



These are pictures of the destruction caused by the 6.4 earth quake in Albania. The pictures taken inside are from one of the evangelical churches in Durres.



EARTH QUAKE ALBANIA – by Renato Jani

On the 26th of November Albania became front page news after an earthquake had shocked the nation. Renato Jani EEO director in Albania shared the following: It was horrible, it was about 4 am and we were in a deep sleep when suddenly everything started to shake. We had to flee from our flat in pitch darkness as the power was cut by the tremor. Yelling children and screaming mums in pyjamas were trying to make their way down the staircase out onto the street.

Within hours 26 deaths and 650 injured were confirmed. The current confirmed death toll as I write, is 51. Nine apartment blocks have collapsed and many houses have been declared uninhabitable. After the first tremor which had a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale with the epicentre between the capital of Tirana and harbour city of Durres, followed another tremor with a magnitude of 3.4. Around 350 aftershocks have been felt in-between the two tremors. Albania has asked the EU for help for the victims. This help is mainly aimed at victims who lost their house and/or family members. Our focus is also on the families and people who have been affected indirectly and live further away from the affected areas. I have asked the Child Sponsor Programme contact persons to how the families we are looking after have been affected by the situation.

In the days and weeks following the earthquake aftershocks are still being felt. Many do not want to leave the ruins of their houses as they fear people will steal their personal belongings. Others are staying in hotels. The Relief and Aid organisations are currently hindered by the government as the government wants to control the financial aid and also manage the relief goods centrally. With the CSP contact persons we have started to help the affected families. In co-operation with 'Disciples of Jesus' church in Tirana, 'New life church' in Durres and our partner 'Seed of hope' we have started to hand out food and warm meals to the homeless. **Your support is really appreciated.**

Editorial by Kelton Black (Chairman EEOUK)



Its Christmas!

Christmas is when we celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, God's precious Son. Jesus is the reason for the season. This is a busy time and puts extra pressures on family life, extra expense and extra preparation trying to get everything done. However, I wonder if you could perhaps add Eastern European Outreach to your 'present list'. It is so precious when regular sponsors decide to send an additional Christmas gift to help the families at this time.

I was privileged last month to visit Ukraine and visited some of the projects going on there. These are in addition to the child sponsorship program. Many lives have been impacted by the generosity of those in the United Kingdom giving to the work of EEO UK. I saw first hand the five unit home that is set up to help needy mothers and babies, a home for teenagers and the very busy bakery that is set up to help the ministry. It was also amazing to see an old industrial building being transformed from derelict to a functioning Youth Centre. It was a blessing to spend time with the team as they showed me round. Please continue to pray for all coordinators and workers who serve so faithfully. Our role, as partners in the UK, is to bless the children and families there.

So I want to say thank you to all those who generously give and those who pray faithfully for the work and ministry of Eastern European Outreach, and your continued support. May God bless you and your families and the churches this Christmas and the New Year. My prayer is that God will reward you greatly!

Roma school Lucirici (Firefly), Slobozia

During my recent visit to Romania I visited Lacramioara in Slobozia. It was nice being back at the school I visited about 7 years ago. Frankly not too much has changed during that time. Even for western standards the school looks quite presentable inside. This is also needed as the Romanian school inspection is very vigorous especially when it comes to non-state schools. The garden and playground really needed some work, but the next day a team from Holland was coming to help by fixing the playground, clearing the ground and mowing the lawn.



There are some less obvious issues, especially with the paintwork at the outside of the building; also the gutter needs to be emptied. The most serious issue is the concrete fence adjoining the neighbour's house. The school is built on a hill. In order to create a flattish plot to build the building and the school grounds, part of the hill needed to be excavated. A support wall was built between the school and the neighbour. Unfortunately the wall is starting to crumble and needs to be rebuilt, either with a metal wall or one made of reinforced concrete. The heating system in the building is also very inefficient. Lacramioara had just spent about £1000 for a truckload of firewood which will take them through most of the winter. The wood burner doesn't generate much heat but is sufficient to make it bearable inside in the winter, but as soon as the children leave for home which is generally around noon Lacramioara switches off the heating. The building cools down quite rapidly and it means that she does all her administrative work in the cold. Another issue is the fence on the other side of the building. The wood is starting to deteriorate, Lacramioara prefers to have it replaced by metal so it will last much longer. Many children in the village are going to her pre-school, however the number is declining. A lot has to do with the fact that half of the village has moved abroad.

PAKISTAN UPDATE – By Pastor Elisha Samuel

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME. I think the Apostle Paul said this to encourage me. From 27 September - 21 October 2019 I was in Pakistan. What I am sharing with you is just to give all the glory to the holy Name of Jesus. Many times I said, I am nothing, but his grace is sufficient and gives me power to share his Word. There is power in his Word, also abundant power in his blood! Amen.



