

BARNABAS TESTIMONIES



Barnabas Albania team 2013

Cleda (17, Tirana)

Currently I'm still in High School in Tirana and this is my first time here at Barnabas. I was invited to come by our youth pastor, Egli. All the other girls were very excited. I thought it would be a great opportunity to go to a camp, but my mother and father were not so excited as they are Muslim. Egli talked with my parents. However they are not happy that I have become a Christian. I am a very new Christian; I only gave my heart to the Lord this April. Since January I have been going to the church. In April people prayed for me and when I went home I was so excited. Jesus was with me. I felt like a joy that made me cry. After the crying I felt so free. I came home and I was so happy. Until then I was always arguing and fighting with my parents and brothers and sisters. Since that day all has changed. When I read the Bible they want me to go to another room.

My sister who is two years older is reading the Quran. Many families are Muslim by tradition. They do not go to "xhami" or mosque. They don't keep the rules and rituals. My grandfather is quite traditional, if he would know I am a Christian, he would never talk to me again. Last year I was wearing a necklace with a cross and my grandfather ripped it off my neck and threw it away.

When at home I say something about Christianity or I correct their foul language, they start arguing with me. Lately it became better. My mother went to church with me, and actually she quite liked it.

Kejdi (20, Tirana)

Next year I am going to college to study filmography; my desire is to become a movie director. At this moment I have volunteered as a children's worker for a christian organisation and I am doing a traineeship as cameraman at National Television (TVSH).

I was raised in a traditional Muslim family. Being Muslim is part of our family tradition. My grandfather was an Imam. My uncle called me to help me to memorize parts of Quran and keep the traditions. For example there were these rituals not to step on the doorstep or to look into the mirror at night or wear a cross on a necklace. These rituals didn't make much sense to me. Basically I had my life and God had no place in it. The only connection was the rituals and the prayers. These prayers were often very selfish prayers. I only prayed when I needed something from Him.

When I was fifteen I met some Christians. They organised some sporting events and

I participated in these. I liked going there. They were good guys and I had trouble with my own friends. Later I started to join the youth ministry. We hung out together and talked about God. Then I noticed something I never noticed before. These people knew God and they talked about Him like He was their friend. I had my religion but it was not a relationship. I just asked for favours and followed the rules.

I became quite jealous of them and wanted to find out more. I came to a cross-roads. Do I want to continue following the ways of Islam or do I want what these Christians have.

I started borrowing books about Islam and also started to read the Bible. I asked my uncle questions and also my Christian friends, but the answers of my uncle did not satisfy me. I knew there is something more. The answers from my Christian friends were completely logical and very sharp: I realised I did wrong things.

I wanted to find the truth in Islam, so I continued to search. The more I searched, the more God started to open my eyes. This period took about half a year. I understood that Christianity had the truth, but I still wanted to find the truth in Islam: it can't be all wrong. The more I searched, the more I realised it is wrong. One day I couldn't take it anymore and decided that I had to start following Jesus.

My parents were very opposed to my decision. They tried to convince me that it was wrong to go to church and visiting the youth group. In the beginning I didn't tell my parents when I went to church. Over time they started to accept it. They noticed my new friends were a much better influence on me than my old friends. Now they know when and where I go to church. I show Jesus through my daily life.

I hope that one day I will have courage to talk with my parents about Jesus. My brother comes to church every now and then, which is really encouraging.



EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH
Registered Charity: 290643

Outreach

Chosen and Chosen again...

Three Weddings in one Week

Barnabas Bulgaria

Barnabas testimonies



Barnabas Bulgaria team 2013

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptised?"

Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptised him. Acts 8: 35-38 NKJV

The UK and most of Europe have just experienced a heat wave. The school holidays have begun, it is definitely summer!

This is also the time of year to organise events like summer camps and our annual Barnabas festival.

