

Your prayers,

service and finances

helped make



an amazing year

*for the Bulgarian Christian
Student Union*



Thank you for your partnership!

Letter from the director

I look back on 2019 with great thankfulness and awe at what Christ has done in BCSU. By God's grace and with your faithful support we have seen many students grow as followers of Jesus and develop in their understanding and love for God's word; we have also seen students developed as young leaders who are equipped to share the good news with others and care for the discipleship of others. I am especially encouraged that we have witnessed students who are in the process of seeking the truth about God join our groups. By God's grace some of these students have become followers of Jesus. What a joy it is to have been blessed with the responsibility of helping these students take their first steps of faith.

There are so many things we have to give thanks for as we reflect on 2019 in BCSU. Let me quickly share with you my four highlights:

- ▶ **Celebrating 25 years!** This year at our National Forum BCSU had its 25th birthday party and we were able to gather students and staff who have participated in BCSU throughout the many generations. It was such a great moment to celebrate and share testimonies of how God has used the student movement for a quarter of a century in the lives of many students. I went away from this time encouraged to continue the work so that 25 years from now there will be even more stories to share at BCSU's 50 year birthday celebration.

- ▶ **International student work.** Every week we get the opportunity to work with wonderful students who have come to Bulgaria from all over the world. Many of them are coming from countries or families where they have never heard the good news of Jesus and God has opened the doors for great conversations. As this ministry grows and develops, we began a new leadership program for volunteers working with international students this year. We also began an evangelistic winter retreat for international students. We look forward to seeing the impact of this ministry as these students go back to their homes with the good news.
- ▶ **Genesis.** This year for the first time ever in our inductive Bible study camp, Trilogy, we studied the first few chapters of our Bibles together. These pages of the Torah, written to people from a different time and culture, often get misunderstood or overlooked. After a week of intensive and fun study, participants went away with a greater love of Scripture and a greater understanding of God's great plan in history.
- ▶ **Revive Europe.** We ended the year by sending 25 staff and students from Bulgaria to Karlsruhe, Germany for the European Evangelistic Conference, Revive. We celebrated the new year with 3000 other students, and we were inspired and challenged to be God's witnesses in our universities and societies as we heard great Bible talks, listened to testimonies, and participated in interactive experiences. We came back to Bulgaria in the new year with hope and courage to continue following Jesus in mission in the universities of Bulgaria.

I could mention so many other highlights from the year including the continuation of our Barnabas internship program and the inauguration of our Project 4:12 student leadership initiative. I encourage you to read the news of BCSU on our website (www.bhss-org.com/news-2019) to see pictures and read testimonies of God's work among students.

I enter this new year of ministry with great joy and confidence, knowing that the God who has been faithful in years past will continue to be faithful to us and the students we serve. I also go into the year with gratitude to our great staff team who work tirelessly to bless and disciple students. I am thankful for each of you as well who give of your time and resources to pray for us and give sacrificially so that we can see students reached with the gospel.

We still need your help. Please read below about some of the ways that you can be praying for BCSU in 2020 and ways that you can partner with us in reaching students in Bulgaria with the good news of Jesus.

We are confident that 2020 will be another great year in the Lord as we partner together.

In Christ,

Craig Weyrens

National Director of BCSU



Take a look at 2019 in BCSU at a glance:

Groups in 7 cities (Sofia, Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo, Ruse, Varna and Burgas) with opportunity to develop work in Pleven in the coming months.



Around 85 active students - a 30% increase from last year!

10 of these students are new to the faith!

176 students have come to at least one BCSU event where the gospel is shared.

3 groups for international students throughout the country with 24 active participants.

3 groups for recent graduates throughout the country with 20 active participants.



We have had 6 national events including a celebration for BCSU's 25 year anniversary at our National Forum.

