

Heating for Eastern Europe

When you receive this newsletter, the long winter in eastern Europe is about to start or has started already. We do realise that it becomes almost like an annual plea, as we write at least once or twice a year about it, but it is very much needed. As for many eastern Europeans the winter period is an expensive time. In the villages people have to buy wood, which is expensive. In the towns and cities, people live often in apartment blocks, with heating prices already very high, and since countries like Romania and Bulgaria have recently joined the EU, prices have gone through the roof, heating costs as much as many people's monthly salary, or more! Would you help us to provide for the needy, and give your Brother and Sister on the other side of Europe a warm winter?



Family House in Ukraine

This year we started with five children in the Family House. Three girls and two boys have a chance of a better future. Children that are rejected or taken away from the parents have little prospects in Ukraine. They have to spend their youth in orphanages, where they grow up without love and personal attention. The Family House stimulates the children in their physical and emotional development, so they can overcome their deficiencies. We strive to get the children to a normal level of development in as short a time as possible.

During the stay in the Family House, a family is looked for who wish to adopt a child. This happens only in Ukraine. This year, all three girls were adopted by Ukrainian families. The two sisters live together and were adopted by one family.

Discussions precede the adoption, in which we get to know the married couple. We speak extensively about the meaning of adoption and the consequences, but we also look at the stability of the family. After a long getting to know period between the child and the couple, in which the couple visits the Family House, the adoption request is submitted to the judge. The adoptions are according to the Ukrainian adoption laws.

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.

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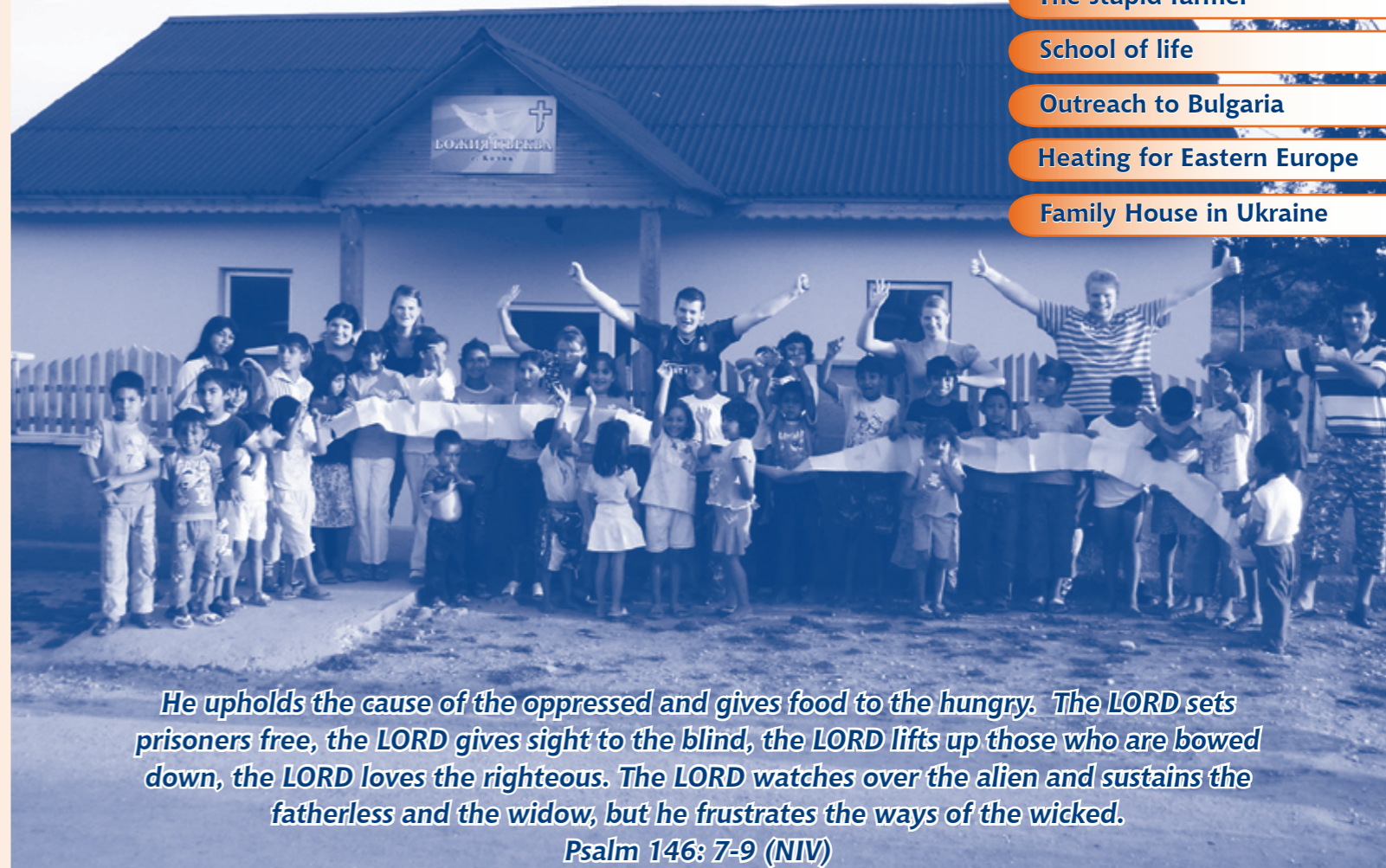
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He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Psalm 146: 7-9 (NIV)