In countries like Albania and Bulgaria, being a born-again Christian is difficult. This is not only because of opposition from the Orthodox Church, the local Mosque or even their own family, but loneliness is even worse. Many young people are the only Christians in their family or even their own village.

Summer camps and especially Barnabas brings young people out of their isolation for a few days. At the camp they will meet other Christians; it is also a great time to build confidence and a foundation for their lives.

The events in Albania and Bulgaria have just finished. The Romania event is still going on. A report of the Bulgaria conference can be found on page 3. On the back page you will find testimonies from two youngsters from Albania.

Probably most moving was the baptism of 6 young people in the Black Sea. Young people that committed themselves to a new life. Like the eunuch from Acts 8 they believe in Jesus Christ, and took the opportunity to be baptised, symbolically leaving their old life in the Black Sea, and starting a new life with Jesus Christ.

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

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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.



CHOSEN AND CHOSEN AGAIN...

"You are My witnesses," says the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me." Isaiah 43:10 (NKJV)

Jesus said, "Many are called but few are chosen. We who have the privilege of ministering the gospel, I believe are twice chosen. Firstly, chosen for salvation, then secondly chosen to serve in sharing of the Gospel.

In Isaiah 43, verse 10. We see God's declaration over him is that he was chosen to be God's witness. That is chosen to see (witness) what God is doing and also to be a witness and share what we have seen. God has three goals for us - "that you may know Me..." "that you may believe Me..." and "that you may understand that God is the One and only true God" Wow, what a great plan God has for his people, yet simple. In summary He is saying what I want is, that you live your life in relationship with Almighty God, through Jesus Christ.

Consider this..... What is motivating you? What is it that drives your daily life; What drives your giving and what drives your activities?

We can be motivated by NEED; - Things need to be done; -Things need to be provided for. - The result of this is we will be very tired people. There will always be too much to accomplish.

We can be motivated by DUTY; - Things we feel as Christians we SHOULD do. We will doing the actions but will probably lack the heart. We will serve, we will give, but we will get weary easily.

Can I suggest the greatest motivation comes from RELATIONSHIP; - walking with God himself. We will do what He is doing. We will give as he instructs our giving. We will go where he directs us to go. Life is a joy, Nothing is too much because He is prompting us every step. Our days will be filled with significance and fulfillment. I invite you over the coming months, ENJOY WALKING WITH GOD. BE HIS WITNESSES

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



Three Weddings in one Week

A half-hour delay at Bucarest airport allows me to send you these few sentences. I am just looking at the wonderful photos from the wedding of our Casa Lumina member, Florin. He married Ana, a lady with children, who found refuge in God's Kingdom from a violent and criminal husband.

Before the wedding on 13th July, 3 baptisms took place. The baptised ladies dressed as if ready for a wedding with the Lord. There they left their life tragedies behind and full of expectation, looked forward to what God has prepared for them. A life under His protection, for sure. Anna Rostas, one of the baptised ladies, also violently treated by her Roma husband, gave birth to her baby when only 15 years old. When she escaped the violence her parents-in-law took the baby by force. A message was spread through Interpol. But only prayer can help to achieve such a thing beyond human efforts. As we discussed in the office how hard it would be to support Anna in her search, the message came that the baby had been brought back after the kidnappers found out the police were involved.

Meanwhile, our Mission Chronicles describe three blessed Barnabas campaigns, in Bulgaria, Albania and lastly in Romania, in which I participated. Altogether 250 youngsters took part in these evangelistic events. The two other weddings? The youngest son of our Relief manager Gerard in Holland married, and one day later the daughter of our Congolese Lady Evangelist Godee. We know the great wedding of our beloved Lord and Master, Jesus Christ is also at hand! What a wonderful party that will be! Are you prepared for that great event or are other 'important' activities taking priority?

It was a breathtaking July month for me and my wife now running our 40th year with EEO Intl. Our next blessing is the expected birth of our 7th grandchild. All these things cannot distract us from the expectation of the Coming of our Lord Jesus.

