



Outreach

RADICAL MUSLIMS BEAT UP EVANGELIST



Radical Muslims beat up and nearly killed Pastor Bisher Angelov with baseball bats. This happened one day before Easter in the Bulgarian town of Pazardjik.

Many people watched in shock as Pastor Angelov was attacked by the mob, until a very brave taxi-driver had the courage to step in to rescue the pastor and bring him to the local hospital. The attackers were discussing whether it would be better to cut off his head, but the taxi-driver stopped them, by shouting at them to stop beating a dead man.

The victim is Bisher Angelov, a former Muslim who became a Christian. These so-called "Muslim background Believers" are often at the receiving end of 'honour-revenge'.

Nearly all of the 23,000 inhabitants of the town of Pazardjik are descendants from

the Turks and are called Milets or Turkish speaking gypsies. Bisher is pastor of a church of about 600 people in this town, in which is also an illegally-built mosque where people are being encouraged to become radical.

Pastor Angelov was in the company of 4 people from his congregation when he was attacked. The mob of about 30 people beat him continuously for five to ten minutes, while he was laying in a pool of his own blood.

The reason for the attack was to intimidate the 'Kuffar', the unbelievers, especially the Muslims who have become Christians, which happens regularly in Bulgaria. Two of the attackers were arrested and held in custody for fifteen days, three others were let off after only 10 days.

Around the 5th of May on Bulgarian na-

tional TV it was made to look like a personal feud which got out of hand. Especially some officials tried to play down the role of radical Islam, which was shown here.

Our local contact person thinks that the government is afraid of inciting local unrest. But on the other hand, in an illegally-built mosque in Pazardjik hate-preachers are calling for the destruction of Israel and death to the Christians. The people are terrified.

Pastor Angelov is married and has a 14 year old son. His 21 year old daughter is living nearby. Radicals have threatened to kidnap her. Kidnapping still happens regularly in the Roma gypsy culture, but this generally has to do with forced marriages.

Our contact person visited Pastor Angelov and was able to see the scars all over his face. Bisher has been attacked and beaten up before but not in this way. Two hours before our contact person visited him, Pastor Angelov had received another threat, that if he does not stop preaching the Gospel, he and his family will be shot to death. This family must probably be brought to a safe place.

Eastern European Outreach Intl. has regularly seen the privileged position of Islam in the EU. In the south of Bulgaria most principalities are Turkish Muslim. They will forbid any humanitarian aid that is being sent by Christian or secular organisations.

The national government in Sofia could overrule this but is very reluctant to do so. A radical Muslim community is being built up near Plovdiv, one of Bulgaria's largest cities, and still the government in Sofia does not dare to take action.

"But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Luke 12:39-40 (NIV)

Blessing or curse? - God's in control!

**Osama? Mladic? and US?
Are we sinners too?**

Radical Muslims beat up Evangelist

Heart for the disabled

Roma gypsies



A few weeks ago newspapers all over the world were informing us that the end of the world would take place in a few days. Rev. Harold Camping made a prediction that the Lord will return on the 21st of May. Many people started to panic, but nothing happened. Rev. Camping said an error had been made and actually the new date is now 21st October 2011!

That's all very interesting, but does Pastor Camping know something that only The Father knows?

Let me assure you that it is written at least 9 times in the Bible that the Lord's return will be a surprise.

'No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father' (Matthew 24,36). That includes Harold Camping.

One thing is definite though, which is, that the Lord will return and we should be ready for it. People are getting petrified by the idea that the end of the world is at hand. Why? If it were up to me He would have returned yesterday! All the pain, difficulties, sorrow, war, famine, persecution so many people in this world have to go through, (just read the stories in this magazine) will be replaced by a New Heaven and a New Earth. Isn't that awesome?!

The fear inside most people about this moment is because they are not ready to meet their Maker. They do not know or do not want to know Jesus Christ.

As Christians, bearers of the Good News, we ought to be the light of the World. It is not a coincidence that this is

the theme of the Barnabas conferences this year. There is still time. I do not know how much. Maybe this writing will never make it to the printer, maybe the Lord will return in a few minutes. Maybe it will take Him a few more decades, it's still a surprise. As long we are being given time on this earth, we should take the opportunity to make Jesus known.

Be prepared for what is to come, but do not worry about it, unless you are not a born-again Christian. 'I would plant a tree,' was the reformer Martin Luther's reaction when someone asked him what he would do if he knew that the Lord would return the next day. I think it is a great statement to live by. When you are prepared, you are not worried, you would just do the things you were planning to do.

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

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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.



BLESSING OR CURSE? - GOD'S IN CONTROL

The story goes about an old forester who lived with his son. They were poor as church-mice but owned a beautiful white horse. Every day they gathered sticks to sell, in order to survive. The villagers laughed, saying they should sell their horse, but the old man said he would not sell "his friend", but would trust in God. One day the horse was not in his stall. Everyone said it had been stolen and told the old man he should have taken their advice, then at least he would have a lot of money. But soon the horse returned, bringing a whole herd of wild horses with him. "Oh, just look," the neighbours cried, "Your curse has turned into a blessing!"

While breaking in the wild horses, the son broke both his legs. Again the people laughed at the old forester and his son. "Your blessing has become a curse now!" they cried. But soon a war broke out and all the young men were sent to fight. "Oh, old man, all our sons will be killed but your son cannot go because his legs are broken! Your curse has become a blessing again!"

