

Jesus walked along the shore. The fishermen were busy with their nets. They were doing their job. They had their boat, their belongings, their lives and their families. Jesus calls and they leave everything behind and follow Him. They do not ask questions, set conditions nor look for excuses. The phrase is so simple, but obeying is more difficult. These fishermen followed the Master and history teaches us they became the first "fishers of men".

- "Where are we going? "
- "What are we going to do? "
- "Why must I leave everything behind me? "

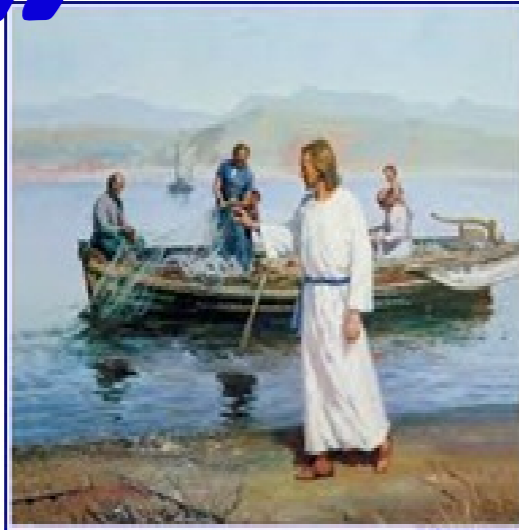
Conditions

We are full of conditions before we say "Yes" or "No." "Yes, I want to join, but first I have to see if I can pay for that holiday to Spain "... Or "Yes, I would like to, but will I have my own room? " Every day is a choice to follow. And we always have more reasons or excuses *not* to do it than to actually *do* it. **But if we follow Jesus, we will become part of history.**

"FOLLOW ME"

Jesus followed

Jesus Himself was a Follower. He followed the Will of the Father. He did nothing except what He had seen the Father do. He followed when it was difficult. He had no money and no place to lay His head. He had no insurance or security net. Jesus prayed at a specific moment in Time. He asked for more strength to accomplish the great assignment. He obeyed unto death. Not so long ago we celebrated Easter, the death and resurrection of the Son of God. Because He followed the Father, He made history.



Liberation

It's been many years since I said "Yes, I will follow." The consequences were sometimes great and sometimes small. But every time I said "Yes, I will follow you, Jesus", it made me happy. I surrendered my own will, my demands and my conditions. I do not live my life alone, but as a part of the Greater Whole: God's Plan. Is your life still fulfilling *your* wants, or when you hear the Saviour's cry today, "Follow me", will your answer be "Yes, Lord, I will follow you"?

Prayer

"Lord Jesus, I want to let go of anything holding me back. I want to trust in You and obey you. You

have not promised an easy journey, but a safe arrival. I will not look at the consequences and circumstances. I will follow you with all my heart. Thank you for helping me to do this! Amen."

Follow Jesus

Jesus invites us to follow Him. He comes along and says, "Follow me". Imagine that you were one of the fishermen. What would you have replied?

MATTHIAS van der WEIDE writes ...



This year of 2014 marks EEO UK's 30th anniversary. Swiftly and silently the years have gone by. As a mission, we are constantly confronted with the challenge to do the work with a minimum of expense. So this edition of *Outreach* is looking a bit different than normal, as we are saving expenses.

At the same time we need more miracles. God provided miracu-

lously through some legacies, but we still need much more finance. How can we otherwise reach Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and further afield with the blessed Gospel?! As followers of Jesus, we are also called to serve God with all we possess. Some He told to give their *all*. It is nearly 2000 years ago now that Jesus called individuals and nations to follow Him and

we know, till the very last hour, He will send workers into the harvest

Stand with us in prayer for the needs God is bringing our way. Thirty years' support from people like you makes us so grateful, and we will not fail to thank God also for the good things to come!

EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH is a 'Faith Ministry'. All our activities are dependent solely on the financial gifts we receive. We work on an interdenominational basis, and our goal is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way open to us. Our Newsletter is published regularly and sent free of charge on request or recommendation. However, a freewill gift of £7 a year would help to cover postage and production costs. EEO UK works with Eastern European Outreach International, a group of missions and ministries. The main partner is Stg. Oosteropa Zending, Netherlands, on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East and West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina.

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ACCOUNT NAME: Eastern European Outreach



OUTREACH

JUNE/JULY 2014

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"FOLLOW ME"



The Albania Barnabas Team

SORRY WE ARE LATE ...

