



# Outreach

## BARNABAS 2011 SHINE



The 6th Barnabas Albania conference started in the city of Pogradec on the 15th of July. Simultaneously, the 1st Barnabas Conference in Brussels started, as well. As usual, the forces of darkness tried to disturb the atmosphere and motivation of the participants. Where the team from Macedonia was delayed because of an inexplicable problem with one of the cars, the problems in Brussels were a lot bigger.

Two girls from Macedonia were scheduled to participate at the Brussels event. At the Brussels airport border, they were denied entry to the country. Supposedly the Belgians were afraid that they would not return to Macedonia after the outreach, even though a return ticket was booked for them, and Eastern European Outreach Intl. was backing them up financially. They were locked up in a cell. After 2 days they were summoned to fly back to eastern Europe. Praise the Lord that some doors were opened for them to take another flight from Sofia back to Belgium again, where they were allowed to enter this time, to join the conference and join an outreach team to witness of God's love in the centre of Europe.

Despite the spiritual attacks, the conferences were a great blessing to the young local Christians and foreign participants. The conferences strengthened their faith, many had a personal encounter with the Lord. One Albanian girl accepted the Lord as her personal Saviour, and shared this at a church meeting a few days later.

## CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAMME

In recent years, countries like Romania and Bulgaria have joined the EU, others like Albania and Macedonia are currently negotiating to join the EU in the near future. At face value it looks as if things are going better with these countries, but nothing is further from the truth. Food and utility prices have risen to record heights and are continuing to increase. Most of the population is struggling to make ends meet. Many fathers, mothers and children leave their families behind and try to find work here in the West. Many of them are only just able to financially survive here, so are unable to send much back home, leaving their families in a desperate situation. Especially the children suffer from this. Malnutrition is common and many of them have to drop out of school early because of the lack of school equipment.

Please consider sponsoring a child through the Child Sponsor Programme for £20 per month. We would also encourage you to donate towards our "Back to School" project.



**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 2980126 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.

**"You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden" Matt. 5,14**



**You are not alone**

**The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand**

**Brothers and Sisters in Communist Cuba**

**Shine**

**Child Sponsor Programme**

This text from Matthew 5 was the theme for the Barnabas conferences this year. Shining light in the darkness. I have noticed over the years that the theme of sin and damnation is not very popular, and is rarely, if ever, preached about. This is strange really. Christians often use such terms as "Jesus Saves" and "God loves you", words that have become very hollow and the laughing stock of many unbelievers.

When God created us, He made everything very good, which basically means PERFECT (Gen. 1). God cannot tolerate sin; the consequence of the fall of Adam and Eve (and us) and the ultimate payment for sin is death.

Jesus Christ sacrificed himself for us through a horrible death. If sin and damnation were not a reality then this would be a ridiculous thing to do. For God, sin is a serious business. A sinful human being cannot even come close to him. That is why God covered Moses' eyes, when He passed by, and Moses' face was radiating when he came down from Mount Sinai (Exodus 34). The only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we are able to radiate His Glory in the darkness. God's Glory – that is the only genuine light in a pitch-black world.

It is very encouraging to see that God's light is shining bright at even the darkest places, EEO worker Herman Kesting experienced this in Cuba, still very much a Communist country (see article page 3). Also the 6th Barnabas Conference was held in Albania (page 4), a country that only 30 years ago declared itself an Atheist nation comparable to current day North Korea. The darker the environment the clearer the light, it is great to hear the testimonies about pitch black countries turning lighter every single day. This should be our prayer for our own nation as well!



## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

When we invited Jesus Christ into our heart we entered a new life. Because Jesus now lives in us, we are no more alone. Through faith in God and his goodness, we can overcome the lies of the enemy. David, when he fought against the giant was scorned by his brothers, the king and Goliath. But faith gave him certainty that God would help him, "for the battle is the Lord's!" 1 Sam. 17,47. Daniel in the lions' den remained undaunted and obedient to God. His trust was rewarded: "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me...!" Daniel 6, 22.

The three young Hebrew men were thrown into the furnace of fire, because of their courageous stand. But when the king looked in, he saw they were no longer alone -- there was a fourth Man in there, who looked like "a son of the gods". The Apocrypha is not part of the Holy Canon of Scripture, but is well worth reading. This is what it says about this incident, under the heading: "The song of the three men in the furnace of fire".

"So the three men started to sing together, praising and extolling God in the furnace and said: Praise be unto you, Lord, God of our fathers... But the angel of the Lord entered into the fire with Azariah (his original name) and those who were with him, and pushed the heat of the fire out of the furnace and made it like a cool dew in the furnace, so that the fire did not touch them at all, or pain or damage them."