Yes, come soon, Lord Jesus, Maranatha.

BARNABAS BULGARIA A LIFE CHANGING EVENT AT THE BLACK SEA!



Teaching at the Black Sea

At the time of writing, Barnabas Bulgaria and Albania have just finished and Barnabas Romania is half way through. Over 250 young people have participated in the events. The following article is a report about the Bulgaria event and on the back page you will find testimonies from young people who participated in the Albania event.

The first evening

Eighty two participants arrived. After everyone had found their room and had a meal it was time for the evening service. Barnabas Bulgaria had finally started. And what a start! There was a great sense of unity and friendship. The Holy Spirit worked really powerfully through the worship and the Word. He inspired and gave revelation. In the sports hall there were many young people with a Muslim background. Most of them had experienced persecution from family and friends, and were also very lonely since they had become Christians. During the upcoming days they were to be built up and prepared to share their faith.

After the introduction of the workshops the evening meeting came to a close and the young people gathered on the square just outside the hotel. Most of them were tired from the journey. However the excitement and the cool evening breeze gave sufficient energy to talk with each other.

A new day

Today was a special day. Six people wanted to be baptised. Most of them had been waiting for a long time for this opportunity, either because there was no river or lake in the area of their village or because they feared severe opposition from family and friends. The baptism was to be in the Black Sea. We did not know how everything would work out, however we trusted that the Lord would lead us. First came the morning meeting, a celebration in honour of the King of Kings!

That morning the worship was led by the Milanov family. The atmosphere was very emotional, not so much for the western participants but more so for the Bulgarians and Macedonians. Most Bulgarian churches are very small so it was very seldom they could worship with 82 young people in their own

language. The worship was an absolute highlight for most participants.

After the worship the candidates for baptism were introduced. It really was a celebration in front of the throne of God. Many young people had experienced freedom and deliverance during the past few days.

The morning session was completed with a workshop of choice. In Bulgaria we offered workshops in Sports and Games, Puppetry, Dance, Conjuring and Sketchboard. The workshops were a completely new experience for many. New ways to share the Gospel had been learned. Especially the tricks from Evangelist and illusionist Francois Daelemans from Belgium were really well received.

Baptism in the Black Sea

We drove in cars to the nearest beach. It was small and packed with people. Pastor Emil decided to share a message and explain what it means to be baptised. The six youngsters walked one by one into the water. Curious bystanders watched from a distance what was happening, for it was very unusual to see people walking into the sea



Baptism in the Black Sea

in their normal clothes! Unfortunately there were no white robes available. We had to choose practicality over symbolism. But how much more symbolic do you want it, leaving your old life behind in the BLACK SEA! When the young people walked out of the water they beamed with happiness.

When evaluating with the leaders, we came to the conclusion that it was even better than expected. Next year we hope to extend the conference with one extra day as three days is too short. Also the expectation is that the group will increase to about 150 participants next year. This will also allow us to hire the whole hotel for the duration of the conference. This would mean a doubling of the cost (to about £6500). This is quite a step of faith. We bring this desire before God in prayer, as for Him nothing is too big.

Outreach

After the conference, the teams from Burgas and Macedonia went back to their homes. We joined the joint team from Staro Selo, Silistra and Russe for an outreach in the city of Silistra.

On Friday the group was divided into teams of six to ten persons. Each team was to go out to a different area of the city centre and invite people to see the Christian film 'Magdalena', which would be shown in the local cinema. Large posters were put in strategic places and Pastor Emil went on the local radio promoting the event.

When the teams came back into the church they were really thrilled. Some of them had experienced opposition and rejection, however many also had the privilege to pray for people, to share their faith and also to hand out many invitations. That evening more than 130 people watched the film.

Francois arrived a bit later from the outreach with a big smile on his face. He told us that a man had just given his life to the Lord.

The first Barnabas in Bulgaria had come to an end. Saying farewell was difficult, however there are plans for at least four more events in the future.