



Outreach



CSP Emergency fund

Recently we received an emergency call from our contact person Ioan Scurtu. When making his round to bring the sponsor moneys to the families he visited the Budi family. On arriving he discovered that their house had burned down to the ground a few days before. Some years ago Mr Budi died of a heart attack and since then his wife and 5 children have lived with her parents in a small house on the edge of a village. Because of the fire they are now forced to live on the streets. Even the few possessions and animals that this family had, have all been lost in the fire. The Child Sponsor Programme has an emergency fund for cases like these, which has allowed the family to start rebuilding their house. A sum of about £1200 is still needed to finish the house.



Budi Family

Hard Life in Romania

One thing that I found very positive is that in all the sponsor families I visited, at least one of the parents is working. Something I also noticed is the ridiculous prices for food. A salary for unskilled labour is about 500 or 600 Romanian new Lei (RON), which is about £109-£131 per month. The price for 2 big shopping bags of food is about a fifth of their salary, which will feed a family for a few days. Four packs of paracetamol, an asthma pump, and 4 packs of multivitamins is also 100RON, another fifth of the salary. Parents have to pay about 100RON per child per month for school fees and lunch. Child benefits are just 30RON per child. That is just 7 pounds!

I have not even calculated the rent; even council housing costs over 100 Euro (£85) just for the rent. All other normal expenses like utilities, clothes, baby articles etc. are extra.

In Romania the middle class has disappeared. You see many new cars, and the shopping precincts are exactly the same as in the UK. I even saw that Debenhams had opened a branch in Oradea. The rich are very well off, but the rest of the country is now struggling for survival. Many Romanians go abroad to work, resulting in a significant brain-drain in the country, which has no doubt a serious effect on the Romanian economy.



Barnabas 2009

As we wrote in our previous newsletter, it is just a few more months before the start of our next youth festivals in Albania and Romania. 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.

Barnabas Romania 2009

The main goal of my latest visit to Romania was the preparation meeting for this event. We discussed the details for this summer's programme.

Jesus Christ will be the centre of the festival. The theme for this year is "Lift up Christ". This is the Good News that we would like to share with the lost.

In Romania we will have 2 main speakers, Razvan Mihaiescu, the pastor of a fast growing church in Bucharest and Rick Cunningham an American missionary in Romania. Both Razvan and Rick have a real heart for young people and a desire to spread the Gospel. Together with EEO Intl. staff they will also give workshops and seminars.

After the festival teams will go out on evangelistic outreaches to Moldova, Bulgaria and to Iasi, Babadag and Slobozia in Romania. With street evangelism, organising of a summercamp, sports events, and outreach programmes in Roma gypsy camps, this is going to be a very special summer.

Join in

These festivals are great opportunities for young people to make friends with people in different countries and cultures, to praise and worship the Lord, to grow 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 youth section of our website www.eeouk.org or give us a ring at 01737 249 277 or email to gerrit@barnabas.nu.



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13 (KJV)

- In Times Like These...
- Worse than a nuclear threat?
- Casa Lumina
- Visit Sponsor Families
- Hard Life in Romania
- Barnabas 2009

Evangelism -- it is actually very simple. But often when it comes to defending or sharing our faith, Christians close down, get uncomfortable or shy. While reading through my Bible to find the right Bible text and to get inspired to write the short front page message, I came across the following footnote:

Fear of man. When God commissioned Moses to speak to Pharaoh, Moses revealed that he had a problem. His seeming humility ("Who am I...?") was actually the fear of man (Ex. 3:11; 4:1) Although he argued with God that he was not eloquent, God promised to be with him and teach him what to say (Ex 4:10-14). Likewise, we have no excuse for entertaining the fear of man when it comes to seeking the lost, because we are not called to use eloquent speech. We have the indwelling Christ, and through Him and His strength we can "do all things" (Phil. 4:13).

As the wellknown Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon said: "I trust that you will find no rest for your feet till you have been the means of leading many to that blessed Saviour who is your confidence and hope."

Let this be an encouragement to step out in faith and reach those who do not yet know Jesus!

