

ALBANIA

At our mission conference, I heard from our contact persons about the situation in northern Albania, where there has been a humanitarian disaster.

Heavy rains and melting snow caused flooding in the Shkoder and Lezha regions of northern Albania.

Consequently the snow melted and water poured into two large reservoirs above the city of Shkoder. The authorities were put in a terrible position, either they could let the dams holding the reservoirs burst, which would cause immense flooding to the city, or they could release some of the water more steadily and only flood the outskirts. They chose the latter.

Thousands of people had to be evacuated, many of whom have lost everything, and whilst the authorities are helping with the immediate crisis it will be months before people can return to their land. The worst hit are poor people who lived in older properties that have either collapsed or become uninhabitable. Among these are 8 families sponsored through the Child Sponsor Programme; they lost all their earthly possessions, also their farmland is flooded, which will also affect their harvest (if any) later this year, which makes things even worse.



In Memoriam Emil Hanuseac

With great regret and sadness, we would like to inform you that on Sunday 29th of November, 2009, Emil Hanuseac, passed away. Earlier last year he had to go into hospital in Bucharest for an operation. Once back in Suceava he became seriously ill with a bacterial infection. He was given antibiotics in the Suceava hospital, but did not recover from his illness. Emil was 32 years old.

This is a great loss, in the first place for Emil's wife, his parents and family. He was devoted to his church, where he was a music leader. He was also a loyal visitor of disabled people, encouraging and helping them, although since the age of 16, he, himself, had been in a wheelchair, paralysed from the waist downwards. For over 15 years he was involved in the Child Sponsor Programme. Being sponsored at first, he became a CSP office-worker in Romania, a task he fulfilled with great dedication.

We will miss Emil very much. We ask you to pray for his wife, Simona, and for his family.



Disaster strikes Apalimaritei family

From one of our contact persons in Romania we received the following heart-breaking information. Ligia Apalimaritei, a girl of 16 years old, was recently diagnosed with spinal cancer. The cancer is already at a critical stage. She is in great pain and therefore the doctors have put a corset around her neck to support her head from moving, and to lessen the pain. Her parents have brought her to a hospital in Timișoara.

Soon she will be transferred to a hospital in Austria for very specialised surgery. All the costs involved will be approx. € 3.000 (£2,700). The family is trying to raise these funds by writing letters to friends and churches for them to help out. Very little has been raised at this moment. Every penny counts to them and therefore the family wants you to know the situation they are passing through, hoping that you can help them a little as well. Please remember this family in prayer; we have a miracle-working God, who is able to heal Ligia. He can work through the hands of a specialist or even through divine healing, so that the cancer just disappears. Please pray for a miracle.

Presentations in Your Church

We are currently looking to get more people involved in eastern Europe, and to promote EEO UK. If you are interested in having a presentation about the work of EEO UK in your church, house - or cell group, please contact us at 01737 249 277 or send an email to gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org

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 £7.00 per year would help to cover production and postage costs. E.E.O. UK works with Eastern European Outreach International, a group of missions and ministries. The main partner is Stg. OostEuropa Zending, The Netherlands, on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East and West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina.



Outreach



"Our Choice is God's Gift".

Not only Heartbreaking Haiti

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Please check out our new website www.eeouk.org

I praise the Lord for answering my prayers and saving me. The Lord is my God! I will praise Him and tell Him how thankful I am! Psalm 118: 21 and 28 (Contemporary English Version)

A New Decade

The start of the new decade has been turbulent, to say the least. Haiti has been hit by an earthquake; at the moment of writing, the death toll has hit 150,000 and thousands are still missing. More than 3 million people (about 30% of the population) have been affected by the disaster.

From our contacts in Albania, we heard that the north-west of this country has been hit by the worst flood in 50 years; thousands of houses have been flooded and the people had to be evacuated. As far as we know nobody died, but most families lost even the little that they had, in the flood.

Many people ask where the Lord is, in catastrophes like these; how can a good God allow this? We live in a broken world. Even though we are unable to understand how this fits into God's perfect plan, I believe that God is with the people in Haiti. He loves them, and He suffers with them. I was greatly encouraged to hear that in this land where so many practise Voodoo, people were worshipping the Lord and singing Him praises just minutes after the earthquake demolished everything around them, claiming the lives of loved ones. In great despair these people acknowledge that God is with them, and will carry them through this.

Let us be inspired by them and be thankful to God in praise and worship.

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“Our Choice is God’s Gift”.

I've got something very precious. It's something that many people in several parts of the world would long to have. It's something that, in past times, men and women risked their freedom to let me have. It didn't cost me anything - indeed, in this country it cannot be bought. Neither can I sell it to anyone else; in fact, I cannot even give it away. It's my Vote! And as the country moves towards another general election we already see the contest warming up. Soon, the date will be announced and things will get hot. Then, on that day this spring, I will present myself at the Polling Station and cast my vote for my chosen candidate, in secret and without interference.