Racism is one great lie!

In our ministry we work for a great part among the gypsies, or Roma as they prefer to call themselves. In countries like Romania and Bulgaria, they are one of the largest minority groups with a high percentage of the total population. Roma are largely ignored and looked down at.

Often they live in ghettos or camps outside cities, towns and villages. The circumstances they have to live in are often horrible and chances to get out of the circle of poverty are often zero, as generally they lack the necessary education or are being ignored simply because they are gypsy.

Racism is a big problem worldwide. The colour of your skin can often make you or break you. This is hard to understand, as we are all created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26,27). Black, brown, yellow or white, to God it doesn't matter. He made the nations, but we are all one race, the human race. To God we are all the same, and He loves us to bits! That is why we continue to stand up for the oppressed and continue to show God's love to the people who are written off by their society!



The stupid farmer

Today on "Songs of Praise" it was about harvest, and meeting readers from the seemingly eternal radio serial "The Archers". I remember, as a little girl of seven on holiday with Grandad and Grandma, when after tea, on came the wellknown tune... and we all had to sit as quiet as mice while Grandad heard the next episode. I was terribly sad when Phil Archer's farm caught on fire and his wife, Grace, was killed.

If not living it through a fictional farmer's family, many of us grew up in the country where in September the harvest was gathered in - golden stocks of grain standing high in the fields to dry, the sweating and laughter of the haymakers, the gathering of plump blackberries, and the old village church where pumpkins flashed orange, piles of cabbages, marrows and carrots, and bowls of pears and apples flanked the stone pulpit, while we all nearly raised the roof with "We plough the fields and scatter...".

God promised summer and winter, seedtime and harvest would not cease as long as the earth remains, and gave us his rainbow of mercy in the clouds at the same time as the promise. I wrote a poem about a farmer who dreamed of a golden harvest, but when his practical wife told him to go and plough the land and sow the seed then, he replied, "O no, the Lord will do it all! He is so great, there's nothing he can't do!" and went off to bed!

After months of dreaming and talking about it to his neighbours, when harvesttime came, all this stupid farmer had was WEEDS! They are the only thing that you do not need to sow. We might laugh about this, but we often expect God's harvest of blessing but we have sown the devil's seed of worry, fear, doubt, gossip which have all brought a negative harvest. If we plant carrots, then we won't get tomatoes. We reap what we sow, not just in garden produce but in our everyday lives.

Every kind word, deed or offering we give from a cheerful, loving heart will produce an abundant harvest. The little boy gave only five loaves and two fishes to Jesus, but in those creative hands, a harvest of plenty was reaped, with everyone having enough to eat and twelve basketfuls left over.

Jesus said: Don't say there are still four months until the harvest. Look and see, the fields are more than ready, golden-white. He was talking about the harvest of souls and nations, waiting to be gathered into the Father's Kingdom, still standing while the storm approaches in the field of the world. "Pray therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

EEO UK also needs more workers, prayer-backing or more finances to send those labourers. Our heartfelt thanks to every one of you who has invested in this worthwhile field. God will grant you also a harvest of blessing!

Mission Monitor

by Matthias J. Van der Weide



SCHOOL of LIFE

This summer my wife and I enjoyed our holiday on the peninsula, Istria, in Croatia. Not only because my Mum was born in Croatia, close to Serbia, but also because of our ministry in eastern Europe, this was very inspiring. This peninsula, however, has been under several rulers for 2000 years. Everything still shows the footprints of the Roman empire, which gave the impression that time had stood still. But it had not. Not in most things. There was no way to find an internet café in this little village to catch up with some mission duties

but the local school allowed me to use their computer in the canteen; I met teachers who were sweating on their new season schedules. They enjoyed my company as a hard-working fellow human-being. It seemed to encourage them! A new evangelisation method? Join the hard-working people! Show them Christ? Satellite TV brought us the blessing of German Bible TV.

