



# Outreach

## BARNABAS 2011 - Light of the world

It is just a few more months before the start of our next youth festivals in Albania and Romania.

**Albania event 15th - 30th July**  
**Romania event 1st - 15th August**

At these festivals we train, equip and encourage young people (16 - 35 years of age) from different countries in the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After the festivals teams go out to different areas to help local churches with their evangelistic activities.

To give you some examples of the impact of the Barnabas event, here are some testimonies from our contact persons:

*"It was the best Barnabas event we have had so far. It made a very significant impact to the team from Shkoder (Albania), some of the team members had life-changing experiences, some of them were there for the first time and one of them decided to give his heart to the Lord and another one to get baptized. Others were really struggling with their faith, for them the event was a great confirmation and encouragement" -- Klodi, Shkoder*

*"The Korca team had 2 guys joining for the first time. The event had such an impact on them that they are currently leading the children's ministry in our church! All our team members experienced something new during the festival in Pogradec." ---Linda, Korca*



The Barnabas conferences are a great opportunity for young people to make friends with people in different countries and cultures, to praise and worship the Lord together, to grow spiritually and step out in faith. Also for church groups this is a great opportunity for outreach and mission.

**More information can be found on the brand new Barnabas website [www.barnabas.nu/english](http://www.barnabas.nu/english) or give us a ring at 0800 2980126**



## MISSIONARY SUPPORT

It becomes more and more a trend that missionaries have to give up on ministry because they are unable to provide for their families, or they continue and their families are suffering.

Instead of focusing on reaching out, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they have to take a step back and take on a different job or struggle with the fact that their family is in difficulties. When at a secular job they can share the Gospel, but to a much smaller group of people than they would have done otherwise.

In 1Corinthians 9,10 and 14 it is written: *'The ploughman should plough in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop...In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.'*

As we wrote at the beginning of this magazine, the fields are ready to be harvested, but there are few workers. In times like these missionaries should be treasured and should be able to get on with the job without the worry of providing for their families. At EEO Intl we have direct contact with many workers in the field. If you would like to support one or more of these workers on a monthly, annually or one-off basis or would like to pray for a specific family, please get in contact with us.

**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 0800 2980126 or send an email to [gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org](mailto:gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org)**

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*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.*

Ye did it unto me

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CSP testimony

Albania update

Mission trips 2011



### A world on fire

On his trip to Israel and Palestine EEO Intl. worker Jaco van der Sterre spoke with several Japanese tourists. From his trip report, one thing stood out for me; these people do not have a clue who Jesus was and is, and the significance of the places they visit. To them, a visit to Jerusalem is the same as visiting the pyramids in Egypt or the British Museum in London. Within a matter of days Jaco and his team were known as the people to ask if you had any questions in regards to Jewish history and especially Jesus!

Man is a spiritual being, every single human being knows deep down inside that there is more to Life. Jesus Christ is the answer to the main question in life. People are very open to get to know him.

A country like Japan which has nearly 130 million people has officially less than 1% Christians. Many of them are open and desperately waiting to hear the Gospel.

The worst thing of the recent disasters in Japan is not the death toll of well over 28,000, but it is the lives that were lost without knowing Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

'We know that everything God made has been waiting until now in pain, like a woman ready to give birth.' Acts 8v22

It is remarkable that at the moment of writing, many Middle East countries are on fire, in particular Libya, but there is also severe turmoil in Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Egypt and Tunisia, also the situation in Palestine and Israel is very worrying. The saddest thing of this all is that these countries are in the so called 10/40 window, where 75-99.9% of the population has never even heard Gospel, let alone accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The fields are ready to be harvested, but the labourers are few. Please remember the work of pastors, missionaries, evangelists, pioneers and mission organisations in your prayers, and where possible help them practically and financially as well, or get involved yourself.

# Editorial

by Helen Jesze



## THE PAIN AND JOY OF LOVE!

Yesterday was Mothering Sunday. In many homes families gathered for a special meal, bringing gifts and flowers to Mum; the cards, sentimental or comical were read, and yet more crayoned pictures for Grandma hung up on the fridge and wall! Yet in our country there must have been also homes where hate and abuse are the order of the day, and nobody wanted to remember her.

In other homes there was a gaping hole in the family's heart and an empty chair reminding of that special 'someone' who was missing on Mother's day. A few weeks ago we stood at the graveside of a young man. Talented, creative with a University degree, yet he had suffered mental illness for several years. Now with broken relationships, out of work, he had given up the struggle and died by his own hand. The memories, the photos and family DVDs, the regrets, self-accusations and the eternal "WHY?" are what our friends, his parents, now have to cherish and to struggle with. But we have a God of mercy, and John (name changed) had newly come to faith in Christ, and we believe that they, and we, will see him again one day.

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, looked at her 8 days old Son in Simeon's arms, what love and awe must have filled her heart as the old man prophesied of the blessing this Child would be! But then he said directly to her: "... and a sword will pierce through your own soul also ...!" Thirty-three years later, as she gazed at the scourged body of her Son, then stood, weeping, at the foot of His cross, that 'sword' did pierce Mary's soul. How could it have ended like this?! Crucified like a murderer – how could He now bring salvation to the nations?

The Body of the Messiah was put in a tomb, a stone with the Governor's seal on it was rolled in front; the little band of disciples hid themselves in fear and grief. Yet after three days, that Broken One came back to Life and pain was turned to overwhelming joy! The 'sword' in Mary's heart was a thing of the past – a new era had begun!

