



# Outreach

es, helping them with clean water, food, clothes and the rebuilding of the houses. It will cost about £600 to help a family to rebuild their house, give them food, some basic furniture and clothes. Can we count on your help in this matter?

Please pray for Pastor Elisha and his team when they continue to distribute the help. Will you please pray for protection on the roads and in the villages. Pray for openings that God's love may shine through.

In October a Barnabas team is going to Pakistan as well. They will teach the children at the mission schools and share God's Word in the churches, but they will especially go out to bless and encourage the local community and the flood-affected areas. Please remember them in your prayers as well.



## NOT A CURSE BUT A CALLING!

- by Tilly Nieuwstraten -

Losing someone you love can make you feel very depressed, but can also give you the strength to do something great. I was really touched by the Romanian teacher, Lacramioara, who lost her disabled daughter, Jarina, and now wants to start a day-care centre for disabled children.

In 2003 my husband and I visited the village of Slobozia in the east of Romania. We were confronted with the poverty over there. Roma families are very large, parents struggle to provide for their children. The houses are filthy and damp inside. Every day is a struggle for survival. It makes you realise how blessed we are in the west.

We were in Slobozia to make a video about the pre-school project for the Children's Relief department. Here, toddlers get a chance to go to school. Education is the key to a better future. At school they can forget their difficult home situation. Lacramioara is giving her best for the children.

Lacramioara went through a very difficult time herself, first having the joy of receiving a baby from the Lord, then finding her daughter Jarina was severely mentally and physically handicapped. Jarina went to be with the Lord at just 2 years of age. Lacramioara wants to start a day-care centre for disabled children, as they are often outcasts in society. They are looked down upon, and seen as a shame to the parents. It is painful to read that they are seen as a curse from God. They are a forgotten group that does not exist for the outside world.

I was reminded by Proverbs 31, 8 where it says: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

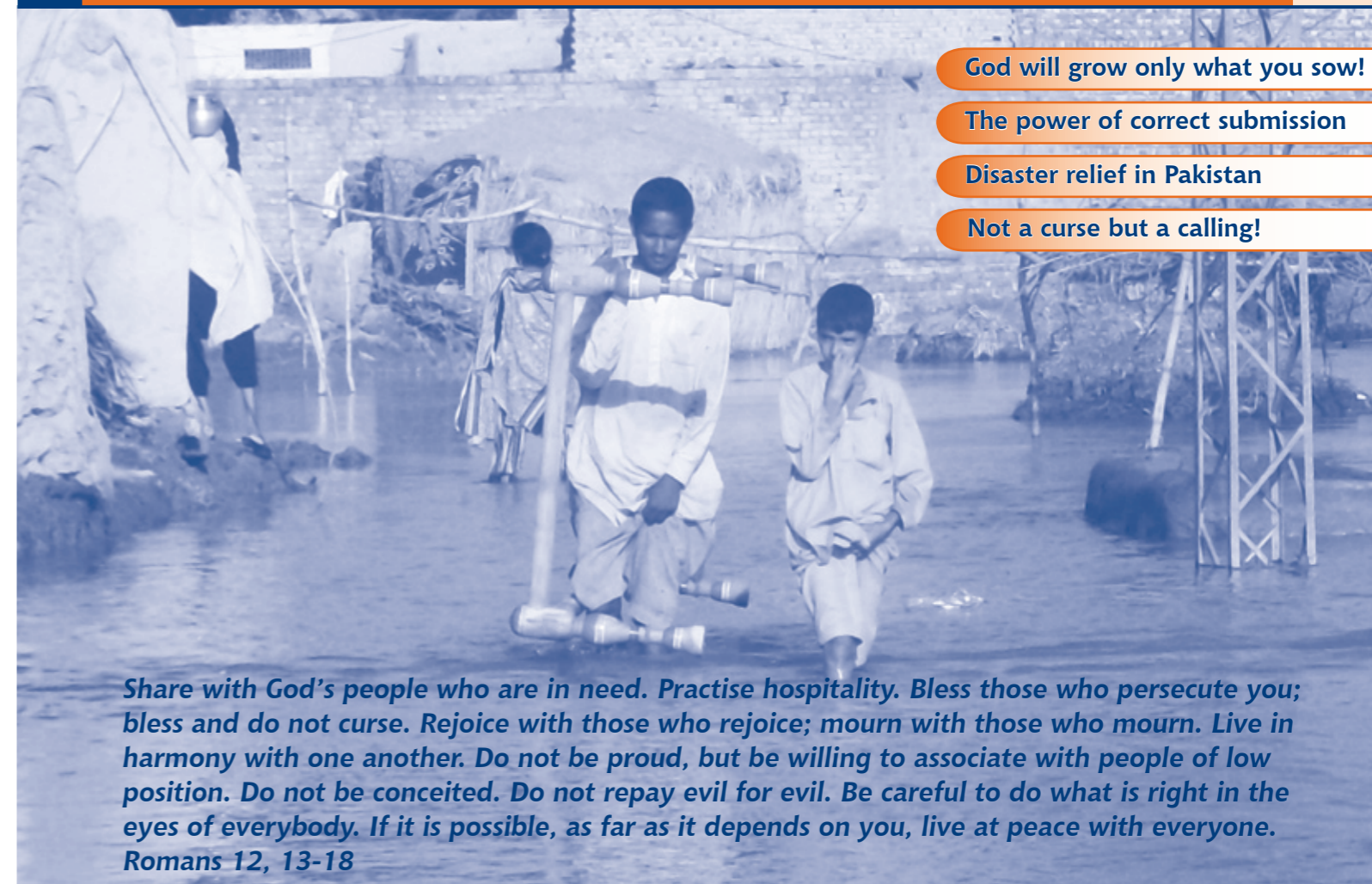
When I read this text I see a call for action. We can make a difference. At one time there was a vision for a school in the Roma camp in Slobozia. Nowadays this building is fully operative and children from the village are going to school. Can we count on your help to make this vision of a day-care centre for disabled children happen as well?