Editor:
 Eastern European Outreach (registered charity: 290643)
Supervisor: Helen Jesze, Gerrit Wiersema
Cheques and correspondence to:
 E.E.O. P.O. Box 399 Margate, CT9 2WE
Phone: 0800 2980 126 or 07912 890 384
Bank Details: CAF Bank
Sortcode: 40-52-40, **Account nr.:** 00091930
Account name: Eastern European Outreach, Margate
E-mail: info@eeouk.org / www.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.



IN TIMES LIKE THESE...

What a wonderful time of year it is! After the cold and ice of winter, everything is coming alive again. The tulip sentinels have now gone and banks of bluebells and lilies of the valley make me 'high' with their scent as I hang out the washing in the garden. There has been a great deal of activity there recently. Such a flying to and fro, a swooping down and disappearing into bushes and hedges; such a collecting of twigs and moss in tiny beaks and a daring, delicate courting on the fence - for it is SPRING and the birds are working overtime, finding mates, building their nests and future generations.

One day as we were watching TV we noticed a lot of fluttering and flying about outside, near the window. Next day I saw many twigs lying about on the patio in that corner and yolk from a broken egg was running down the garden broom, propped up against the wall. Looking up, I saw a white-collared dove sitting on our satellite dish, looking

down at me with an unblinking beady eye. She had obviously tried to build her nest in this unlikely place. It had fallen off and her precious egg was destroyed. For several days she and her mate still sat there, until they realized their home was gone and their baby would never be hatched. They would need to build in some other place.

Many of us build our homes and lives on an unsure foundation. Sometimes we did not know any better and just made mistakes. Sometimes we did know but went ahead anyway. You may be standing looking at the ruins of divorce, disastrous relationships, financial collapse, family problems and do not know which way to turn.

I would like to encourage you today that God can turn things around for you. Even if we have messed things up God does not hold it against us, but He wants to provide a way of escape for us and seeks to give us His wisdom that our future might be different, to bring us to a place

of physical, mental, spiritual and emotional stability. The Bible tells us to make the foundation of our life sure by taking Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour: to build on the rock and not on the sand by obeying His words. This does not mean that we will automatically have no more problems, but He will help us.

We used to sing:

In times like these you need a Saviour, In times like these you need an anchor. Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the solid rock.

In these uncertain times is your anchor firm or is your 'nest' about to fall? Does it look as if the 'eggs' of your efforts will never bear fruit? Seek God's wisdom how to build your life. Watch Him do miracles for you TODAY!

Mission Monitor

by Matthias J. Van der Weide



Worse than a nuclear threat?

Nuclear threat against Israel and the Free World has intensified since North Korea recently tested another nuclear bomb (or "nuke" as it is sometimes called) and is threatening South Korea as well as the USA. We know that Israel is ready to strike at the Iranian nuclear threat, and while I am writing this, their government has started a 5 day security training for the whole nation. This could mean they are ready to attack, as the population is in the middle of taking precautions against a counter attack.

Turkish Christians drew my attention to a Biblical prophecy, telling us of a war in which Israel will gain 7 years worth of energy fuel from the weapons left by a beaten enemy. They believed this was not the battle of Armageddon but an earlier war. Since Israel celebrated its 60 years existence, we feel closer to the fulfilment of all things. We cannot speculate about the date of our Lord's coming, but as surely as He was once born in Bethlehem, Jesus will just as surely return in the same manner as he left. We must not let this day catch us unawares as a thief in the night, so that we stand spiritually naked before Him, without having on the 'dress' of justification through the blood of Jesus. A nuclear explosion, terrible as it would be, would be easier to take than facing our Lord's Second Coming unprepared. Join us in our mission to prepare ourselves and prepare others for this great event!

CASA LUMINA AND VISITING CSP FAMILIES IN ROMANIA

- by Gerrit Wiersema -



Casa Lumina Pre-School

This May I had the opportunity to visit Romania again. I normally prefer to combine several activities while on a mission trip, so when the preparation meeting for the Barnabas conference came up I arranged a visit to our Casa Lumina (House of Light) project in Oradea, and also visited a few families from the Child Sponsor Programme.

