



Outreach

The Street Lamp

Shining Light in the Darkness

Help needed for Pakistan

International Prayer requests

HELP NEEDED FOR PAKISTAN

Pastor Elisha wrote us recently a letter explaining the current situation in Pakistan in regards to the Mission schools and churches. He told us that the government wants every church and school to be registered, which was previously not necessary.

This will involve a lot of extra costs, which are as follows:

- Registering 2 schools will cost: £750.00
- Registering the churches costs: £300.00
- Registering 2 buildings costs: £250.00

The school year will also start shortly. Over £1,900 needs to be invested in order to buy schoolbooks for all 350 students. Quite a few donations have come in already, but still a large sum is needed. Can we count on your help in this matter?



INTERNATIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Barnabas

The Barnabas summer conferences and outreaches will be finished by the time you receive this newsletter. At the moment of writing Barnabas Albania has just finished and Barnabas Romania just started. So far everything went really well, and we want to thank God that young people were built up, churches were encouraged. Please pray that the seed that has been sown will bear fruit, and that many people may come to accept the Lord Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Israel

Please remember the Ortiz family in prayer, the person who planted the bomb in the Purim parcel a few years ago which nearly killed their son Ami is currently on trial. This man Teitel, who also killed several Palestinians in cold blood shows no remorse for his deeds. The trial is going very slowly, please pray that justice will prevail. Ami is recovering miraculously, still some (relatively) small operations need to be carried out and we also ask you to pray for his full recovery especially in regards to his hearing.

Casa Lumina (Romania)

Please remember Olga van Lavieren in prayer. She is currently looking for a couple that would be able to take over her ministry in Oradea. She wants to return to her native Holland to work from the International office of EEO.

Children's Relief

We ask for special prayer for the Children's Relief department. International co-ordinator and director Sylvia Hafkamp has fallen ill. Please pray for her recovery. Jantine Tromp who is involved in the financial administration has gone on maternity leave. Please remember her in prayer, she gave birth on 16th July to a wonderful daughter, Jedidja Tirsa.

Without two key members of staff a lot of pressure is currently on Angeline and Gijs. Please remember them, and pray for strength and wisdom, especially as the work of Children's Relief is growing rapidly.



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 01737 249 277 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.



"You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5v13a

A well-known American evangelist once mentioned that salt irritates. As a Christian we often want to be nice and loving. We definitely do not want to offend people, thinking this is not a Christian attitude. The fact is that Jesus was not always politically correct. His teachings were, and still are a thorn in the flesh and a stumbling block for many, if not most people. The Good News is not everywhere perceived as such good news, and people who are living out the Good News are looked down on.

Here in the UK or elsewhere in the western world we may be seen as a 'weirdo' and be bullied, because we do not join in with particular activities, or we come into situations where we have to stand up for what we believe in. In other parts of the world people are being persecuted, removed from their families, beaten, and sometimes even killed, because they are Christians, the salt of the earth.

In the main article you will read about the Barnabas events in Albania and Kosovo, many Christians over there struggle, as they are like 'salt', which very often irritates their immediate and larger family. Also in Pakistan the salt is irritating; now the government is starting to take some action in causing all churches and schools to be registered, which basically gives them more power to control.

I want to encourage you to be like salt, and not to compromise your saltiness and please remember also to pray for the people who are willing to sacrifice everything to be the salt of the earth!



THE STREET LAMP

One morning as I looked out of my office I saw a street lamp. It was sticking out of a weeping willow tree. This was nothing unusual, except that it was a bright day and the light was still on. Something had gone wrong with the mechanism and it had not switched itself off. The lamp was standing there majestically upright, silently shining but its light did not have any influence, because the daylight was even brighter. The street lamp was not functioning for its original purpose, for it was created to give light when the natural light dims and darkness has set in.

A few days before we had had a storm. There was thunder and lightning and heavy rain had run down our street. During that time this very lamp was shining, but after an especially big flash of lightning the power was cut off. We soon noticed how dark the street had become. How ironic that when the light was needed it was not available, and now it was shining on this bright day.

With all the spiritual darkness and many other negative things invading this world, we as Christians have a wonderful chance to let our light shine. The greater the darkness, the greater the light. Even a small light can drive the darkness away. Do not be discouraged about the size of your light or area of influence for the Lord. Begin to shine! Do not force it, do not get all worked up about shining but just BE a light for the Lord. When you get plugged into the 'mains', the power supply of his Word and love, you cannot help but shine, releasing what is in your heart.

If there should be a time when it is not so dark because of the Christians there or because you have had such a good influence already, rejoice about this and praise the Lord that even on a bright day your light is shining and someone will see it and be glad for it. Let your words and works be the light that points people to the Source - JESUS!

A street lamp stays in one place and cannot move. Shine where the Lord has set you. The planner knows where the street lamp can be used most effectively. Trust Jesus that he knows where you can be used most for him!

In EEO UK we see many places which are economically and spiritually dark, but with God's help we want to light a lamp there, not just a lamp but a blazing beacon to bring hope, warmth, direction and comfort to people who need it. Please help us to do this. Your interest, prayers and gifts - large or small - can light somebody's darkness TODAY!

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven", Matthew 5,14.