This year we have:

- *3 student leaders in our newest student leadership initiative Project 4:12.*
- *17 active student leaders.*
- *6 interns in the Barnabas internship program.*
- *6 volunteers.*
- *8 full-time staff workers*

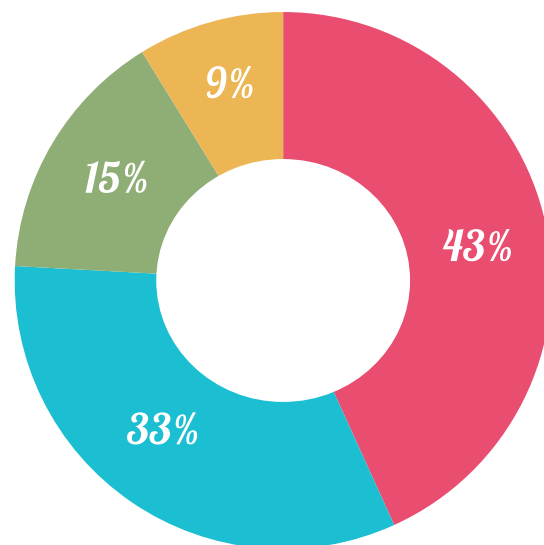


2019 Finances at a glance:

Income:

▶ Donations from outside of Bulgaria:	35,355 lv.
▶ Donations from Bulgarians and BCSU alumni:	26,705 lv.
▶ Grant money and offerings:	12,550 lv.
▶ Investments:	7,200 lv.

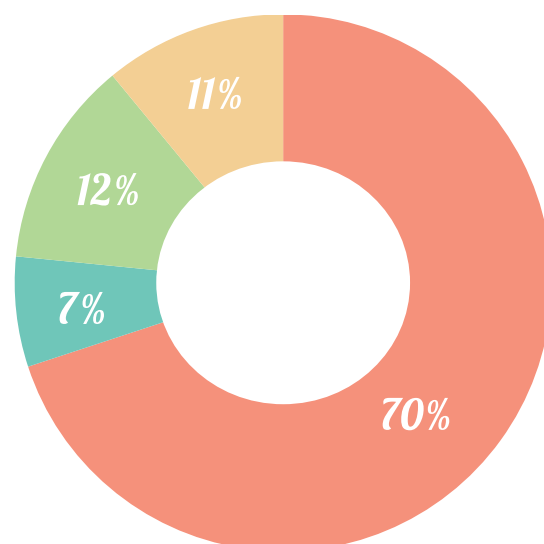
Total: 81,610 lv.



Expenses:

▶ Salaries and benefits:	59,030 lv.
▶ Staff ministry expenses:	5,595 lv.
▶ Office, taxes and administration:	10,515 lv.
▶ Conferences and scholarships:	9,255 lv.

Total: 84,395 lv.



Appeal - Join the 72 who stayed

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Luke 10:1-2)

We have so much to celebrate and to give thanks to God for as we look back over this past year. God has graciously provided and cared for this student ministry and we are confident that He will continue His faithful work in and through us in the year to come.

Yet we need your help! We ended the last fiscal year with a small deficit of about 2800 lev in our budget. However, as we look ahead to the budget for 2020 with projections from current giving and expenses, this deficit will grow to about 16,000 lev. Together the national directors and the board of directors made cuts to the budget but it is not enough.

As you will see above, the majority of the expenses in our budget is delegated to the salary and ministry expenses for our staff workers. Jesus was right when he said that the work and harvest is plentiful but the workers are few; we do not want to lose any of our team members because of financial problems. So we have begun a campaign that will help us reach our financial goals for 2020.

We are asking 72 people to join a simple campaign where each person:

- Pray regularly for the work of BCSU and our finances
- Commit to give at least \$10 (or 20 leva) a month for this campaign – either adding it to their current giving or to begin giving at least at this level

If we were to find 72 people to do join with us in this campaign, we would be well on our way to being financially stable for the year ahead.

Would you continue joining the 72? It is easy to do! Go to our website – www.bhss-org.com/72 - to find some easy ways to give and sign up to be one of the 72. You can also find a gauge there to watch as people join.

We are grateful for you. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about this campaign or other ways that you can partner with BCSU in reaching university students in Bulgaria with Jesus' good news!



For giving and prayer

You can give and subscribe to our prayer letters through our site:

www.bhss-org.com/give

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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.