**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 2980 126 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.



God will grow only what you sow!

The power of correct submission

Disaster relief in Pakistan

Not a curse but a calling!

**Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12, 13-18**

While writing this introduction I re-read a couple of back issues. It is 8 months after I wrote about Haiti and the floods in Albania, and now it would be possible to just write the same introduction and change the places and dates. It is so difficult to hear about all the need in the world; it seems that disaster follows disaster.

This issue of Outreach Magazine focuses on the current dreadful situation in Pakistan. By the time you are reading this, most of the water will probably have gone. However, now is the most difficult time, the time of rebuilding. People tend to forget this, as it is no longer breaking news and the media drops it.

It is encouraging to see some nuggets of hope in this situation of suffering. The Gospel is being shared in areas which were previously closed, and preached in the most powerful and real way, in deeds of love.

Many Christians in Pakistan are overlooked when the authorities distribute the aid given by the west, so it is there that many Christians are putting Romans 12, 20 into practice, when helping their Muslim neighbours: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

On page 3 you can read a report of Pastor Elisha's activities and the situation at the time of writing. I would really encourage you to continue to pray and, where possible, to help Pakistan and India.

Another focus this month is on one of our projects in Slobozia, where Lacramioara is starting up a day-care centre for disabled children (report on page 4). Please remember this project, and also the school in the Roma camp of Slobozia in your prayers.





## GOD WILL GROW ONLY WHAT YOU SOW!

This morning we had a Harvest Festival service. A large crate of fruit and vegetables stood in front of the platform with vine tomatoes and grapes spilling over the side. One of the elders told us he and his wife usually bottle and freeze a lot of fruit and vegetables every year from their large garden. But due to the high rainfall this year, there was hardly any fruit and he had only a handful of green beans and a few tomatoes. He was feeling rather upset about this, but when he went to the cellar and saw the rows of bottled fruit and vegetables still there from other years he felt ashamed, and thanked God that they had such abundance. How true, that in the west, we take so much for granted, yet without God's help we would soon have nothing to eat, for we can only sow and cultivate the original seeds which God gives.

I once wrote a poem about a farmer who lay down on his bed and dreamed about having a golden harvest, but he did not plough or prepare the land or plant any seed. At harvest-time, the fields of this foolish man brought forth only weeds for they are the only things which grow on their own! God has created some creatures and birds to fertilise plants or to drop undigested seeds in flight; other seeds are distributed by wind and rain. Yet, most of the time, the seed must be planted to bring forth a harvest. **No seed, no harvest.** Sometimes we do the same as the farmer. We want God's blessing on our life without sowing the promises in his Word in our life first, or fulfilling the conditions of a clean heart or of having faith. We pray for increased finances without sowing financial seed or remembering the poor, as God's Word tells us.

A Hungarian lady, Anna, told us that a young mother asked her to speak with her pastor, for she wanted to bring her new baby to be dedicated. Anna knew that this family was deep into the occult and never went to church. Was it worth bothering with this woman? Further, the pastor lived 2 hours walk away, Anna worked fulltime, had three children, was active in the church, and she could not see how she would have time and strength to do this. But she obeyed the Lord's prompting and prayed: "Lord, make this child one of your servants!" Thirty years later, a young man came up to her and said: "You don't know me, but you helped my mother and I was that little baby. I am now a pastor!"

