

Outreach

Barnabas Special

time they would be allowed to enter. That evening the first conference in Brussels started with 15 participants, joined by the local South American church, a small group in the heart of Europe.

A report about Europe and new insights into the development of Europe and the spiritual war that is going on behind the scenes encouraged us in our desire to reach out and pray for Europe.

On the day of the European Summit we were walking towards the building where the politicians were to have their meeting. We walked through the crowd to a place quite close to the entrance and started praying for the meeting. Maybe we were the only Christians that had the chance to pray for this meeting. God has a perfect agenda and we were on it too. As we started praying, a dove (type of the Holy Spirit) landed on the roof of the building. The moment we closed our prayer with a joint 'Amen', the dove flew away. It symbolically confirmed that God was in our midst.



On Wednesday we picked up the Macedonian girls from Charlerois airport. After 3 days in a prison cell, a return flight to Sofia and a 2 day stay over there our sisters had finally arrived back again. This time it was 'a piece

of cake' to cross the border; all formalities were arranged. With a big smile on their faces the girls entered at the Arrivals gate, and I couldn't suppress a loud Hallelujah! With a complete team we could now reach out to the people in Anderlecht, to witness of God's love in the centre of Europe. Hallelujah!

ROMANIA - by Crisi Giurgila

It was a great pleasure for me and the group from Oradea, to attend the Barnabas conference and then to go on the outreaches. It was a blessed time during which we met wonderful people of God, who served us with the Word of God, or Bible studies. The workshops were also a great blessing to us, for we learned many methods of evangelism, methods that we could use later in the mission when we left. One thing always great about events like this, is the special fellowship between God's children, from everywhere. After the Barnabas conference, we went with a team from Oradea on a mission trip to Savarsin, a small village located in a valley and surrounded by hills and forests in the north west of the country. We were welcomed into the house of Pastor Benjamin Petrean. He was our contact with the local church but he also introduced us to churches in several communities around Savarsin.

We were invited in different villages where we had the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel, to pray for people and do different programmes for the children. Of course, we aroused curiosity among people with our way of evangelism, which is quite different from an average church service but is ultimately successful, and people were blessed.

We had the opportunity to use methods of evangelism like sketch-board, a method completely new to them, also do tricks and programmes for children, special moments of interaction with children, concluding with surprises such as balloons, sweets or colouring books, donated by the Mission.

We were glad of the opportunity to visit an Old People's Home where we were welcomed with tears of joy. Many of them do not have anyone. We sang for them and we had the opportunity to talk with each of them, to share the Gospel and tell them about Jesus Christ. Several of them made a commitment to Jesus Christ that day, which was a great joy! We also experienced moments when the testimonies of the lives of the young people from our group touched the people in a profound way, and we saw tears on their faces.

We had beautiful experiences and we were built up ourselves spiritually, but also the people with whom we came in contact.

Romania - Jerry van der Wielen

When you experience something great, you want to share it with everyone; you want to shout it from the housetops. This is the case for the Romanian Christians. The Lord is working powerfully in their country. I feel privileged to have been part of this again. God used us to be a helping hand to old people and children, to people who are struggling and are going through times of sorrow. But above all, God used us to share His Good News! Many ears have heard the Gospel. I am convinced that many beautiful things are going to happen in Romania. Will you pray with us for this to happen?