Although this should be the May/June edition of OUTREACH, due to a change in our Editorial Team and production difficulties, this OUTREACH comes to you later than normal. Sorry about that. We also have a change of style and we hope you enjoy it.

Registered Charity No. 290643

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EDITORIAL

"TIMES AND SEASONS"

After a soggy, sodden winter I am aware, more than ever before, of the phases of the Spring. Buried in the winter soil, invisible and out of mind, are roots, bulbs and tubers. These break out in Spring, each in accordance with their appointed time; firstly snowdrops, then crocuses followed by "... a crowd, a host of golden daffodils ..." (Wordsworth), and bluebells. Then come magnolias and flowering cherries followed by the yellow laburnum and, as I write, our lilac tree is in full bloom wafting its sweet scent into the garden. Soon, we will see rhododendrons (for those lucky enough to have the right kind of soil) and, as you read this edition of *OUTREACH*, a climax will be reached in June and July with the roses and herbaceous borders in full bloom. Each component of the flowering year blossoms in its due season. But it has to be at the right time; bluebells, lilacs and roses will not flower if the time is not right.



by Chris Truslove

Paul writes, "... *this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things*", (Ephesians 3:8-9). For just as the Spring flowers were kept hidden in the soil over Winter, so God kept hidden in His heart a secret plan which would flower, bit by bit, in His good time. The most exciting thing about being a Christian is to know that God has such a Plan and we are all part of it! Paul's part was to preach Christ to the Gentiles; something astounding in view of the insularity and elitism of the brand of Orthodox Judaism that Paul was educated in. But, Paul's flowering came in its due season.

"*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the sun*", (Ecclesiastes 3:1). As a young man, I remember our minister talking about the ebb and flow of the Christian faith, how, throughout Church history a season of decline is always followed by revival. I regularly minister in a Christian Care Home. I am happy to tell these older folk about what God is doing today; how, in our area in recent years, seven new churches have been planted, meeting in school halls and community centres, and that cinemas, warehouses, and a redundant school have also become Christian meeting places. God has not abandoned His Church and I was blessed when these faithful soldiers of Christ, who kept the Gospel alive, received this news so joyfully. As we see former church buildings become discount carpet warehouses or, as in one case, a factory for the repair and maintenance of gaming machines, we can thank God that this is not the true story. These new Churches may be quite different from what the older folk experienced; in a new season God has granted a flowering of new kinds of music and new expressions of Church. But one thing that has NOT changed is *the Gospel*. It is the *same* Gospel, the *same* message of Christ and Him crucified, and we preach the same God who "*so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*". Praise His holy name!

BARNABAS 2014 "Jesus in You"

Jaco van der Sterre writes ...

'Disappointing'

'Sometimes the results of your testimony are disappointing. I have lost friends since becoming a Christian.' This is what Lepa from Macedonia said. This is her first time at a Barnabas conference in Albania. She enjoys being with hundreds of young Christians together. It strengthens and builds her up. That is what Barnabas offers.



These are two testimonies of young people who participated in the Barnabas conference in Albania. Also next year we want to organize a Barnabas conference there. We hope that the Word of God will penetrate deeply into the mind of the young generation of Christians here in Albania. In the future, these doors may close and we cannot enter the country. What will remain, is the impact these youngsters will have.

We also speak with Sidjana in Albania.

'What does Barnabas mean to you?'

'After primary school, I went to high school to learn Musical studies. In my class of twenty students, I am the only Christian. The others are Muslim. Shkoder contains many Muslims. Over 50% of the population is Muslim in Shkoder. Really, there is a world of difference in how I can be here and how I behave at school. Here I can speak about God whenever I want. It's really great to be here at camp Barnabas.'

The theme of Barnabas 2014 is "Jesus in you" from Matthew 5:13 : "You are the salt of the earth" . In Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Belgium this summer we are organizing four conferences. We train, encourage, and go on the road together. In Albania, 110 young people want to participate. Their finances will not cover the expenses. We need people to stand behind them! **An amount of £50 for each young missionary is needed.** We are like salt and make a difference where we are. Help us reach the world with the Gospel! **Sponsor a Barnabas participant for £50, - .The Gospel is Good News for all countries !**

For all information about Barnabas actions:

www.barnabas.nu

or email jaco@barnabas.nu

Please remember

BARNABAS ACTIONS 2014

in your prayers and in your giving ...

