

# OPPORTUNITY

THUR  
DEC 4  
2014

## READ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own call, brothers  
and sisters: not many of you were wise by  
human standards, not many were powerful,  
not many were of noble birth.

— 1 Corinthians 1:26 (NRSV)

Our church in Bulgaria lives on the margins of society, despite the fact that our church buildings in the larger cities are often situated near the demographic centers. Because of our church locations, many people would think that we must be one of the more influential mainline Christian denominations in our country. But the reality is completely different. We are a minority church with seemingly little influence.

For some of our people this seems like a discouraging situation. But in fact, this is our chance to focus our attention beyond our own existence and survival. Our downtown churches are very close to the poor and marginalized in our local communities. We can understand their despair, pain, and fear of being social outcasts. We can be faithful in sharing the good news among the people who need it most — the poor, the orphaned, the sick, and those with addictions.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
The closer we are to people in  
need, the closer we are to God.

We discover our true call to ministry when we look beyond our church walls and the labels we Christians give one another. Then we have a great opportunity to welcome those who have no power — those who feel weak and marginalized — into the Body of Christ.

Prayer: Dear God, give us loving hearts to serve others.  
Amen.

Daniel Topalski (Ruse, Bulgaria) — See back cover.