Whether this story is true or not, I cannot say, but I heard a true story from a missionary about a beautiful young girl who had recently come to faith in Jesus Christ, then contracted smallpox. She recovered but was left with a scarred face. The girl mourned for her lost looks but when bandits overran the village shortly after, killing the men and raping the women, they did not touch her. God had turned her 'curse' into a blessing.

A friend described how she was raped as a teenager, became pregnant and a doctor aborted the baby without her permission. This shock and grief added to the burden of guilt, shame and despair she was already carrying. Yet these and other traumatic experiences were preparing her to later found and edit a Christian magazine, which now goes into 100 nations, encouraging millions of women.

Positive and negative things happen to every one of us, and what looked like a blessing one day might quickly change to the opposite, while God, who is All-powerful and All-wise can change adverse circumstances to become something of great worth. Whatever Life or Satan throws at us, God will not even waste these, but will use them to work out His glory in us, and prepare us to help others who have the same needs.

What are you struggling with at the moment? Is depression or grief the first to greet you in the morning, or are they your companions through the dark night hours? Even though you may not understand, put it all into the hands of our Heavenly Father, who will turn every curse into a blessing, as only He can!

"And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans." Romans 8, 28 The Way Translation

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide

OSAMA? MLADIC? and US? ARE WE SINNERS TOO?



Counting the victims of Osama Bin Laden's terror we may find several thousands of people killed by terrorist actions, and Mladic, just brought to justice who killed 7000 persons in one war-crime action. But in democratic countries counting the victims of secular thinking, prosperity and luxury we would reach much higher figures, if we only think of the about 200,000 abortions carried out every year in the United Kingdom. But abortion is only one crime against humanity, there are many others.

What do we need to fear most? We want to fight terror and chase war-criminals to the bitter end, but are we not overlooking our own western responsibilities in regard to the huge human tragedies we cause? The ransom for all sinners was paid by Jesus. God's mercy reaches far beyond our understanding and observation when we really start to think about our individual and collective guilt. Let's start right now to pay what we owe to this world and preach the Gospel to all nations. This is the privilege we all have.

ALBANIA GROUP TRIP MARCH



With a team of five we flew out to Albania. After a smooth journey we arrived in Tirana, the capital. The atmosphere is very Middle Eastern and the city one cacophony of honking cars, driving left or right, trying to reach their destination. The difference between rich and poor is also very obvious; areas of ruins and shacks are followed by areas with good housing blocks and even villas.

Heart for the disabled

Contact person Renato Jani brings us to an old factory site. This is the place where the families with disabled people are living. The circumstances are dreadful, it looks like a ghetto.

These families do not receive help from the government -- no care, treatment or benefits.

To see disabled teenagers who can only move by crawling over the floor, and parents that are too ill to work, is almost unbearable.

Recently a school was opened in this area. The families now fear that they will be forced to move from the site, and they have no other place to go to.

EEO Intl.'s Child Sponsor Programme is helping these families.

Transports

In December 2010 the worst floods in decades affected the city of Shkoder in the north of the country. Renato asked us for help for this area. A few weeks before the team went out, a truckload of clothes and other emergency relief goods was sent to Albania from our head office in the Netherlands.

Widows

In Shkoder we also met a 40 year old widow who re-married a man 30 years her senior. Renato is very concerned about the needs of widows in Albania. Normally widows do not re-marry and are written off in the Albanian macho society. It is very difficult for widows to survive. This man and woman were able to start something new together and were even blessed with two

more children.

Due to an accident the mother has severe burns over her body and is still suffering immense pain. The floods damaged their water-pump and kitchen. Also the doors in the house will not close anymore.

Roma gypsies

In the city of Tepelena we visit several Roma gypsy families. They live in small houses, with a wood-burner in the centre of each house.

The mother of one of the families we visited has a dislocated hip, the father has been ill for years and is too weak to work. One of their sons has a severe eye condition and needs treatment. The mother tells us how they survive. The neighbours are so kind to help them a bit with doing heavy tasks like washing clothes (this has to be done manually). The mother sometimes sells corn at the local market, to earn some money. The family has accepted their situation and tries to make the best of it.

The father of another family is very active in the local church. One of the children in the family, only three years old was sexually abused. The attacker was caught by the police and released after just three days. Roma gypsies have no rights in Albania. The father needs medical help, but there is no money for treatment. The 16 year old daughter will go to Barnabas this year for the first time.

Barnabas

She is not the only one, many of the young people we meet are looking forward to the

annual event by EEO Intl.'s youth department.

We are still looking for sponsors who would be willing to support one of these youngsters to come to Barnabas; their participation will cost about £60.

At the Barnabas conference they will meet fellow Christians, which will be a great blessing as many of them are the only Christians in their town or village; also they will be encouraged and built up. Many of them go on to become leaders in their local churches.

Need

The families we visited are an example of both poverty but also progress. Especially when the Good News enters a house, hope and progress follow. All families need help. All of them have debts at the local grocery shop. We prayed with the families and left some food parcels.

Old People

When we arrived at the Old People's Home in Shkoder we witnessed a truck just delivering 500 litres of Diesel for the heating. In this way we also want to thank our donors that have made this possible. Despite the constant support of EEO UK and Intl., every day is another struggle. Most of the people are mentally challenged. In 1993 EEO Intl. helped to renovate the building. At that time also several missionaries were stationed there.

At that time the government did not help, and they still do not. There is no money to pay the water bill, the wiring in the building needs to be replaced and they also need a new washing machine and kitchen utensils. Other needs are materials for the day care, new linen, etc., approximately £30,000 is needed.