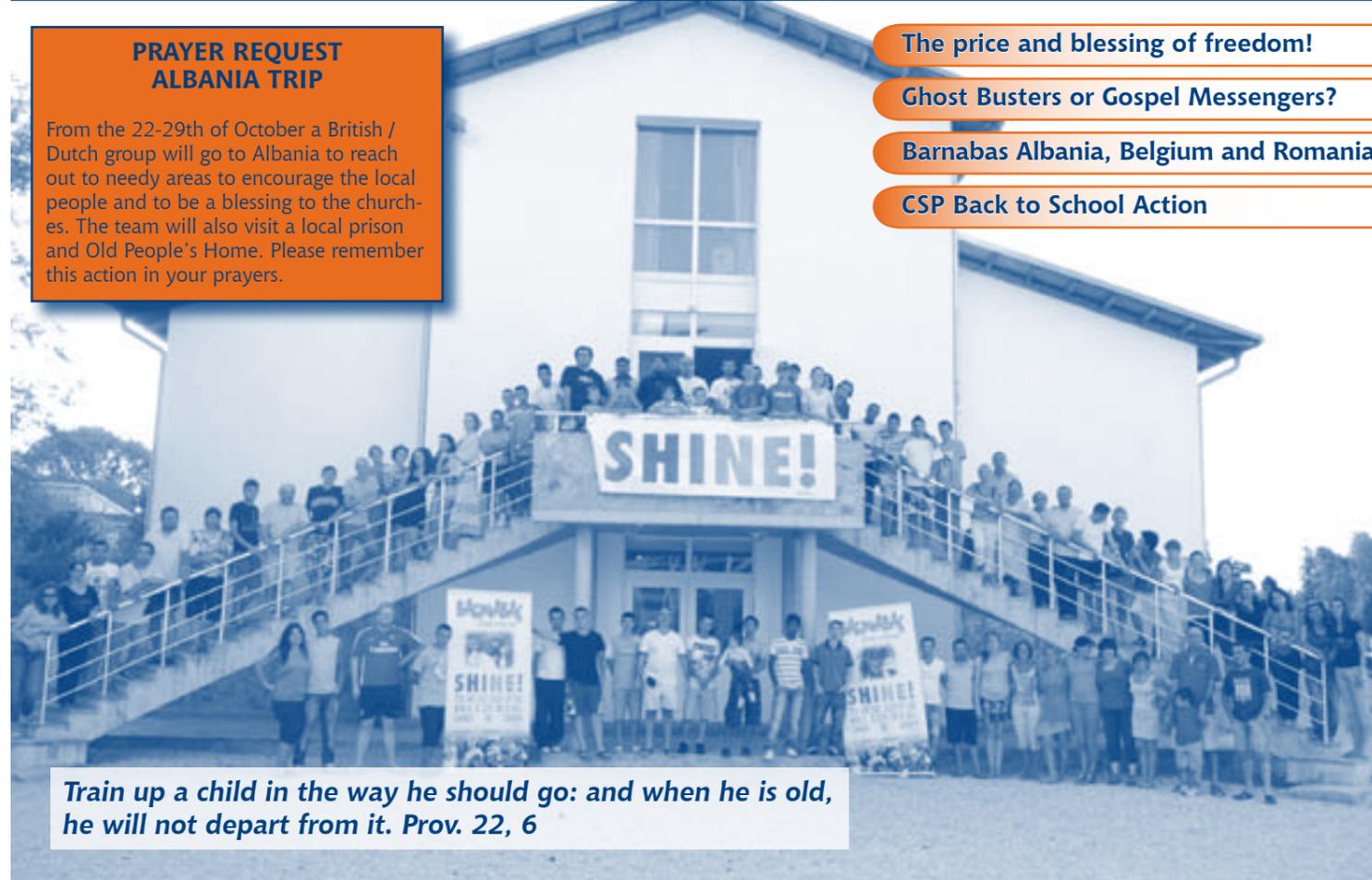


CSP Back to School Action

September and October are some of the hardest months in a year for families in eastern Europe. The reason is, it's time for School. Most schools start at the beginning of October. Even though education is free in most eastern European countries especially for poorer families, they do have to pay for schoolbooks, notebooks, stationery. Especially for large families this is a great struggle. We would like to help as many families as possible, as we believe that education is a very important step to have at least a chance to break out of the circle of poverty. Can we count on your support to help these families?

PRAYER REQUEST ALBANIA TRIP

From the 22-29th of October a British / Dutch group will go to Albania to reach out to needy areas to encourage the local people and to be a blessing to the churches. The team will also visit a local prison and Old People's Home. Please remember this action in your prayers.



- The price and blessing of freedom!
- Ghost Busters or Gospel Messengers?
- Barnabas Albania, Belgium and Romania
- CSP Back to School Action

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Prov. 22, 6

This Special edition of Outreach is almost entirely dedicated to reports of last summer's Barnabas events. Training young people, preparing them to reach out to their communities is at the heart of our ministry. Building up young Christians makes them stronger in their faith. As a western Christian going to a reasonably sized church, we could almost forget that many Christians in countries like Albania and Kosovo are the only ones in their families, sometimes the only Christian in their villages. A conference like Barnabas is like a comforting warm bath for them, to realise that there are others who believe the same as they do.