**So let's be reminded of God's law of sowing and reaping at this Harvest-time. Many of you, like Anna, have already planted seeds of prayer, kindness and financial help into the lives of the poor in eastern Europe, which have produced a great harvest. Let me encourage you to plant some more, TODAY!**

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



## THE POWER OF CORRECT SUBMISSION

Is submission our mission? Islam in its full meaning stands for subjection and as we know from history but also from the overall practise in Islamic countries, we observe violent subjection. Modern and western Islamic believers seek more peaceful submission to certain moral standards they think the Koran stands for.

How is our understanding as Christians in our relationship to God and His creatures? Adam was supposed to rule the earth, but he failed. Subjection to sin was the result. Jesus came and subjected himself to be killed by the hands of sinners and He did not fail. He was able to do that because of His submission to God His Father.

Some people think what a cruel Father who wanted His son to die for sinners. But sinners are thankful for the many chances God has given to better our lives, through Jesus, who laid down His life willingly for us. Therefore, let us submit ourselves to His Great Commission which will make this world a better place, and let us submit to the claims of Jesus Christ, which will give us access to God's New and Perfect World in the next life.

# DISASTER RELIEF IN PAKISTAN



It is good to start with some positive news from Pakistan. Over the last few months the money that was needed to register Pastor Elisha's schools, buildings and churches has been provided. In this way we would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this possible. It is a great blessing to be able to continue this work.

In recent months large areas of Pakistan have suffered from severe floods, hundreds of people have lost their lives, and millions have lost more or less all their earthly belongings. Many houses have collapsed; furniture, clothes and other possessions have been ruined or severely damaged. The harvest, if any, will be very small, as most of the crops have not survived the water. Many people also lost their animals.

It is good news to hear that the world has sprung into action trying to help the affected areas in Pakistan and India. Millions have been donated to help the victims and much more is needed to get the affected areas back on track.

Unfortunately, the harsh reality is that many Christians are denied aid. A quote from Carl Moeller, president and CEO of Open Doors USA: "Some Christian refugees are openly denied aid, while others are told to leave or convert to Islam, you can imagine that terrible choice: either you abandon your faith

or you cannot feed your child."

Our contact person, Pastor Elisha, has been going out with teams from his churches to help in 12 villages where several Christian families are living.

The situation is desperate as many houses have collapsed or are severely damaged by the water. There is not much clean drinking water, so most people have to drink straight from the filthy river.

Since that first visit, many trips have been made. At the beginning of September Pastor Elisha received help from a Christian couple in the Netherlands that assisted him with these tasks.

The goal is to help and encourage the local people, especially the Christians. One lady told with tears in her eyes that when the Muslim Aid organisations came to distribute the relief goods, that the Christians were left out and did not receive any help.

Every time the team goes out to the areas they take a van filled with containers of clean water, food and clothes.

Pastor Elisha's focus is to help anyone who is in need, regardless of whether they are Christian or Muslim. The way Pastor Elisha works, is to help the local Christians so they

in their turn can help anyone else around them, regardless of their faith. This is a great witness to the local Muslim and Hindu population.

Even though the rainy season is over, a lot of water has built up in India. Regularly this water is released, and allowed to flood into Pakistan, with disastrous consequences.

Here is part of a report from Pastor Elisha:

"The next day I went with 3 pastors to the border with India. We visited 4 villages together with the local pastor. There was so much water, so we were unable to drive through it by motorbike. Everywhere were police officers redirecting people. Everywhere were red flags, which mean that you cannot pass. Praise God, I made some mission church tags, for some reason the police thought that we were important people so we were able to continue the journey and visit the 4 villages. What we saw broke our hearts. Children drinking flood water, the same water the animals were drinking from as well. Everybody was starving. The children were crying for food. Some Christians told us that yesterday an Aid organisation came but they did not receive any help because they are Christians. I couldn't believe that so I said to these people that this couldn't be the only reason, but this family told me that the organisation was only helping the Muslims in the village. Then we told them that we are here because God has sent us here to help them, but also the Muslims and Hindus. We had a chance to preach the Gospel in this village.

In recent weeks we have visited 12 villages. In almost every place we were allowed to share the Gospel! With some of the donations we've received, so far we have been able to rebuild 15 houses. We encourage the locals to help each other, and we see them helping each other rebuilding the houses. It was very encouraging to see that a widow with six children was given land by the people from her village, the local builder built her a one room house for free! Six times we have driven a minivan filled with emergency aid to the area. A great thank you to everyone who has helped us already."

Soon it will be time to rebuild, funds are needed to continue the help to these villages.

