

Peter Stonelake – Montenegro

February 2017

Name Pete Stonelake

Work Proofreader, translator, website programmer, English teacher

Non-work responsibilities

- Helping out with [EUS](#) student work in Nikšić.
- Coordinating church teenager work in Nikšić, helping with music in worship services.
- Generally being active within the local Christian fellowship in Nikšić specifically and also Montenegro as a whole. As Christ's ambassadors, people scrutinise our every action/reaction and I aim to give glory to God by having a godly reputation, as well as speaking his love meaningfully into everyday situations.



"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree ... They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green."

Psalm 92:12,14 (NIV)

Prayer & praise

- **Back to work:** I'm thankful for a restful Christmas and New Year, the opportunity to visit Nottingham, and time spent with family. However, the theme of this prayer letter is very much getting into the everyday rhythm of normal life, which has been a bit sluggish after the festive break. I have plenty of work on at the moment, which has been a motivating factor. The student work will begin after exams from the beginning of February.
- **Conversation club:** We started up the usual Thursday English conversation club after a brief break for the festive season. Only one person came last week, and after half an hour of chatting about work, she started asking questions about the Bible, and when she took out a New Testament from her handbag we had an impromptu Bible study. It is encouraging to see that many within the Serbian Orthodox Church are engaging personally with the Bible, even though this is often discouraged, but are also not afraid to ask opinions from people from other churches. Please pray for her spiritual growth.

This/last/next month

- **Operation Christmas Child:** While I was in the UK, the student workers here were very busy organising distribution of several thousand shoeboxes. As always there were positives and negatives, but many children did hear the Christmas story and took home with them "The Greatest Gift of All" booklet. Some also took New Testaments. The church has been involved with this for many years now, and there is some ambivalence towards the effectiveness of this as a means of communicating the Gospel because of the numbers of children involved and the logistical organisation required (given that the church is so small), but it is a way of blessing children with a gift and God can use even seed scattered so widely as this to reach people.
- **Stan and Vicky:** Our pastor and his wife got back from the States after a two-month stay there, and so the weekly rhythm of church services, meetings and sermons is also getting back to normal.
- **Malachi:** My four-part series through Malachi went well, although I felt quite rushed, having to preach on consecutive Sundays, with full-time work competing for the time needed for quality preparation. It's a learning process, but God has been merciful by blessing my often inadequate efforts. Someone did ask me when I was planning a more in-depth sermon from Malachi and I agreed that four sermons was rather insufficient to do the book justice.

Other stuff

- **Snow:** Some of you may have read about the low temperatures in this part of Europe, and it reached -17°C for a few days, then there was a snowfall, but it is now sunny and sometimes the air temperature even gets above zero! Perfect conditions for hikes, so I'm getting back into shape after the Christmas fattening-up!
- **Calendars:** Thanks to all those who bought calendars when I was in the UK. I don't do this to make any money, and most of them are given away to people here in Nikšić, so any donations are always very appreciated. Please pray that the Bible verses will be read and mused over during the year.
- **Elsie Harris:** Like many members of [Cornerstone Church](#) who knew her, I was saddened to hear of the death of Elsie, whose regular prayers for me have been a source of strength ever since I left the UK. I hope her amazing witness will inspire many others to be involved with cross-cultural ministries and to also serve through prayer. She will be missed.



As ever, you can view the current and previous prayer letter [here](#), or view my pictures on [Facebook](#) if you are a member or on [Flickr](#). My website has some of the same photos at <http://www.reetpetite.org.uk/pictures/>.

Contact

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