

TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

“He has sent me to bring good news and to bind up the broken in heart” Isaiah 61,1



Quote from someone who went on a trip:

‘We walk through high grass and over rough land. We follow a small path and arrive at an open spot. A desolate wilderness. Around us are all kinds of huts made of clay with roofs made out of sheets of corrugated iron. We have arrived in the shadow lands. In this border area between the civilized world and rubbish dumps, some houses are built, but they’re more like hovels, in terrible condition. Chimneys spit smoke: Can there be anyone living here? It seems as if life has stopped here, but a toddler looks at us, barefoot and with big black eyes, like a little deer, on the alert. Here we are, visiting a Roma camp in Ukraine.’

Everybody is happy

In the Roma village of Janosi in Ukraine, a

middle-aged woman walks toward us. She is happy with the new water pumps which we have just put in. Her husband is waiting. Now, his pipe in his mouth and wearing a worn-out jacket, he dances in a circle on the new asphalt road. A song rings out from the school. The children are happy. Everybody is happy with the new road, the water-pumps and the school building. When we walk through the camp we see new small houses. Thanks to a group of young people from Eindhoven, Holland, we were able to take these big steps to partly fulfil the dream of the total transformation of Janosi!

We want more

For these activities there were some years of preparation. First a relationship of trust had to be built. Now, the activities follow very quickly. These are not without difficulties but surely dynamic. We have a relationship, and

that is the basis. Now, in the camp, the desire is growing to see more changes for the better. They want to accomplish something themselves. Here and there men proudly show us they have started to renovate their homes!

Success or Failure

A missionary’s story usually begins like this, and we also have a part in that. In the end we will do all we can to give the story a “happy ending”. We almost always succeed, but sometimes it’s not possible. The results are somewhere



between success and failure but still we go on! We believe and we don’t just speak this, but put our faith into action. With God’s help and the faithful giving of our partners, we can make transformation come to pass. Transformation is a matter of patience, and as long as it is day, we will continue to push on, for the night is coming, when no man can work. Together, we can make a difference!

Trips with EEO UK and International -- a life-changing experience

Volunteers are the engine behind the mission. With our heart and hands, we are the tools by which the Gospel is taken to the nations. Make and distribute food parcels yourself. Visit a gypsy camp and have the real experience of mission in eastern Europe. EEO UK invites you to join us; if you cannot go, why not make it possible for somebody else to go?! Make a donation for somebody else’s life-changing trip. Most trips are organised every year. We welcome you to one of the following destinations:

- Ukraine: 25 January - 1 February 2014
- Romania: 14 - 21 February 2014
- Israel: 23 February - 7 March 2014
- Albania: 22 February - 1 March 2014:
- Moldavia: 22 - 29 March 2014

A registration form is part of the intake procedure. Please apply for a registration form at: info@eeouk.org or call tel. nr.: 0800 2980 126

GENERAL FUND

Every year we try to send as much finance and aid to the field as possible. It is our desire to help the poor, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But to make this possible we also have to spend money here in our western offices. Every year we face a growing bill for banking costs, accountancy, general office costs, travel expenses etc. Please help us as well in this area of our ministry.

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.



EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH

Registered Charity: 290643

Outreach

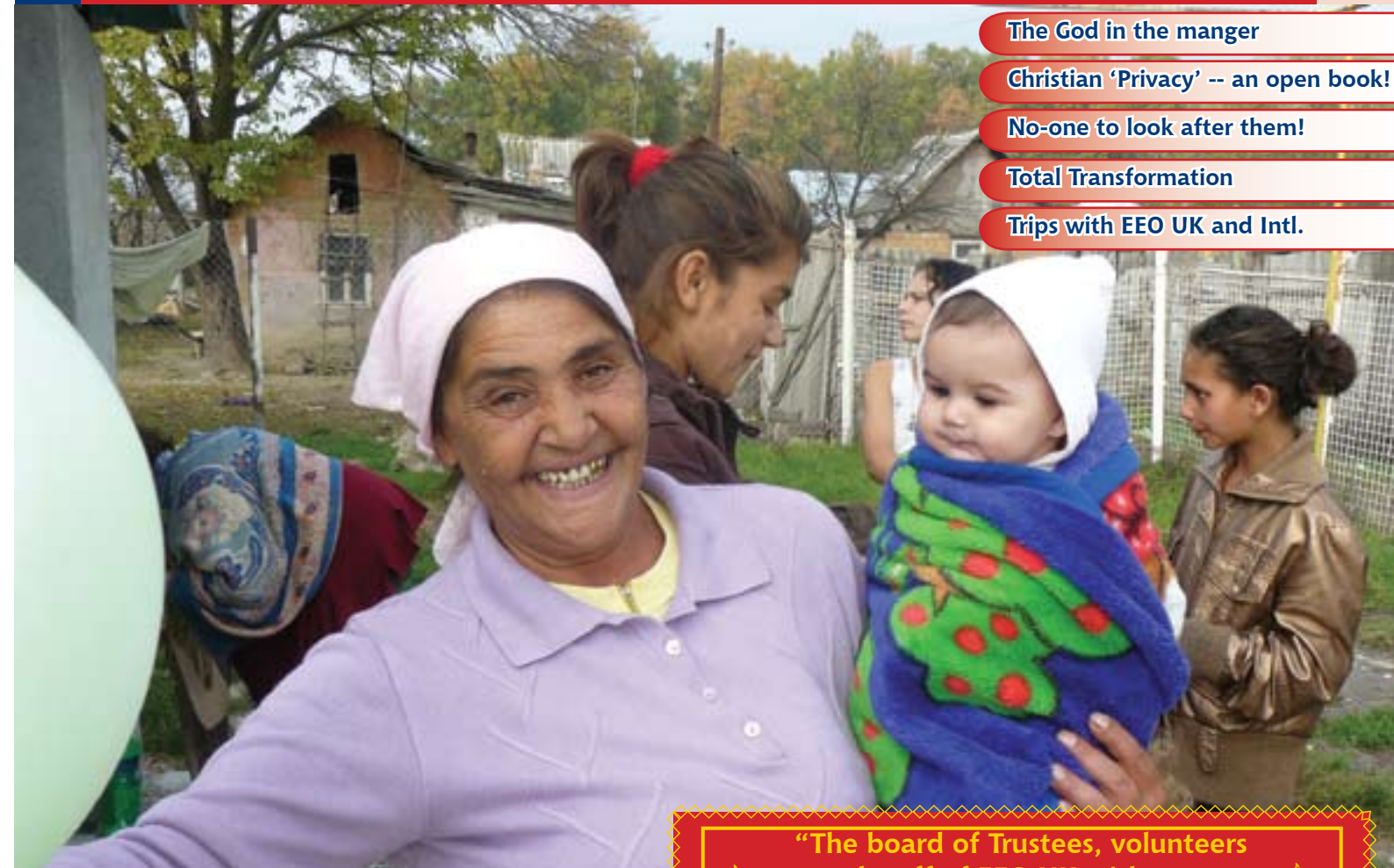
The God in the manger

Christian ‘Privacy’ -- an open book!

No-one to look after them!

Total Transformation

Trips with EEO UK and Intl.



“The board of Trustees, volunteers and staff of EEO UK wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2014”

JOY TO THE WORLD

This Romany mother in the Ukraine is so happy with the warm, colourful blanket for her baby, which will keep him warm in the cold winter. She is also happy about all the wonderful help which Gospel messengers like the EEO teams bring into her life. Her joy is sincere, for they do not only speak about bringing hope with nice words and songs, but also put their words into action and bring practical relief.

Jesus and His other name Immanuel mean literally: “Helper” and “God with us”. Actually, Christmas means simply that God has come to us and will help us. Help us in what way? God can help us out of any terrible situation and misery!