LOVE is capable of feeling great joy, yet feeling great pain. The more we love someone, the more we hurt when our love is rejected, or the person we love is no longer there. Although we spurned Him, yet God constantly draws us to Himself, showering us with love and forgiveness. The Bible says that God will comfort us as a mother comforts. You may not have known your mother, or she may have been a broken person who did not care for you, and caused you suffering. Let God be your comforter today and help you to forgive and not be bitter.

**Prayer: Thankyou God for our mothers, but most of all, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, and for His death and resurrection! Amen**

### Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide

## Let's Go to War



Looking at the Libya and Egypt situation and all the unrest in the Islamic world, this title seemed appropriate, preparing this monitor.

This Easter 2011 the world's criticism to the Gospel and Christ is that its peaceful approach will not help to chase away dictators and their bloody oppression. The world sees in Calvary only the death of Christ and an example that love was overpowered by hate. Our Bulgarian Evangelist Taki Trangos told me he has a presentation before Bulgarian military, who are expecting that Europe will be flooded again by refugees from the Islamic world. How can these soldiers be impressed and their hearts reached?

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Heavenly Hosts. Huge and powerful armies! They have killed whole armies overnight! Angels are not sweet and weak, with blonde hair and silver wings, but the Bible shows that they are mighty warriors who, at God's right time will intervene on behalf of Mankind. This is not an Old Testament picture of God, but very up-to-date in the New Testament. The victorious Christ, after his crucifixion is now ruling this world, a sword coming from His mouth, leading a huge army that will beat all dictatorships of this world, but... with a minimum of loss. This means that He proceeds very carefully and even allows evil to happen in order to 'save lives' for eternity. We, as followers of Christ, are working as His troops behind the frontlines, with the special task to pray and witness to the wonderful love of God. That is how we can fight. **Let's go to war today!**

# MISSION TRIP TO UKRAINE

- by Gerrit Wiersema -



*"Welcome to the Holy land!" were the very encouraging words I heard when I first set foot on Ukrainian soil eight years ago. The welcome was specially there to prepare us for the rough ride that would follow, as the roads were full of potholes. Even today, not much has changed.*

*Missionworker Jaco van der Sterre recently returned from his trip to Ukraine. Here is his report:*

With a team of 10 we were on our way to the outer edges of the EU. Most first-time participants were shocked by the difference when we crossed the border going from the EU country of Hungary, into the non-EU country of Ukraine.

So many potholes, houses that are in a terrible condition, electricity wires hanging everywhere. Welcome to the country that for many years has been among the top five most corrupt countries in the world. In this dark place we went to shine the light of Jesus Christ and encourage people. Part of the team had to wait for over two hours at the border, as their taxi driver tried to bring 300kg of oranges into the country where only 2kg are allowed!

### Ilona's happiness

Initially we were planning to use the mobile-clinic van to drive us to the villages where we would be visiting some of the poorest families. Unfortunately the battery of the van was broken so we had to find different transport. But nothing could stop us making the visits! The first person we visited was Ilona, a 61 year old lady. An illness causes her head to nod all the time. She invited us in and started to share about her life; she has been a widow for many years, and has since cared for her children and grandchildren. Her eyes show how tired she is. She has no choice, her 4 grandchildren live with her. Sometimes her daughter and son-in-law join them as well.

It is impossible for her to live on her State Pension of just under £60 per month. The extra support she receives through the Child Sponsor Programme increases her monthly income by nearly a quarter.

The sponsor child is sitting in the corner of the room, she doesn't say anything but follows everything.

Ilona tells us that her husband died of cancer more than 20 years ago. When he was alive he was a notorious alcoholic. He abused his wife so badly that walking is still very painful for her as he damaged her knees.

The house is dark, the light cannot be switched on as the electricity company has cut off their supply, for the family owes them around £45.

The family also owes £250 to the bank. When the bank-manager visited the house he was so shocked by the circumstances that he told them that the bank will not charge them any interest over the borrowed money, and that they only have to pay the borrowed sum back.

When the local council tried to repossess their house a sponsor helped them out. But the problems have not gone away yet. The family lives in constant fear. Another problem is that there is often so little money left that there is hardly any food on the table.

As a team we brought a food parcel, which helped at least for a few days.

We had the privilege to bless Ilona and pray for God's provision in her situation. A food parcel may solve some problems for a few days, but God's blessings stay! He fills the house with peace and joy. That is the purpose of this visit.

### Other needs

Another family we visit has eight children. They live and sleep in just one room. The family clear the room in the morning and in the evening they put down a few mattresses on which they all sleep. Only the oldest daughter has her own private space -- two chairs put together.

Also the grandfather lives with this family. The family had to take a loan of £250 to pay for some furniture and other things. Every square inch in the house is used. We end the visit by praying a blessing over the family and asking God's provision for them. This family definitely deserves a sponsor.

### Fairytale ?

Snow has covered up the mud pools, and it also covers the doom and gloom.

But the life in the village of Janosi is definitely not a fairytale. We visit 62 year old Ilona with her 8 year old granddaughter. A cold draught is going through her house, even though the heater is on, it does not get warm. The closed door lets sufficient light through to light the room. Holes in the wall, some of them more than 2 inches wide, let the cold air in. The family is protected from the forces of Nature just by the walls made of mud bricks, plastic bags, sheets, and aluminium foil. Doghouses and stables in western Europe are in a better condition. Humbled by the situation we left a food parcel and prayed a blessing over this family."

**When we pray for God's provision in our lives, let us also remember our fellow humans less than 2000 miles away who are so much worse off...**