We could see and hear Joyce Meyer on it! The funeral of Michael Jackson amazed us! How can a man's death bring forth so much Gospel testimony to the world, more than his entire lifetime? German Bible TV ended with a prayer call on the screen: Bete für Matthias (Pray for Matthias). We needed that because after the holiday the flu. hit us briefly but intensively. Beside all this, we enjoyed much of the rugged nature as well, were exhausted with walking and I also made a quick visit to Italy to get the special antibiotics my wife needed urgently. Most of all, we enjoyed the presence of our Lord and thank Him for the 'school of life', and His unique Teacher, the Holy Spirit.

- by Gerrit Wiersema -



In our August edition of Outreach magazine I wrote a short update on the Barnabas festival which was actually going on at the time of writing. Since then we had a brilliant outreach to Silistra in Bulgaria of which I would like to give some testimony in the following article.

It was about 11 am when we left for our eight hour drive to Silistra in the north of Bulgaria. After a short break in Slobozia where we said goodbye to the teams going on outreach to Babadag and Slobozia, we drove on for the last part of the journey. After a smooth ride we arrived safely at our destination. Just over the border we met up with Pastor Emil.

The next day I went with Emil, his wife and a lady from their church to Dobric a city 60 miles from Silistra to buy carpet and wallpa-

per for the youth room in the church, which desperately needed refurbishing. In the meantime the team was preparing for the programme we were to have in a small church in Aydemir.

As soon as we were back in Silistra we rushed to pick up the team for the evening meeting.

When we arrived at the meeting about 20 people were eagerly awaiting us there. It was a very nice time, with acapella worship as the church did not have musical instru-

ments and we had left our guitar in the apartment. But this did not matter at all, we had a great time with our brothers and sisters in the Lord and were able to encourage them with testimony and songs, but even more were blessed ourselves, by their enthusiasm and love for the Lord.

On Sunday we were guests at the church of pastor Emil in Silistra where we had fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters and had the opportunity to share testimony and some songs as well.

In the evening we went to a church in Koziak, a small and very poor Roma gypsy village. In this village we were going to organise a meal for anyone who wanted to join in; this was planned for the upcoming Friday.

First we did a children's programme and then lead

the church meeting. It went really well, the children were very enthusiastic about the puppet play and the Bible story, and joyfully joined in with the children's songs. We had a brilliant time together and before we realised it the adults were taking their seats and it was time for the main service.

The next couple of days we spent as a team helping the church to do renovation work in the youth room upstairs. From the project donations we had received from donors we bought several wooden boards and insulation material. With these materials we redid the whole ceiling. In the meantime the girls were putting the wallpaper on the wall. Three days later we had done the whole youth room and decided to immediately do Emil's office as well. On Thursday it was all finished.

Wednesday night we did another programme in Koziak and started to prepare for Friday.

Friday the big day, we were expecting around 100 people to come to the church for a meal, so about 20 kilos of tomatoes were bought, also 2 kilos of onions; bread and drinks were added and Emil arranged with a local restaurant to prepare about 300 sausages.

The feast was a great success and a real blessing for the village. Around 100 people joined in for the meal and the programme.

A welcome day off to the beach in Varna was next on the programme. Sunday our last day had arrived. In the morning we had the opportunity to give testimony and speak a word of encouragement to the local church, and in the evening we travelled to a town about 40 miles out of Silistra, where we went to a very small church. Also here we were very blessed by our brothers and sisters in the Lord and were able to be an encouragement to them as well.

Barnabas 2009 has been to me and the rest of the team a real blessing, it deepened our relationship with the Lord. It is also a great privilege to be a blessing to so many others, and as a team, to be an encouragement for the local church and to be used to sow a tiny seed of God's love in the hearts of the children of Koziak.

Financially we were able to be a blessing as well; the finances we took with us were adequate for all the needs. Our goal was to organise the feast in Koziak, but we were even able to do all the repairing in the church and there was even money left to give to the church to buy toys to use in their children's club and youth ministry. Please pray with us for the vision this church has, to reach the children and young people in Silistra and that a really effective ministry may grow out of it, to reach a nation, one town at a time.

