

BARNABAS 2009: THE STORY SO FAR...



Barnabas 2009

Note from the Child Sponsor Programme

YOUR HELP IS WORTH IT!

"I want to thank you for helping our family, and I thank God for you." – Just a sentence from one of the many letters we receive from the supported families, it shows how much your sponsor help means to these families.

Reaching out to the nations

When Jesus chose His disciples He believed that these 12 men could do what He did. When He gave his final command He told them to go out and make disciples. This has changed the entire history of Mankind and is still changing it every single day. As Christians it is our duty to spread the Word, and also to help others to do so. Many missionaries take a step of faith, and, like the disciples, drop their nets and follow their Master.

Eastern European Outreach UK is helping many pastors, evangelists and missionaries in Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria but also in countries like Pakistan, Columbia, Venezuela and Cuba. In this way we would like to raise awareness for these people and their tremendous needs. As a mission organisation we want to stand beside them in their struggles, and celebrate with them in their victories.

In Heaven they are celebrating every single time somebody gives his or her life to the Lord.

It is such a joy when we hear testimonies about families in the Child Sponsor Programme coming to living faith in Christ. In Pakistan children receive schooling and Christian education. Through Barnabas outreaches people repent and find the Lord. Former street children are changed from dangerous people into powerful evangelists. It is absolutely amazing.

Barnabas 2009 update

Bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, is Jesus' last command. I am writing this Barnabas update from the conference in Romania. Currently we are about half way through the conference part and are preparing for the 9-day outreaches in Slobozia, Babadag, Romania and in Silistra, Bulgaria. It is so encouraging to see enthusiastic Romanian, Dutch, American and English people worshipping together and praising our Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparing to go out is a challenge every time but it has been such an encouragement so far.

Later we will bring you reports of the evangelistic outreaches.

School Project



In most eastern European countries the schools start the first week of September, after being closed for 3 months. On the first school day, children go to school in their best clothes, and take flowers for their teachers. Every year this is a special occasion, but for many families this is a time of difficulty. School materials have to be bought, school bags, pencils, notebooks etc. These materials are quite expensive and especially for the larger families it is very difficult to afford them. It often happens that a child goes to school sometimes for several weeks without being able to participate fully. Many children drop behind because of this. In our mission centres in eastern Europe we often get requests for help from families. Will you help us to help them?



EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH
Registered Charity: 290643

Outreach

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The poor can run to you because you are a fortress in times of trouble. Psalm 9,9 (CEV)

From the editor

When you find this edition of Outreach magazine on your doormat, a hectic summer will have just come to an end. Two Barnabas conferences will have been held in Albania and in Romania, and several mission trips taken place. Summer camps will have been organised in Romania and the seed of the Gospel sown. We continue to pray that the Lord will cause these seeds to grow.

In the first week of September the schools will start again. In eastern Europe this is for many children a time they greatly look forward to; after 3 months holiday they are finally going back to school, but for their parents this often brings difficulties.

Another project we are writing about in this Outreach edition is the hospital in Beregowo. For many years EEO UK has been involved with this hospital. It seems that the economic crisis has hit the National Health System in Ukraine very hard.

Editor:
Eastern European Outreach (registered charity: 290643)
Supervisor: Helen Jesze, Gerrit Wiersema
Cheques and correspondence to:
E.E.O. P.O. Box 399 Margate, CT9 2WE
Phone: 0800 2980 126 or 07912 890 384
Bank Details: CAF Bank
Sortcode: 40-52-40, **Account nr.:** 00091930
Account name: Eastern European Outreach, Margate
E-mail: info@eeouk.org / www.eeouk.org

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.

Editorial

by Helen Jesze



Regaining the Cutting-edge

There is an old saying: "A bad workman always loses his tools", and this is exactly what happened to a young man many years ago. Some of the sons of the prophets were cutting down trees on the banks of the Jordan, when there was a loud cry: "My axe has fallen in the water - and it wasn't even mine, it was borrowed!" It is not quite clear if this was the only axe among them, and anyway, there were not many iron tools or implements to be had in Israel at that time, and a borrowed axe must be paid for!

But Elisha, the prophet, had an answer. He threw a stick into the water just where the axe had fallen in. Due to God's miracle-working power and against all the Laws of Gravity, the axe-head floated up to the surface of the river.

The young man quickly retrieved it and work could commence again. This young man did not lose his tool because he was a bad workman. It may have not been properly put together, or was old and the axe-head just fell off.

Sometimes, in our Christian walk we lose our effectiveness, our cutting-edge. This may be through our own fault, or life's constant challenges, or by an attack of satan. This story is not telling of a magic trick. The stick used was symbolic of the 'wood' on which Jesus Christ would later die. When we believe and apply the victory of Calvary into the difficult things we face, situations and lives can be changed, and the impossible becomes the possible! Sometimes this means going back to the place where we lost our 'tool'. The victory Jesus won on the cross and by His resurrection was for us, not for Him.

In Mission work we constantly need to watch that we do not lose our cutting-edge. Many times we do not have the tools or resources we need to accomplish the enormous task, but God and our wonderful, faithful partners help us and motivate us to take new steps of faith! Thankyou! Thankyou!

PICK UP THE TOOLS!