We should thank God for the hard-won freedom that we have to vote freely for our government. In some places in the world they long for the right to do so without interference or threat, without the corruption and violence that is a feature of elections in some unfortunate parts of the world. When the Government last changed hands in 1997, the outgoing Prime Minister went to Buckingham Palace and handed the Queen his resignation. He then went to watch cricket! The new incoming Prime Minister drove to the Palace and the Queen asked him to form her Government. This was televised live on television and I thought then as I think now, how grateful we should be that it should happen that way. I say that sincerely irrespective of which party I personally voted for. There were no riots, no tanks rolling in the streets, no civil war, and no suggestion of ballot-rigging, bribery or duress. Victors and losers alike accepted the will of the people.

Free election is God's way. We are usually told that the ancient Greeks invented "one man, one vote". But long before that, God commanded the Israelites to "Appoint Judges and Officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly," (Deut. 16:11). God gave His people the right to choose those who rule over them. The next election will take place at a time when the activities of some politicians have brought the system into disrepute. It will take place at a time of public cynicism and mistrust. This highlights the need for our prayers for those in authority, and prayers also for the Lord to raise up Godly men and women in Parliament who will indeed deal with the people fairly. There are many such in the ranks of all main political parties, some of whom meet regularly for prayer irrespective of their party allegiance. Paul wrote: "I urge you then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone; for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness." (1 Tim. 2:1). So may we, as Christians, whoever we vote for, vote this spring with a prayer on our lips and thanksgiving in our hearts.

Mission Monitor

by Matthias J. Van der Weide



Not only Heartbreaking Haiti

Just devastated, amazed and bewildered about suffering Haiti, still feeling the pains about the Tsunami some years ago, we know that this demands our utmost to give extra, but also not to leave our regular mission commitments. Giving for new needs should not make us ignore the older, but still painful needs. Should we let the 'child' that we are already carrying fall, in order to save another who is falling? This is a heartbreaking dilemma. It is wonderful how the USA is helping so strongly again in

Haiti, although it is also always in the frontline action to help elsewhere in the world. The strongest shoulders usually carry the heaviest weight.

But how strong are we and what more can we do above what we are already doing? Do not underestimate yourself, it could be much more than you thought till now.

We are thankful for every reply to our appeals. Did you know that old jewellery or gold can bring in very much? Use it for helping the mission. Further, many more people could join us as a volunteer for all kind of activities. Every skill or profession is valuable. Instead of having an extra holiday, making a mission trip would enrich your life and affect many others positively.

We hope you will spring into action! Not only Haiti needs your help!

Kelton in Pakistan



It's amazing what God is able to do. It was about a year ago I was handed a hand-written note at the EEO Intl. Kniebis Conference, 2009. It simply read: "Dear Brother Kelton - Mission church and Bible School in Pakistan need you." Pastor Elisha Samuel had no idea that God had already placed in my heart an openness to visit various missions in 2009. As I was praying over the New Year I had dedicated myself to travel to any associated missions that God would open up during October and November 2009.

In October I was able to travel with Gerhard to Bulgaria and Macedonia, and in the middle of November I travelled to Uganda and then on to Pakistan. An English couple, David and Jacqui Dowdy, who are serving in full time ministry in Uganda, travelled with me. We were greeted at Lahore Airport, 28th November, by Elisha and a bus load of young people. They were excited to see us. They escorted us and our bags to a waiting mini bus.

I had previously travelled to India, so I was able to anticipate the car-horn blaring and the busy streets crowded with people and animals. Elisha introduced the group as we travelled to our accommodation within the Christian colony. Together with a builder member of his church Elisha had just completed some accommodation adjacent to the Mission Church building. I am pleased to say it was well furnished and had the comforts of a European style en-suite toilet and shower room. It was quite a contrast to the open drains, poor housing and rough roads outside.

This began our ten day visit. We rested and prepared ourselves for Sunday Services. Pastor Elisha, with his team of young pastors, is currently responsible for five churches planted in the colony. We were able to share ministry in two churches on the Sunday. Worship was led by lively drum playing. We were welcomed by garlands of flowers and displays of dances. God was very present, the people were responsive to the Word and we were privileged to pray with many after all our meetings.

In addition to the churches, Elisha runs two schools, and two Bible schools. Each day we held teaching sessions in the mornings. We taught on the Book of Acts. During these sessions we spoke much of the moving of the Holy Spirit so at the end of the week Elisha requested we teach on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. So on Saturday we had teaching sessions and a time to pray with those wanting to be filled with the Holy Spirit. God was so good. We ended up having three prayer sessions and by Monday, twenty had been filled and with evidence of speaking in tongues. Praise God.

Each evening we ministered in the various churches - these were on rooftops, courtyards and homes around the colony. Each time we ministered people responded for prayer, some for salvation and others for healing. We also visited both the schools, each class welcomed us and we were able to encourage them with giving them sweets and led a school assembly.

I was so encouraged to see the work that is being done by Elisha and his team. He has the ability to plant more churches and says that all he needs is £200 for each new church in a home or courtyard. This money will buy the floor matting for the people to sit on, and drums and instruments to run a new church, starting with 20-30 people.

I thank God for allowing me to share in this way and pray that God will open up the way for me to go back again.

Pastor Kelton Black - EEO UK Trustee