Most of our outreaches are aimed at children. The Bible says: 'Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it'. We realise that many of them may never get to accept Jesus Christ, but how many people have found peace through Christian songs they learned when they were children? How many people have come to faith and recall particular events in their youth years. We believe that the impact will be even greater than we can ever imagine.

We are currently in the process of starting the preparations for next year's events. God willing, we will have 4 events in Israel, Belgium, Albania and Romania. If you want to be part of this, contact us or check the Barnabas website www.barnabas.nu/english But even more important, please put us on your prayer-list for 2012 as well!

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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.



THE PRICE AND BLESSING OF FREEDOM!

Today is 11th September, as I write this, thousands are gathered at the new Ground Zero Memorial in New York, to remember that tragic day 10 years ago when 9/11 took place, and 2 planes flew into the Twin Towers, another into the Pentagon and another crashed in a terrorist attack. Our hearts go out to each one who grieves, and across the country and around the world millions are joining them by way of television. Not only will that day be remembered, but the almost 3000 people who lost their lives, and every name of those who could be identified, will be read out. In our own country, one special service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral and another in the Memorial Garden in Grosvenor Square near the American Embassy, to remember those 67 British nationals who died.

Of those who died, 343 of them were firefighters and paramedics, 72 were police officers, all of these services and many private individuals who risked their lives to rescue others. As we see the pictures again it reminds us of the huge blessing that FREEDOM is, and the huge PRICE that millions through the years – often at the cost of their own lives - have paid, to obtain it for their own and future generations. We often forget that attacks, danger and oppression are the norm for millions under various regimes throughout the world, but that in our country, whatever shortcomings we might think it has, we have this enormous blessing of being able to live as we please, speak without fear, worship God openly – to live in freedom.

Yet even in a politically free country it is still possible to be in bondage, enslaved to memories, negative habits, destroying practices which no-one can perhaps see outwardly, but only the individual himself knows, or those around him, the issues with which he struggles. While much is offered to help us to obtain mental or spiritual freedom, yet only Jesus Christ has the real answer and can give us TRUE FREEDOM.

EEO UK and EEO Intl. came into being because of a young Dutchman, Kees van Olst, who heard that thousands of Christians in Eastern European countries were living under Communist oppression, many having suffered great persecution with torture and imprisonment, starved of daily bread and also of the Bread of Life, the Word of God. With a burning desire to help and carrying a few Bibles in a plastic bag Kees slipped through the Communist border and, led by God, found some of these precious people. 'The rest is history', as they say.

Yet despite all the sadness of the past, there is HOPE for the future. Let courage and determination fill our hearts that with God "all things are possible" and we can build again where something dear has been destroyed. Please help us in EEO UK to bring freedom to thousands who are still under oppression and in bondage.

"So if the Son liberates you...then you are really and unquestionably free!" John 8, 36 Amplified Bible

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide

Ghost Busters or Gospel Messengers?



The riots that came to London and other cities in Great Britain, would maybe give fans of the film *Ghost Busters* the idea of calling them in, to stop the shocking destruction that all the world could see on TV. The government and Parliament are still disputing where it came from and how to avoid it. But these events are not new, and have happened over and over in different situations since the fall of Man. Closely connected to this subject is the enduring violence of football hooligans.

Terrorism is not strictly a matter of the New York 9/11 or the London 7/7 events. The authorities will always fail to find an adequate answer if they persist in ignoring the power of the Gospel and its messengers over the demonic powers of hell. Governments and citizens always pour oil on the fire of human greed by not using the fire-extinguishing power of God's living water instead. The messengers of the Gospel of love and reconciliation need more appreciation and recognition. That would surely bring peace to the nations. We ask our EEO UK supporters and readership especially in this Extra Barnabas Edition, to enable us to share the Gospel of love, Jesus Christ Himself, to this broken and terrified world, in a greater way.

BARNABAS ALBANIA, BELGIUM AND ROMANIA



The sixth Barnabas Albania conference started in the city of Pogradec on the 15th July. Simultaneously, the first Barnabas Conference in Brussels started. The last conference this summer started at the beginning of August in Romania.

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.

ALBANIA - by Gerrit Wiersema

The first meeting had just finished when we arrived at the Nehemia centre in Pogradec. I was surprised by the number of people this year, more than 80 and from many corners of the earth. It was also great to see many familiar faces from previous conferences. Five days training on evangelism followed. The mornings were filled with inspiring seminars followed by active workshops. The afternoons were used for fellowship. In the evenings energetic worship was followed by powerful preaching.

The conference was a great encouragement for these young people, many of whom struggle with poverty in daily life, and in some cases, experience severe pressure from their family and community.

Several participants had a personal encounter with the Lord. One girl testified how God healed her ankle during the afternoon prayer time. Another girl came to accept the Lord as her personal Saviour, she testified of this a few days later in her church in Shkoder.



After the conference I joined together with one of the other foreign participants on the team, to go to Shkoder. During the next seven days we were to focus on helping our local contact, Klodi Lumci, to reach out to many people.

On one of our first days we visited one of the very few Old People's Homes in Albania. Even though it is called a home for elderly people, in reality many of the peo-

ple living there are disabled. Klodi had been given many brand new T-shirts which we handed out there.

The rooms in the House are in quite good condition, and there is quite a lot of freedom for the occupants to personalize their room. The next part of the tour were the Laundry rooms; in the first room the ironing room was stacked with clothes and linen. The second one had about 7 or 8 washing-machines to wash the clothes for all the inmates in the Home. The main 3 machines were working but leaking a lot of water, due to broken rubber seals. The other machines were there more for decoration as they had given up working altogether, a long time ago! The opportunity arose to order some new seals from the UK that same day, but there is still a great need for Diesel to power the generators which supply the buildings with electricity.

The following days we visited several families that are supported through the Child Sponsor Programme. The need is very great in Albania. Most people struggle to find a job, and even if they manage to find one the pay is generally so low, that it is impossible to live on. Another thing that still cripples Albanian society are the blood feuds. Several families in our programme are under this curse, which can last up to four generations and forces the men of the family to stay inside their house, or they will be killed.

Saturday evening we joined the church service. During the testimony time one of the girls from the team went forward and shared that at the Barnabas conference she felt convicted of sin, and on the Friday she decided to commit herself to Christ. This was a great joy for the small congregation.

We joined Klodi and a worker from another Christian organisation that supports local orphanages, to bring surprise parcels to these orphans who had their yearly camp at the seaside.

It was great to see how these children were having the time of their lives! Most of them

have gone through indescribable situations. The heart of the staff is really to help these children.

Klodi's desire is to renovate the camp building. It is an old government building but it is in a very dire state, and the government is not investing in it. It will be a great blessing if this dream can come true as many groups are making use of the accommodation. Also Klodi's church outreach is scheduled to take place in this building.

After a great week we had to leave Shkoder. As there was no direct connection between Shkoder and Skopje we decided to stay one day in Gjilan in Kosovo.

When we arrived at the church the Kosovo team was just busy finishing off their afternoon programme.

We had the privilege to be part of their evening prayer meeting. The next morning, we joined in with the YWAM team that was organising the morning workshops at the local church, before we set sail to Skopje our final destination before flying back home.



BELGIUM - by Jaco van der Sterre

It was a nice Friday morning. I was just packing the last materials for the first Barnabas conference in Brussels, when the phone rang. As I hung up, the hope for the conference to get off to a smooth start was gone. I had just been told that the two Macedonian participants were being held by the Police at Charlerois Airport. The reason was still unclear but it seemed very serious and the Police had threatened to put them on a plane back to Macedonia.

I then called the Police in Charlerois and they explained to me that a proof was missing in the girls' documents, that they would be able to cover the costs of their stay.

For many years we had the desire to invite Christians from eastern Europe to share the Gospel in western Europe. That evening Gilbert and Huguette Mille visited the two girls in their police cell. They prayed together and stayed there to encourage the Macedonians. On my way to Brussels I phoned one of the girls asking whether they were happy for me to buy some new return tickets for them. She answered with a heartfelt 'Hallelujah!' Europe takes away our freedoms, but cannot break our spirit. "He who is in us is stronger than he who is in the world." When Gilbert and Huguette finally had to leave the girls in their cell, it seemed as though 'Fort Europe' was closed for mission workers from the east. That night, in faith, I booked new return tickets for the girls, trusting that the next