

# CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAMME

## Child Sponsor Programme helps!

The main activity of the Child Sponsor Programme or CSP is to help poor families with a monthly amount of € 18,75 (with the current exchange rate this is £15) per child. For larger families we generally have 2 or 3 children in the programme. This may seem like a small amount, but it makes the difference between having food on the table or not, or being able to go to school. It is our great desire that families have a chance to break out of the circle of poverty. For most parents it is too late. However, with education, the children have a chance of a better life. Supporting families financially is not the only thing we do through the CSP.

- **House projects** – We help poor eastern European families to have a roof or doors and windows on their houses, because many of them do not have them. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to live in a house without a roof or a door and just holes in the walls instead of windows, in temperatures around -30°C during the winter?!
- **Medical treatment** – in most eastern European countries if people do not work they simply do not have medical insurance. So if they need to go to hospital they have to pay for everything. Children, even though the basic medical assistance is free, must pay for any surgery, hospital stay or special treatment.
- **Financial 'injection'** to families in times of crisis. Everywhere in the world bad things happen – somebody is losing a job, someone in the family dies, a parent leaves the children. In these difficult times we want to provide practical support and help, not just praying for these families.
- **Children's books and Bibles** - One of the ways we are helping is by purchasing children's Bibles in the local languages. In this way the children can read the living Word of the Lord and grow in their faith. For most of these children these Bibles will be the only books they have ever had in their lives.
- **Winter shoes** – Children grow very fast and every year they need new winter shoes. Shoes in most eastern European countries cost about the same price as in the UK. The only difference is that people there earn about £100 per month, if they have a job at all. So you can imagine that it is impossible for families to spend all their income to buy shoes, when they have no food to eat and heating for the winter....and many, many other needs.
- **School equipment** – When you receive this magazine the schools will soon be starting again. This is one of the most expensive times of the year for many families. The schools are generally funded by the government, however students need to pay for their own notebooks, stationery, calculators, sports clothing etc. For many families this expense is too high and because of this they do not send their children to school.



# Outreach

*You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day. Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do. On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while. Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honour and glory when Jesus Christ returns. 1 Peter 1: 5-7 (CEV)*