There are also many things today which would like to destroy us, but it is good to know, we are not alone! A few days ago I went to have my car tyres checked, next to Tesco's supermarket. A car with the engine running stood next to me, with the driver slouched down as though he did not want to be seen. Suddenly two men wearing balaclava masks with only their eyes showing, came running up. One was carrying a gun. They jumped into the waiting car and shot off across a main road. Later I heard they had unsuccessfully tried to rob the van of a security firm at the cashpoint, and shot a guard in the leg. It all happened so quickly and seemed as though I was in a film, watching it all happen. I praise God he kept me in what could have been a dangerous situation. Many a prognosis has been made about the future. These have not always turned out as they were forecast. But God and his Word are always right! With Jesus, we can look forward to the future with joy, for he who is in us, is The Greater One. This Jesus is greater than all our worries, all sicknesses, yes, even than Satan himself.

**Let us trust him with our whole heart and not have just a mental faith. Do not make your Jesus so small that he can no longer help you! Don't forget -- YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

## Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



### THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

Somehow it's always the bad news that hits the News headlines. This principal is because it is all part of this earthly, temporary kingdom.

But we know that the reality of this time is the coming Heavenly Kingdom where God rules with peace, and healing is given to all who are wounded by Satan or lost in sin.

Murdoch's empire will vanish and the Good News of the Gospel will overcome all the bad stories of this world. God not only looks into our private phones but hears the deepest cries of our hearts, and He can and will, help those who cry out for redemption. One lunatic killer in Norway representing a fantasy kingdom, tragically takes by violence nearly 100 lives. Yet the truth is that Norway has the reputation of sending out the most Gospel missionaries, more than any other nation in Europe. How many millions of lives they must have saved!

In Summer 2010 we had the privilege of housing 50 young Norwegians in our Dutch Headquarters in Krimpen a/d Lek. For ten days they preached the Gospel in the streets of Rotterdam and Amsterdam! We share the suffering of those who are hit by Satan's anger, but let us turn our eyes away from this situation and focus more than ever before on this:

The Kingdom of God is at hand! Every individual is invited to find shelter and comfort in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please help us at EEO UK to preach the Good News to the lost and afflicted!



*A lot could be said about Cuba, but the most remarkable is the survival of Communism, which is because of the Castro brothers who still believe in this political system. Yet it is remarkable to see how the Lord has protected and blessed the local Christians in this predominantly atheistic country.*

Cuba is especially known as a popular holiday destination, because of the fantastic weather, its landscapes and history.

It was a close call! The whole trip was in danger of being cancelled, as the airline did not want to take people on board who did not have a literal visa in their passport. *Martinair* became very nervous at the prospect of a heavy fine, if our story of the visas waiting for us in Havana would not be true.

Fortunately, we managed to get some faxes with photocopies of the visas from the Havana border police, and were allowed onto the plane. The border police at Amsterdam Schiphol airport had never seen anything like this before, but did let us through. The border police at Havana was a lot kinder to us; we were welcomed by a very friendly lady who gave us our visas immediately.

The special visa we received allowed us to contact the local Christian community. The Cubans are very helpful and friendly people. The love and hospitality of the local Christians was overwhelming. This alone, would already be a good reason for you to join us on our next mission trip to Cuba!

Organising such a trip as this is a big job. The goal of this trip was to speak at the local churches, to sing and worship together and encourage and bless the local Christian community.

It is also a blessing to have the possibility of bringing goods which are hard to get, into this communist country. Especially our Venezuelan friends brought many extra kilos of goods with them.

But to travel with this heavy load was quite difficult on this enormous island. We just managed to get everything aboard a small plane for an inland flight to Holguin. It was a nightmare to arrange the transport to the Guantanamo province in the east of the country. All the cars were filled up with goods.

Well shaken, we arrived at a small town near the border with Haiti. In this town live many Christians, about 60% of the population. The local Methodist church provided lodgings for us and also arranged the programme for the next few days.

Yet God had another programme planned for us. One of the participants stumbled and fell over a dog and was unable to walk. An ambulance brought her, her husband and a few team members to the local hospital. Over there, a man asked Aukje whether she was afraid. "No," she said, "because there is power in Jesus!" The man replied that he knew a song about this. Within seconds, they were singing "There is power, power, wonder-working power in the blood of the Lamb", together. From all

over the hospital people gathered to listen to the worship song.

Aukje was moved to a special clinic where they treated her with a lot of love and respect. It was great to witness God's hand in this tough situation.

Despite the accident with Aukje we were happy to be able to continue to organise a Youth Conference which was a great joy for the locals and we were privileged to be part of it. The team was also invited to take part in many church services. We also visited many families, to encourage and bless them. But, to be honest, I think we were even more blessed by our Cuban Brothers and Sisters.

When I look back on this special trip, I know that many, many Cubans have a living relation with Jesus Christ. Gloria Dios! Glory be to God!