HOW TO GIVE TO BARNABAS 2014 by cheque made out to EEO BARNABAS and sent to EEOUK, P.O. Box 399, MARGATE, CT9 2WE or by direct payment to our bank CAF, Eastern European Outreach No. 1 Account Sort Code: 40-52-40 A/c no. 00015248 and PLEASE LET US KNOW THAT YOU HAVE DONE SO (e-mail or telephone call will suffice see back page for our contact details). This is because we need to be able to identify Gifts for BARNABAS

Albania

21 - 31 July
Cost £630



Belgium

20 - 27th August
Cost £290



Bulgaria

14 - 24 July
Cost £590



Romania

28th July - 8th August
Cost £490



WITNESSES IN MACEDONIA

Young Missionaries testify

Christians have answers to vital questions! *Barnabas* helps give answers to young people's questions. In countries where young Christians are struggling, EEO UK organizes *Barnabas* conferences, then they send the young people out to be a light in a dark world. This year, EEO UK is supporting *Barnabas* operations in Bulgaria and Macedonia. With more resources, we would be able to support conferences in Albania, Israel and Asia. If these *young people* do not go, who is going? If we do not support them, *who will?!*

Lepa is sixteen years old. She loves cycling and kickboxing and tells about her life in her hometown of Veles in Macedonia: "I love to play sports. I play volleyball and my hobby is singing. My father has a gym in Veles. Everyone in Veles knows us. The gym is situated in a school. I am often in the gym and I do training with my father. The town where I live is one of the most criminal cities in Macedonia. It is a small town where everyone knows each other. A lot of people are unemployed. The people in the city trade in drugs; the rest have jobs outside the city. Our neighbours are also into drugs. My parents do not like it when I am alone at night walking on the streets. My city is a dark city. We are here to shine the light there. My father had a vision to be a light for those who live in darkness. I have told my friends about Jesus Christ and that they need Him, but they did not accept Him yet. They accept it from me, but do nothing with it themselves. I do not often see the fruit from my testimony. Sometimes I get disappointed; I lose friends. They want nothing more to do to me since I've become a Christian. My best friend is interested, but she will not stop swearing or using bad language. She wants to be 'free'. She told me recently that she had a hole, a void inside of her. I told her about Jesus and she accepted Him. Then the void disappeared, but that was only temporary, for she remained in her old habits of swearing and bad language. Peace has gone away again. One very good thing happened. Our friend Martin came here to the Barnabas conference. Martin is only seventeen, but was often drunk. Fighting was his hobby. If someone looked at him, he would run towards him and then ask, "Why are you looking at me?!" Then he began to beat them. Martin hit hard because he was at the gym and trained with my father. Now Martin

can still fight, but he does not do that on the street, because he has accepted Jesus into his life. One evening he was released from all evil within him. Now He wants to give the Gospel to his friends. That's his 'new sport'." One evening Lepa wanted to share a prophetic vision she was seeing in a meeting. She saw herself walking into a crowd of people. They all had their heads down but Lepa was looking around and seeing beautiful things. People looked at her and then they also started to look around. In the vision, more people discovered that with God sadness disappears, grey becomes vibrant colour! **Lepa is happy with the promise of God on her life!** For an amount of £50,- you can sponsor one young person to go on a three day encouragement and training conference. This also includes food, accommodation, programme and materials for Evangelism, plus a one to three day evangelistic outreach. You can send a young missionary into the harvest, and encourage young people not to give up, but to be a Light in the Darkness!

Merla comes from a traditional Muslim family. When she was a little girl, she went to the Christian meetings in the village. She was always attending the summer camps that were organized in the community centre. The family was poor and lived in great need and the Mission gave them food. One day they entered into the EEO International's Child Sponsor Programme, so we were able to help them. They were curious about the Gospel, because they saw that we helped without asking anything in return.

Last Summer I asked Merla if she wanted to go to the *Barnabas* Summer conference. She jumped for joy! Then her joy was immediately cut off, for she said: "... You've got to ask my parents if I can go and I don't have any money to pay ..." We were sure that God had a plan for this girl. After we prayed together, we went to her parents. It was not an easy conversation, their Islamic background played a major role. Finally, they agreed that their daughter could go to a Christian conference, and we were able to find a sponsor for her participation. Merla was this year at *Barnabas Albania* conference. After Merla came back, she started children's services in the community centre and took a leading place in the Summer camps. **Merla was a Muslim -- she now leads the children's ministry in the church! This is what God is doing through the Barnabas conferences! Please help us today in this vital work!**