House of Light

It was very good meeting up with Olga van Lavieren, a Dutch missionary whom God called to work in Romania. She first started with a programme for youngsters from the street, and later changed her focus to start Casa Lumina, a place that is home to a pre-school for children from very poor families. It is also a place where young mothers, often from the streets, with an orphanage background or from very poor and uneducated families, come and learn how to raise their children. Basics like hygiene are taught, then this practical programme is followed by a Bible study. In the afternoon the children who go to school visit Casa Lumina, where they are helped with their home work.

Pre-school

Twelve children ranging from 4 - 7 year olds go to the Pre-School. For health and safety reasons 12 is the maximum amount of children allowed in this school. All the children come from very poor families. Most of these families are also part of our Child Sponsor Programme. When a new child comes into the school he or she is welcomed like into a family. Teacher Alina is like a mother for these children. As many of the children come from very unhygienic conditions, lice are a very big problem. That is why all the children in Casa Lumina are wearing headscarves. It is very good to see that the children take really good care about hygiene; many of them are also teaching their parents. At lunch time the children receive a simple but healthy meal.

The Change

One evening I was asked to lead a Bible study. Most of the people joining in I knew

from previous mission trips and the Barnabas conferences. Nearly all of them were part of the group Olga worked with in the late 90's, most of them grew up in orphanages and were sent to live on the streets as soon as they turned 18. It is absolutely amazing to see the progress of these precious people, from thugs living on the street, outcasts of their society, and now on fire for the Lord. Most of them have found work and are very involved in evangelism.

Child Sponsor Programme

Besides visiting Casa Lumina I also had the privilege to visit a few families supported by the Child Sponsor Programme; one of these families was very special for me as it is the family supported by my parents.

In the afternoon Mimi Muț (the CSP contact person) and I took a taxi to the outer skirts of Oradea to visit a family from the CSP. When entering through the gate, we were first introduced to the grandmother of the family. At first sight, one would think she is over 80, but having a daughter in her early twenties, a more realistic guess would be closer to 50 years of age. A hard life of poverty has taken its toll on her, resulting in very poor health as well. Mimi introduced the rest of the family to me, the mother with her 4 children, but the father was at work at the time. Two of the children are going to the pre-school in Casa Lumina. Mimi and I were offered a seat on one of the 2 single beds in the room, the only furniture apart from a stool which was also used as a table and a heater stove combination. We spent a bit of time with the family and prayed with them.

Then the moment came I was really looking

forward to, the visit of the sponsor family of my parents. We took another taxi, which took us through the city. In a reasonably looking street we were dropped off, and made our way through a small alley. I have seen many bad places in Romania but this was probably one of the worst.

This family lived in 5 very small "houses". We were welcomed by the mother (and grandmother) of the family. I was shocked to learn that she was only 50 years of age. She was in very poor health as were most of her 10 children and their children. My parents' sponsor child is a boy of about 10, who at that time was struggling with pneumonia. Normally he would have been going to school but the pneumonia made it impossible. The family has lived for more than 18 years in this tiny group of houses. There is no running water, the walls are worn out, in the winter it must be freezing cold. Now with 30°C outside the family is sleeping on a few couches in the alley. They were saying that when it rains they sleep in the shed, where it is dry, but it is also filled with rats and other vermin. This family is in a hopeless situation as the council wants to remove them from the premises, and to demolish these hovels.

On a more positive note the family have recently become Christians and are attending a Hungarian Baptist church. The mother will be baptised in a few weeks. We prayed together for the Lord to do a miracle in this family, for health, and a solution for their housing problem.

The next day we visited some more families, all of them with similar stories and difficulties.

It is very depressing to see the poverty and the difficulties these people are struggling with. Fortunately for these families they all know the Lord and know that this is just a temporary struggle. It also made me realise how important it is to continue this work. We may not be able to help everybody but the help that they are being given now really makes a difference in the lives of these families. Also for Casa Lumina, young children get the opportunity to learn, to study, and may be able to step out of the restrictions of poverty.