*Pick up the tools that you laid down
And be encouraged, my friend!
Let your hands be strengthened today in God,
You'll be glad you believed till the victory came
When for you Life's journey will end.*

*Take up the song that you used to sing
When it seemed your heart was broken.
Let your voice ring out in a song of faith,
A new day for you is about to dawn
For to you the promise is spoken.*

*Take up the threads and let God weave
A beautiful pattern and plan
As Life seemed bleak with your loved one gone
Sunshine and colour will come once again
When no-one can help you - GOD CAN!*

*Pick up the BIBLE that you laid down
And read its message plain:
A message of comfort, of strength and hope,
A light and a guide for the days ahead
You'll find in its pages again!*

Helen Jesze

Mission Monitor

by Matthias J. Van der Weide



He'll Carry Us through

The Dutch Post currently has a promotion encouraging people to send gifts. Their slogan is: It's nice to give, but it's nicer to receive. This looks like the question of what came first: The chicken or the egg? - or which is better, to give or to receive?! Jesus said: Look at the fruits! Creationists need not waste time on fighting evolutionists, but should just glorify God even more for His wonderful works past, present and future! Giving and receiving are only justified by their fruits and results. It is God's desire that after receiving the Gift of His Son Jesus, we should pass the message of His Words and deeds on to the afflicted; then they, like all of us, will turn out to be such givers as well.

People get depressed by the current economical crisis but we can surely overcome it by restoring God's principles on giving and receiving. God will carry us through as the words of Hebrews 1, 3 remind us:

He, Jesus, being the brightness of God's glory and the exact likeness of God's own being, upholding the universe with his powerful Word, After achieving forgiveness for the sins of all human beings, He sat down in heaven at the right hand of God, the Supreme Power.

Let us remember this, especially in times of crisis. God's Supreme Power enables us to receive the blessings and to pass them on to others!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support, enabling us to continue our mission task of bringing hope to the hopeless, and help to those who are in desperate need, and you will find, it's more blessed to give than to receive!

HOSPITAL NEEDS HELP!



Ambulance

Eastern European Outreach Intl. has been helping the State Hospital of Beregowo (Ukraine). The work we are doing at the Abandoned Baby department and Infection department is wellknown as we have been reporting regularly about this in recent years. But there is also a huge need in other departments.

Wherever possible, we are helping out with medical materials and building renovations, mostly on a small scale. In the Physiotherapy department we recently replaced the old lead electrodes for ones made of graphite, which is not dangerous for your health. Also a treatment head has been bought for one of the machines. With the help of sponsor donations fridges have been bought for most of the departments. These are being used to store blood samples and certain medicines. The laboratory has been given a computer and for the ambulance team, we were able to arrange proper equipment, but it is still not even close to western standards. Many parcels have been given to the Maternity department with nappy liners, bandages and umbilical clamps. Also many operation gloves and syringes have been given to the hospital. This has been a real blessing as the quality of these western materials is much better than the locally produced products, which are of very poor quality and break easily.

Marta Saradi is in hospital with pneumonia. She has received treatment for five days and is recovering well; the treatment needs to be continued for at least a few more days. The problem is that in this department there are only sufficient funds available to provide medication for three days. She has to pay for the rest of the treatment. Marta does not have any more money and is waiting for her State pension. Because she has no family there is nobody to pick this up for her, and because of her illness she is not allowed to leave the hospital.

The doctor explains to us that in this case, they used the allowance from another patient who was able to pay from day one for his own treatment.

As soon as she is able Marta will be going to the Post Office to pick up her monthly 700 UAH (Ukrainian Grivna) (less than £70) State pension. From these 700UAH she will have to spend more than 250UAH for medicines.



Head of the department, Dr. Vasyl Holovachko, tells us that only one in five patients is able to pay for the ideal treatment. All other patients are buying weaker medicines, which takes them much longer to properly recover from their illness. On average, a patient stays in hospital for 14 days, where with proper treatment, only 7 or 8 days would be needed.

A relatively large part of the population can be classified as socially and economically weak. It often happens that people are taken into hospital without any money for medicines.

Dr. Holovachko then tries to contact the family and neighbours of these people to ask them for money for the treatment. It happens once or twice a month that he buys medicines for patients himself, from

his 1500 UAH (about £140) per month salary.

In the past two years it looked as though the financial situation of the hospital was improving. But this has not been the case for 2009. The economic crisis is hitting hard in Ukraine. The available budget is insufficient to cover the running costs of the hospital, which has a budget available of only 6.53 UAH (about 50p!) per patient per day.

Many costs in the budget have remained the same compared to 2008, but due to high inflation the prices for medicines and bandages has doubled or even tripled. Also the cost of gas and electricity has greatly increased. The hospital struggles with severe shortage in their budget. There is no money to invest in equipment or to repair the building.

Due to the lack of a CT-scanner the hospital is unable to prescribe blood-thinning medication. The sooner a treatment with blood-thinners is started, the more chance there is of preventing brain damage. Andre Birtok did not have a chance for this treatment. His left side has been paralysed by a stroke and he has been more than a month in the Neurology Department in the hospital. Over 7000 UAH (£600) has been spent on treatment and medication and his situation has not improved much. With tears in her eyes his wife tells us that she had to sell their cow, and borrow money from family, friends and neighbours to pay for this treatment. A recovery process would cost at least another 2000 UAH, which is about half a year's salary for this lady who earns only 300 UAH per month.

Neurologist Elza Sverenjok tells us that the cabinet with medicines for emergency cases is almost empty. Except for a few salt and glucose mixtures for infusions and a few cheap medicines, there is nothing in there. In 80-90% of the cases, patients themselves buy only the most needed medicines, and often for a very short period of time.

The situation is desperate and it is very difficult to decide where we need to take action. Please pray for wisdom in this matter, and also that we will be able to help in the most urgent cases.



Water-boilers