In 25 days I had the privilege to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 40 places, big and small churches, family cell-groups, Gospel and healing meetings, 3 big meetings in the open-air, Youth meetings, Barnabas Sunday School, meetings for married couples and a pastors' conference. We saw God move mightily. Souls were restored, many people got saved and 18 were baptised in water. The previous time I visited Pakistan 6 people were baptised. I went to the notorious kilns which are brick factories. Families there literally live like slaves. This has been going on for generations and there is no church. Some pastors visit, but not regularly. A few families gathered together and what a joy to share Jesus with them. Many people do not know him, but now many do!

I asked a pastor to visit regularly and even managed to arrange some kind of salary for him and money for fuel as it is about 24 miles from our place. The offering is almost nothing, just a Pound or two. I visited 3 places and promised I will come back. People started to know Jesus, he had been just a name for them. We now have a church there; it is just an open place with no chairs, rugs on the ground and no roof. But praise God, people will now hear the Word. In one pastors' conference I asked all the 29 pastors to visit that place and train somebody from that area. I humbly ask you to pray for the KASUR area (which is outside Lahore bordering India).



After a church service, a family invited me to their son's 12th birthday. We went and shared the Word of God. When the boy wanted to cut the cake, his mother said, "My son is suffering from Tuberculosis and tomorrow he will be admitted to hospital. My heart filled with compassion; there were 4 or 5 pastors there, and I asked them to also pray for a miracle, then we went home. I came back to Hungary but continued to pray for the boy. Next day when the parents took him to hospital, there was no sign of TB! They sent me a small clip, where you can see the boy giving testimony that God had healed him! Brothers and Sisters, this is the faithful Lord we serve. His words are true: "IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR ME...?!"



I visited the Mission schools 3 or 4 times a week. All are doing well. The children receive education, and learn God's Word, sing songs and learn verses by heart in English and Urdu. From class 6, girls learn cooking, and the boys gardening and agriculture. Some girls learn art work, making coloured paper flowers, which look very real, and decoration work. The boys play football and cricket and the girls have other games. We have had Mission Schools for 19 years. This time I met so many boys and girls who are now working in good jobs. At least 10 boys are in Christian ministry; a few help with the Barnabas ministry and some young women help with the Barnabas Sunday school. It is a joy for me, just as the Apostle John said in his letter, what a great joy to see my children walking in the way of the Lord. Amen! I also went for dialysis in Pakistan. Thank God it all went well and I did not catch any infection. Dialysis or no dialysis, I share Jesus every day. He is my everything! I love him for He first loved me, chose me for his work and put his word in my mouth.

If you are able and the Lord lays it on your heart, please pray and send a love-gift for our ministry. God bless you all and give you a wonderful Christmas! The peace of the Lord be with you! Amen.

Baby department Ukraine

Over the years many volunteers have worked in the hospitals in Beregowo, Svalyava, Uzhgorod and Vinogradiv in the local Baby Departments. Most babies born in the hospital go home with the mother after a few hours or days. Some babies need extra care and may stay a bit longer. However, it does happen that mothers bring their babies to the hospital for minor ailments and never return. Currently hospitals look after these children. Hospitals in Ukraine are understaffed and underfunded. Most nurses are over 50 as young nurses tend to move abroad to work, which is understandable, as a nurse's salary is around £100 per month. From that money they are also expected to pay for things like disinfectant. The result is that the hospitals are seriously understaffed, often having just one nurse for 2 departments. On my last visits I met several Ukrainian nurses, ladies with a real heart for their job.



Our volunteers have taken on the task to give the babies the necessary love and attention. They also use good quality nappies, cleaning materials etc. Over the years this has made a big difference as babies receive the love and attention they so desperately need at that age; they also receive clean clothes and clean nappies. It is a very demanding job, not only is it a huge responsibility looking after several babies, it has happened several times that babies were so weak that they died. Sometimes a baby has been sent home to its parents while you know that they can't look after it properly. The house being in an abysmal state, parents are alcoholics or a child has certain allergies and parents are unable to afford a specific diet (for example sugar, gluten or lactose free). Also many children are sent to an orphanage which even in 2019 is still not a nice place to spend the first 18 years of your life.

Over the last couple of years much has changed in Ukraine and next year many changes will follow. More and more children are being sent home with their parents or sent quicker to the local orphanage. This has resulted in fewer and fewer babies on the ward. The projects in Svalyava and Uzhgorod have been closed at an earlier stage and last month Beregowo hospital worker Jorien said goodbye to the final child in her care.



Marianne and Mirjam are two workers in Vinogradiv, at the moment they are looking after about 10 children. After April 2020 the plans of the government will be enforced. The consequences of these measures are still unclear but it will probably mean that also the Baby Department in Vinogradiv will close. Until that moment Mirjam and Marianne will look after the little ones.

Please remember Jorien, Mirjam and Marianne in your prayers, for their current work looking after the babies but also for their future endeavours, looking into new areas of ministry.

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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 application. However, a freewill gift of £10 per year would help to cover postage and production costs. EEO UK works with Eastern European Outreach International, a group of missions and ministries. The main partner is Stg. OostEuropa Zending (NL), on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina