

Stories & Information for the “Coloring Pages”

There are 14 Coloring/Activity Pages for kids! Some are just to color – some have other activities to do as well. Take a look and see which ones might work for your group.

Al & Diane Mellinger Coloring Page

Al & Diane are missionaries to Bulgaria – Bulgaria is a small country in eastern Europe. They are working with training pastors to better serve their churches. They are working with teen and youth workers to help them share Jesus with people. They are working on learning Bulgarian.

Alexander Levski Church Coloring Page

This is the biggest Orthodox Church in Bulgaria. Inside they have many pictures of stories from the Bible and saints who have served God well. It is beautiful and many people come to not only worship God but to just see the building. People worship God in different ways.

Bulgarian Folk Dancers Coloring Page

Bulgarian history goes back more than 3 times as many years as America has been a country. They have a long history of Celebrations with Dance. At one time before they became a Christian country, they thought it would drive the bad stuff away and bring good luck. Now it is just a regular part of the annual Holidays.

Bulgarian Woman with her Cat Coloring Page

There are many elderly people in every village and town. Many gather daily to chat and to just be together. The lady in this picture is often sitting outside a local church watching people and greeting them as they pass by. She just loves to sit and watch people and pet her cat.

Bulgarian Book Store Coloring Page

A person that Al & Diane works with in Petrich (the town they live in) owns a bookstore. It is really more than a bookstore because it sell gifts, and decorations and batteries and chewing gum. They also make lots of copies for people there. Diane helps out in the bookstore to help her learn Bulgarian better.

Cross & Dove Coloring Page

One day when Al was walking around Petich with his camera he was able to capture this picture of the "Dove" on the "Cross" on top of the local church. The dove is often used to symbolize the Holy Spirit and the Cross represents the Death and now new life we have in Christ. Christ sets us free and the Holy Spirit is guiding us as we live for God.

Easter Bread Coloring Page

This Bulgarian Easter bread is known as *kozunak*. It's a slightly sweet yeast-raised bread with raisins that crosses the line between bread and coffee cake. The tradition behind it is that during lent one would give up eating meat and eggs. So when lent was done they made this bread which is full of eggs to celebrate the end of lent and that Christ is risen! Each year our land lady (who teaches cooking classes at a local High School) bakes and gives us a loaf! It is very good.

Easter Eggs BG Coloring Page

People color and decorate eggs here in every home. Many just color them red as has been the tradition. In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolized the sealed Tomb of Christ — the cracking of the egg symbolizes His resurrection from the dead.

Grape Coloring Page

Grapes are grown all over Bulgaria – often they are grown on the street or in the back yard as a covering for shade. It gets very hot here in the summer. Under the grape vines it is much cooler. At least 2 times a season the grape vines are trimmed so that all the energy goes into growing the grapes and not the vines. Jesus talked about the Branch, the vines and the fruit. (John 15:5)

Pastor Andre - Gotsa Delchev Coloring Page

Pastor Andre is a pastor that we work with in a village about 67 kilometers from us over the mountain called Gotsa Delchev. He is a good pastor training and working with his people. They are building a new church. They work and add things as they have the funds to do so.

Petrich Sign Cover Coloring Page

When you travel around Bulgaria you will see a large sign or sculpture at the edge of every town. It is the symbol that represents the town. This is what Petrich looks like.

Rose Coloring Page Coloring Page

Roses are grown in central Bulgaria and harvested for making rose oil. Rose oil is used in making perfumes. It is exported all over the world and is Bulgaria's number one export. Do you know it takes about 3200 pounds of rose blossoms to make 1 pound of rose oil. That is a lot of roses!

Storks Nesting in Spring Coloring

Each spring the storks migrate from northern Africa to this region of the world. Storks are large, long-legged, long-necked wading birds with long, stout bills. They are big birds and they make big nests. Storks have no syrinx and are mute, giving no bird call; bill-clattering is an important mode of stork communication at the nest. In Bulgarian folklore, the stork is a symbol of the coming spring (as this is the time when the birds return to nest in Bulgaria after their winter migration) and in certain regions of Bulgaria it plays a central role in the custom of Martenitsa: when the first stork is sighted it is time to take off the red-and-white Martenitsa tokens, for spring is truly come.

VCGB Bags Coloring Page

Each Christmas we work with local churches to provide Christmas Gifts for children who would not have very much at Christmas. Churches and individuals send us money to buy, wrap and provide the gifts to a local Bulgarian church who give them to kids on Christmas. It is a great way to share God's love with people on Jesus birthday. (See the Virtual Christmas Gift Box program on line or on the recourses CD).