William Booth and the Salvation Army movement which he founded, started a huge relief effort which has been unequalled anywhere in the world, I believe. They were known as the ones who brought “Soup, soap and salvation” -- feed the hungry, clean up those who need it, bring the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. This is also what EEO UK and Intl. seek to do.

But if all the Christian programs and actions were put together at this time, we would surely see the huge effort and positive effect they have. Sometimes it is even in the News, for those who look out for it. Seeing the love of Jesus shown through this practical help, sincere non-believers can come to the same statement as the Roman army officer who witnessed Jesus’ death on the cross and came to admit: Truly this man was the Son of God!

In spite of all atheistic and humanistic sceptics, let us continue to act as followers of Jesus, showing lost and suffering people that God really is with us and really can help, changing things for the better!

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THE GOD IN THE MANGER

Some years ago, in order to top up what the Church was paying me and not be a financial burden to the congregation who paid their tithes, I became an early morning cleaner. One of the establishments which I cleaned was the local technical college. One morning I was sent to clean the carpenters' shop where apprentices trained. When I first walked in, very early, I was met with the deliciously pungent smell of new wood. Something immediately struck me - Jesus was a carpenter and he would have known this smell. Moreover he would recognise many of the tools that probably remain unchanged - a hammer and nails can't be very different even after two thousand years, likewise chisels and saws. Screws had not been invented but, otherwise, Jesus would be at home. Jesus was a craftsman, a creator - "All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made". (John1:3). Yes! The craftsman who fitted the world and all that is in it together, shaped wood, handled tools, and worked on building sites and in the workshop. Did the King of Kings and Lord of Lords get splinters in his fingers? (How cruel it was at Calvary - to drive nails through the hands of a craftsman!)

At Christmas, we Christians celebrate the baby Jesus and think of the story of his birth. Christianity is an incarnational faith, by which we mean that it revolves around the fact that God became man; he "... was made flesh and dwelt among us." (John1:14). This makes Christianity unique among the world's religions. It is also a thing of great wonderment that, in Jesus, the divine came into the world through the same (let's be blunt!) messy and undignified route that the rest of us took - through a human mother. And yet, as a father (and a grandfather) I can testify that, despite the crudity of birth, a new baby is a wonderful thing and a time for outright joy and happiness.

Jesus was born into poverty; his cradle was a feeding-trough. He dwelt, not (as the wise men wrongly assumed) in a splendid palace surrounded by obscene wealth but amongst the ordinary people of his world. He was not head of a vast empire with whole armies to do his bidding but a village joiner in a country under cruel enemy occupation. His birth was announced, not in the media but in Heaven, and celebrated by shepherds, (a class held in such low esteem that their evidence was not admissible in court). The infant Jesus was God learning how to walk, eat and drink, live in a family, learn a trade.

December 25th, was originally a satanic festival celebrating the Lord of Misrule when the world is turned upside down. But Christians celebrate the One who came into the world to turn it the right way up! So, as we enjoy ourselves this Christmas, among the tinsel and fairy-lights, let us remember the manger with thankful hearts!

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide

Christian 'Privacy' -- an open book!



Recently we have heard a lot about the USA hearing the private conversations of politicians in other countries. Whatever our opinion is on this matter, according to the Scriptures, the Authorities do not carry the 'sword' in vain, and nothing can stop their power to find out where to use this power best. Hearing the hidden plans of the enemy can avoid a lot of bloodshed.

The problem is not the lack of privacy but the abuse of privacy. We are all comfortable when we go on a flight that security-measures are taken with a minimum of trouble. We need knives to cut the beef or the bread but to use them for killing is bad. In the book of Kings, by the Spirit of God, the prophet Elisha knew all the battle plans of the Assyrian King, and the final outcome was PEACE! Also the apostle Paul was able to reach Rome and preach the Gospel before Caesar, because a young lad heard the secret plans of the religious fanatics to kill him.