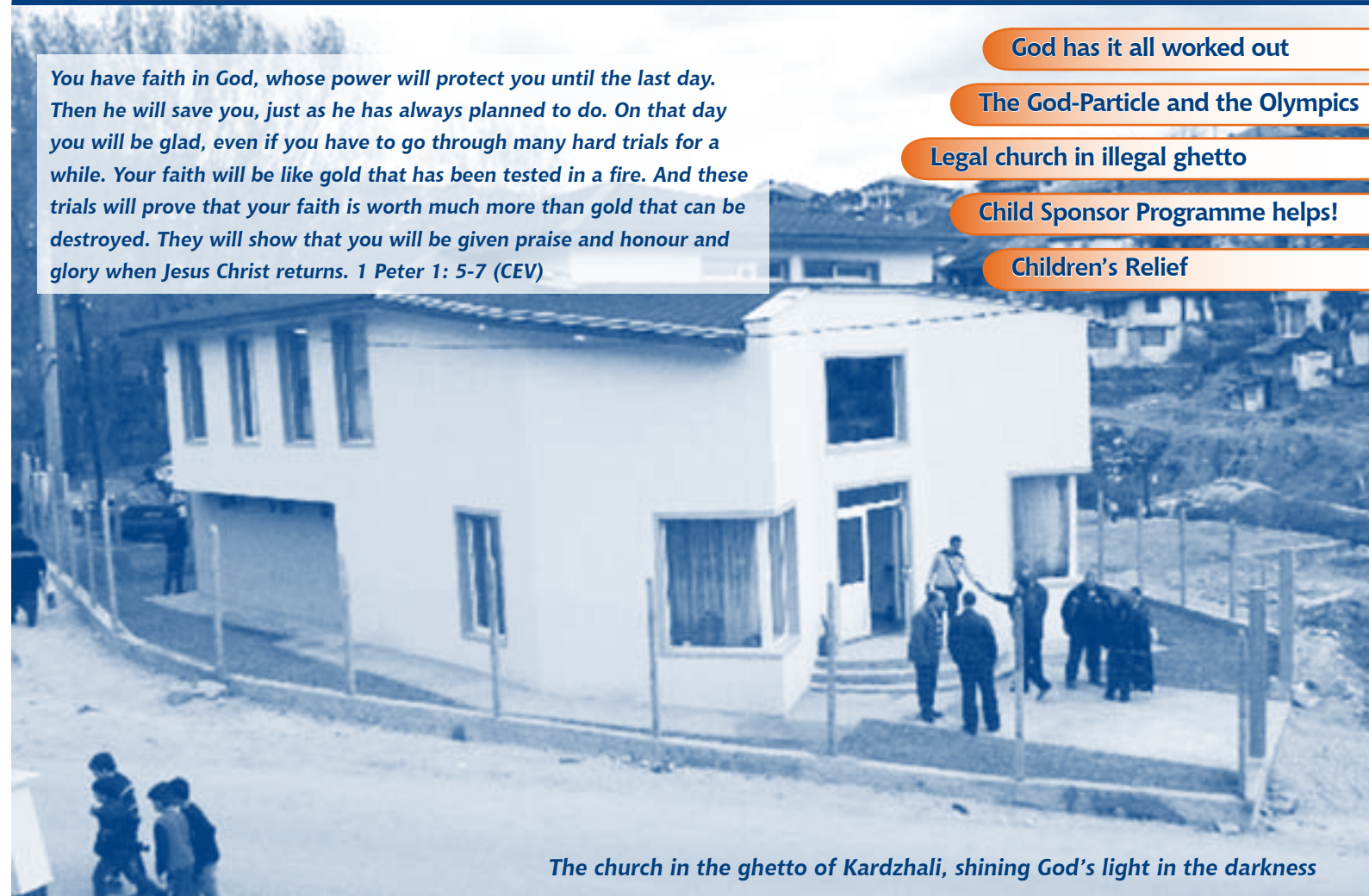
God has it all worked out

The God-Particle and the Olympics

Legal church in illegal ghetto

Child Sponsor Programme helps!

Children's Relief



*The church in the ghetto of Kardzhali, shining God's light in the darkness*

## A new season

*By the time you receive this August edition, it will be towards the end of the month. The holiday season will be almost over and a new season will be starting. In eastern Europe however, the end of the summer also means the end of seasonal work. During the summer many poor people can find a job harvesting fruit and vegetables, but as soon as the harvest is in, they lose their job. The joy of the harvest makes place for the sorrow and insecurity of life without work. There will be many challenges in the new Autumn season; for most children it will be the challenge of a new school year, for the parents it will be the challenge of finding work or finding a way to survive.*

*The summer has also been the time of many evangelistic outreaches. Many organisations and churches are involved in sharing the Gospel at the Olympics, which are just taking place now. But also at camping sites, Bible vacation camps and evangelistic events the Good News is being shared. When you read this newsletter we will have just finished 3 Barnabas events, where we trained and sent out young people to share the Gospel. This summer, worldwide, many thousands, if not millions, will have given their heart to the Lord. All these people just started their journey, their 'race'. Many new Believers start their journey under great pressure, especially new Believers with a Muslim background. In the main article on page 3 you will read about the start of a church in a Muslim neighbourhood in Bulgaria.*

*The Chairman of our EEO UK Board of trustees, Douglas Graham, shares about challenges and God's provision in the Editorial. For us as a Mission organisation there are a lot of challenges coming up – finding the funds to help the poor and spread the Gospel of Christ, preparing for mission trips and also for next year's events.*

*It is a challenge but with excitement and trust in the Lord we look forward to this next season.*

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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 has it all worked out

As I write this article, the 2012 Olympic Games will be starting very soon. Sports enthusiasts were delighted to hear the announcement that London had been chosen as the venue. Since then there has been much planning and expense to ensure that these games will be a great success.

The eyes of the world are now focused on the UK. Athletes are arriving in London, eager to take part and pit their abilities against those from other nations. They have trained hard and sacrificed to ensure that they are at the peak of their performance. Their countries have chosen them and have great hopes for their success.

Soon the games will be over. Some athletes will have happily gone home with their medals, while others will have been disappointed.

I am reminded that life can be so much like that. Sometimes we feel on the winning team and at other times on the losing side. Even while the games are taking place many other folk are dealing with disappointment or other worries.

In my own case, I can vouch for the Lord's care and provision. I came to the Lord at a young age and over the years can say that God has provided for every need. In 1980, I was made redundant at the age of 45, from an engineering company.

The economy was in recession and we had four children and a home to run.

So with £50 capital I started working on my own, doing electrical and other work. After a year or so I stopped advertising, hoping to get back in to other work. However, work has kept coming in over all the years since then.

During all these years we have been able to get involved in Christian work of different kinds. This has included prison ministry, outreach choirs, Sunday school, church and charity work etc.. We have also been able to give to support various kinds of Christian work. What needed to be done was not always what I had dreamed of or hoped for, but it was necessary in God's plan.

You may sometimes wonder what happened to some of your dreams. King David, for example, had hoped to build the temple but God had already decided that Solomon would do this, with David doing much of the preparation work.

Things may be tough at present but you can be sure that God is watching over you and will provide for every need. He is sovereign and His plans are even better than our own dreams.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 tells us :-

*"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, Though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights."*

Thank you for your sacrifice, prayers and financial support for EEO UK at this time. We can confidently look forward together for God's continued blessing on this work and in all our lives.

## Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



### The God-Particle and the Olympics

While preparing for departure to Barnabas Romania

Aspects of the ancient Greek religion are everywhere in our culture and even on a worldwide scale, as in the Olympics. We should not be surprised if some blame the Greek Orthodox religion for bringing Greece to bankruptcy, while the old Olympic gods seem to bring 'joy and fame'. It has even become known that the Olympic committee has a reserve of nearly 500 million Euros to get through the tough times.

The devastating situation hitting all the countries of the world is partly due to the fact that their rulers have not recognized Jesus as the Cornerstone upon which their system should rest. Only when Jesus becomes part of our personal life, the bedrock of a person's thinking and acting, such a person will be able to fulfil his duties towards society and this brings great gain.

Recently scientists have discovered there is a missing part in their knowledge, which they finally mentioned as the 'Higgs-particle' (after the scientist who discovered this) but also the 'God-particle'. This missing 'thing' is the bridge between the immaterial and the material world. The Bible tells us that Jesus is this Person through whom everything is made. John 1,3 even states:... Nothing is made but through Him. Hebrews. 11,1-2 confirms this.

Scientists may prefer to believe in Olympic gods but will find nothing, but whoever embraces Jesus will experience a total change. He makes Man even new! It is good that the battle between evolutionists and creationists is over now, as many scientists openly confess, it has come about through the 'God-particle', even if they deny to recognize Jesus! Help us to bring His message to all.

## LEGAL CHURCH IN ILLEGAL GHETTO



Opening service in the new Turkish church in Kardzhali

*It is not politically correct to say anything negative against Islam, or to warn people of the consequences of this religion. However, it is a fact that this religion is gaining more and more ground in Europe. Bulgaria has for centuries been the physical and spiritual battleground as it is right on the border with Muslim Turkey and the Middle East and 'Christian' Europe. Even though all seems to be well in the EU country of Bulgaria, much is going on in the background. Last year we wrote in an article about a Bulgarian pastor who was nearly beaten to death by an angry mob from the local mosque. The battle still continues.*

Kardzhali is a town in south Bulgaria. About 50% of the population is Muslim. When walking on the streets you will hardly hear people speaking Bulgarian. Most of the people speak Turkish or a Roma (gypsy) dialect. Every city and town in Bulgaria has its Roma ghetto. Kardzhali has two large Roma ghettos and most of the Roma here are Muslims. Nobody knows exactly how many people are living in these ghettos, as the government has not taken the effort to count them. It looks as though their number is increasing rapidly, as new houses and shacks are being built every day, one next to the other, or wherever is a little space. The people build where they like, no documents and no building permits are being obtained.

One day the Lord touched the hearts of a Muslim couple, Sedat and Aishe, and they became Christians. Life became especially

difficult after their conversion as they continued to live among the Muslims. They were rejected and looked down upon. This has been very tough, however, God gave them a new challenge. He made it clear to them they should build a church in the middle of the ghetto. Humanly speaking, it was a "mission impossible", but not for God. He provided everything they needed. Many churches sent them donations, and also many Christians from abroad sent them money. The building process was frustrated many times because the local Muslim government did not want a Christian church in their town.

In the end the builders started a court case in order to continue to build the church. This process took a long time as it went up all the way to the High Court in Sofia. Finally this battle was won, and the building process could continue.

The court case was not even the biggest challenge. The people from the ghetto tried to intimidate them and threatened with a petition against the church.

Aishe received a Word of Wisdom from the Lord; she said, 'That is no problem, you can sign a petition against a legal church, but we can also file a petition against your illegal houses.' The church is the ONLY building in the whole ghetto that has been built with all the official documents and permits in place.

In March this year, after two and a half years of building and court cases, the church could finally open its doors. Every week about 40 - 50 Believers meet here to worship the Lord. All of them are Believers from a Muslim background. Many of the church members have young families. There are two children's groups and one youth group. We believe that God will use these people for His kingdom!

The church has been built at a very strategic point in the centre of the ghetto. The building is visible from all sides and is just 20 metres from the main road. Everyone who wants to visit neighbouring villages or the large lakes has to pass through this road, and will pass this Christian beacon in this Muslim area!



Lord bless Sebat and Aisha

## CHILDREN'S RELIEF

### Bread House

Life in Moldova is very hard. Seventy-two year old Praskovia confirms this. Her pension of £10 per month is insufficient to buy food. She is also looking after 2 of her grandchildren. Without help they will not survive. Praskovia and her grandchildren visit 'the Bread House' daily. In 'the Bread House' they receive a free meal. The soup-kitchen is vital for pensioners and children. It is heated in the winter, and besides the free meal the children will also stay there to do their homework for school.



### Sports clothing

PE classes are an important part of the Romanian school curriculum. To take part children are obliged to bring their own tracksuit and sports shoes. Most of the parents of the children that are visiting Casa Lumina to do their homework, are unable to provide sports clothing for their children. These children feel excluded. We want to help these 15 children to buy the obligatory sports clothing. The costs are about £30 for each child.