had in Brentwood as part of my mission placement in July 2015

I had the opportunity to get involved in many Sawyers Church activities. In just one weekend I took a part in their F.A.B. club children's ministry, spent a whole day with a group doing the Alpha course and attended a special celebration on Sunday with a morning service followed by baptisms. In the evening I had the opportunity to do a short sermon in their evening service. Over the week I was able to take a part in a wide variety of church leadership meetings. It has been a big learning experience in the ways of leadership and ways of supporting teams in different church activities.

Over the week I was also involved in some activities with Frontline. I went on an afternoon picnic with Tuesday Club and spent a whole day at The Gates horticulture project. My time with Frontline was very important for me and gave me a good knowledge and better understanding on how they do these projects. I was able to get some tips on their ways of leadership and organizational methods. This was valuable for me and for Friendship Church, as we try to adapt similar activities to the Bulgarian culture in our local community.

It has been a great pleasure for me to spend this time during the summer with Sawyers Church and Frontline, and now I am very much looking to the next opportunity for more experiences in Brentwood".



Find out more about Sawyers Church and its partnership activities with Frontline on www.sawyerschurch.org

Find out more about Frontline's work in Brentwood and Bulgaria on
www.frontlinepartnership.org
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/frontlinepartnership>
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/frontlinebulgarianews>

FRONTLINE IS A PARTNERSHIP INVOLVING HOURS WORTH, SAWYERS CHURCH AND ACTABILITY

Frontline enables and supports people with a learning disability and high support needs to live full and productive lives through their active inclusion, participation and contribution, mainly within the Brentwood community

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