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



DOUBLE DIP

In the USA people fear facing a 'Double Dip', which means another recession directly after the last one. As Christians, is our faith so weak that we have depended fully on modern banking and the economy to keep our finances in good shape?

China shows how it is possible to rise up from the financial devastation which Chairman Mao brought, within one generation. China's economy is climbing to unimaginable heights. This may partly be due to the fact that they have become more open to western methods, but could it also be because approximately 10 % of the population have become Christians? People will always profit in every area of their life, from their personal conversion to the living God.

However, when we look at those nations which fall into superstition, spiritual slavery and false religions, these end up in total regression and spiritual, even financial bankruptcy. Even the fabulous richness of the Islamic oil states did not bring forth peaceful fruit.

Having wealth is not the same as 'prospering'. Those who are poor yet have a rich life in Christ, being filled with the fruit of justice and inner peace can experience maximum prosperity, even without having a penny. So even in our financially hard times, we can experience God's help and provision. Being baptised on the confession of our personal faith in Jesus and delivered from our old sinful life, we will never see a "double dip" in our life, but move towards Heaven, to enter eternal joy!

SHINING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Barnabas Albania 2010 report - by Gerrit Wiersema -



Barnabas Albania has been such a blessing again. It has been a great time of encouragement, team and faith building, friendships and fellowship.

Following is a report on the experiences at the conference, and also the outreach to Kosovo.

A long journey took me by plane from London to Zurich and from there by car through the Alps to Albania. About 30 miles before the border with Serbia, a cylinder in the engine blew up, but also in this it was so clear that God was protecting, as it happened right at the moment I parked the car at a petrol station to take a break. Within minutes a tow truck picked me up and brought me to a garage where they did a brilliant job in doing a six hour job in half the time. The only real negative was the extra costs involved.

Safe and sound I finally arrived at the Nehemia Centre in Pogradec where, for the next 5 days, we would be having our annual Barnabas conference.

I was not the only one with some travelling difficulties as the Dutch team missed their connection flight in Slovenia, and had to wait half a day at the airport.

This all may sound like a discouraging start for a conference; well, thank God that wasn't the case. Within minutes of arrival everybody was sucked into the amazing atmosphere, young people on fire for the Lord, the worship was fantastic, not often have I experienced such passionate and enthusiastic worship services. Also the teaching was brilliant, with many people being filled with the Holy Spirit.

It was such a privilege to be part of this event. For many of the participants this has been a great opportunity to meet other Christians. Many of them come from Muslim families. Others were going through

very rough times, so this was a great opportunity to just forget about all the problems and to be encouraged and built up.

As much needed to be prepared for the outreaches in the next week, I left the conference one day early to travel with part of our team to Kosovo.

This was my first visit to Kosovo, which, before, I had only known as the country so torn by war during the late nineties. Nowadays the country is quiet and peaceful, Serbs and Albanians are living mainly in separate villages and towns. There are still Nato forces here, and about every 60 or 70 miles you will find a Military Base, but the reality of daily life is that it is very nice and quiet.

Life is hard with approximately 60% of unemployment and average salaries of about € 250 (£200), many families have relatives abroad sending them money. As I came in the summer, I saw how the country is flooded with tourists in their foreign cars, especially from Switzerland, Germany and UK.

A great part of daily life is spent on the streets. People go out for a coffee, to share the latest news with their friends and relatives, or to do business.

The Kosovar culture is very family oriented. Every family is more or less its own country, you live and breathe family. This is something that is difficult to understand for most westerners, as our culture is very individualistic. Most families are religious by tradition, as 90% of the Kosovarians would consider themselves Albanians, the majority would be Muslim. Most of them have never read the Koran, or even set foot in a Mosque, but it is still a big shame to the family if a family member would join another faith. This is considered as high treason and families would persecute the person in question severely by bullying, or even removal from the family. In plain Eng-

lish, becoming a Christian in Kosovo, especially when you have a Muslim background is in many cases social suicide.

The Protestant and Evangelical churches are very small in size and number. Our contact person mentioned that there are probably just 3 or 4 thousand born again Christians in the total population of about 2 million people.

As part of our outreach programme we would be joining the local church of Gjilan on their church weekend away. On Friday morning we travelled with 40 people to a place in the mountains near the border with Montenegro. Six wooden cabins stood ready to house us for three days. Slightly more than half the people were non-Christians (mainly Muslim). The main theme of the weekend was Jesus. It was a great opportunity to share with the people who Jesus really was and is!

For many Jesus seems still to be a real stumbling block, I hope and pray that somehow the seed we have sown might bear fruit one day.

The following week we organised a children's camp hosted by the local church, with a time of singing songs, sharing the history of Daniel, memorising Bible verses, doing arts and crafts, sports and a lot of fun!

The children absolutely loved it. In the afternoon and early evening a sports event was organised for the local youth. Many young people came to join in with the fun. It is such a nice way of getting in contact with the people. Friendship evangelism is the most effective way of evangelism in Kosovo, and this was a great way of making friends!

Please remember the Christians in Kosovo in your prayers, please pray for growth, strength to go on and stay faithful. Remember also the Barnabas activities, that we will be able to continue making the conferences and outreaches possible so that local Christians can be built up, encouraged, trained and sent out. The next event will be in Asia in October, and the vision for the coming years is to also start conferences in Georgia and Israel. Please pray that God will open doors to make this possible.