Privacy should not be a 'holy cow' that must be protected at any price. The Gospel teaches us to be an OPEN BOOK. Jesus warns us that 'Nothing that is whispered in the dark will remain secret; all will be shouted from the rooftops.' No secrets from the Almighty. If we do good, we have nothing to fear from the NSA, and if our privacy is abused, let's remind ourselves what they did to the Son of God! After all, this is part of the plan of God to judge Man in righteousness. Poor NSA if it abuses its powers, but we will also be the poorer if we overvalue our privacy, and do not respond to our need for a Saviour, for we will finally perish. But if we perish for a good cause like Jesus did, we can only gain -- eternal life and a safe haven!

WINTER FUEL

The days have become shorter and temperatures are dropping. The dreaded freezing winter has now started... An expensive time lies ahead for many families. Many houses are not insulated, forcing families to spend a fortune to keep the room temperature up. This is a big problem as many families are going into debt, simply because the alternative is to freeze to death. The only thing we can do here is to continue our appeal to raise funds for winter fuel.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM!



NO-ONE TO LOOK AFTER THEM!



Jesus said: Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not... Mark 10, 14

In the Ukraine live many children that are left alone. Nobody really cares for them. Many families are subject to poverty and alcohol. Our desire is that these children will get to know the Lord Jesus Christ in a personal way, so we organize different programs every week in Roma communities, Children's Homes and boarding schools. Viki Antal is the woman behind these beautiful projects. Here she shares some stories about the children she works with in Kerestur, a village not far from the Hungarian border.

Boarding School in Kerestur

Kerestur is a place where you cannot remain indifferent! Children with physical and mental disabilities live together with those who are totally healthy.

Kerestur is the special school for mentally and physically handicapped children, from 6 to 17 years of age. Here you can meet with autism, Downs Syndrome, learning difficulties, cerebral spastic infantile paralysis, etc. and children who were born into dysfunction

or alcoholic families.

I have been visiting this place for 8-9 years; every Tuesday I come to tell about the love of Christ. I begin with the smallest children, and talk to them through puppets.

Rostik

Rostik has Down Syndrome. At first Rostik shouted and put his hands over his ears, sat in a corner and was afraid to look at us. The



Children listen intently to Viki's story about Jesus

teacher explained the boy had experienced a trauma and now he is afraid of adults. But in one month the boy no longer had to leave the class. Later he sat with the others at a table, and was taking part. This was big progress!

Here you will meet smiling children and would never assume that behind each life there is a family tragedy.

Sexual abuse

Eva is 12. She always comes and hugs me, but when I want to stroke her face, she suddenly jerks away in fear. Later the director explained why she reacts like this. He brought the girl from a neighbouring village. What he saw shocked him.

He found the house almost empty, with a few pieces of wrecked furniture. The electricity was cut off, the windows covered with newspaper, the house dirty and stinking. Eva slept in a dirty bed, next to a drunk old man. The neighbours reported the alcoholic mother's negligence. Later the police were also called in, because Eva said that her mother forced her to sleep with men, who paid with alcohol and seldom by cash. Sadly, at the police station, the mother did not show any remorse. She is now in jail with a 6 year sentence. Last time when we prayed, Eva asked me to pray for her mother.

Living in a pigsty

Olga (7) and Misha (6) are a sister and brother, who are always together, holding each other's hands. The boy is autistic. When child-safety men appeared at their house, there was a terrible smell. The parents were drunk and asleep. When they finally woke up, the mother gestured toward the back yard. The children were living in a pigsty and slept on a dirty blanket. No-one could tell how long they had lived there.

This mother received a three year sentence. Olga and Misha could not speak. Now the girl can speak a little, but Misha not at all. I found it important to share this story that all of you might gain insight into the plight of these children. I believe that Jesus can heal their lives. He does not look at them as though they are a mistake. He wants to give them new life -- a better life!

YOUR GIFTS FOR VIKI ARE WELCOME BY CHEQUE, PAYPAL OR BANK (SEE P.4)