

Helping hand in desperate situation

We then left the orphanage with Klodi and visited a family out of the main town about half an hour's drive away. The family has been moved into a two room house as their house had been struck by lightning and damaged very badly, which made it uninhabitable. Klodi has helped them move into the two room house so he can try and get the old house repaired, so that they will be able to return home. He is doing his best with the temporary house, however it has many problems. The roof leaks very badly, there is no running water, no electricity and gas and no toilet. In the family there are 7 in total, Grandma, Mum, Dad, and 4 children in a two room house. One of the children has a heart condition and Klodi is trying his best to organise medical help for this little girl.

Hope in Shkoza

That day we left Shkoder and went back to Tirana. The following morning we went to visit the women's prison in Tirana. We met up with the prison chaplain, and after going through Security we went in and met up with some of the ladies, some who we remembered from last year. We spent about an hour with them, it was very good. We sang hymns and read from the Bible.

After thanking the chaplain for arranging the visit we said our Goodbyes. In the afternoon we went to visit Vera's Hope Centre where they feed about 300 children in three sittings for breakfast. This is because the families in that area cannot afford to feed the children. Vera and her husband also run projects to help the local people; metal work for the boys and young men to give them a skill, computer courses, sewing courses, cooking and everyday hygiene. Children are also allowed to play in Vera's Centre, it is a very valuable resource for Shkoza and its people.

Albania is a country which also has its poor parts. We visited some of them and saw lots of ordinary people trying to cope with very little and in some cases nothing at all. Every member of our team is supporting a family through the CSP and all had the opportunity to visit their sponsor child.

Eastern European Outreach (EEO) Intl. is doing wonderful things in Albania and reaching out to the people who need help. As a team we would like to say a big Thank you to Renato and his wonderful team for a very special trip. Lots of things brought tears to our eyes and tugged at our hearts -- memories that will never leave us!



Boy with chicken



Livingroom in Albania

Sponsor visits family - by Tim Wigley

Our trip to Albania was eye-opening, challenging, and shocking, but very worthwhile. It was a blessing to meet many families who were in need in many different ways. It was good to take time to hear their stories, and to encourage and pray for them.

I had recently started sponsoring a 9-year-old girl, who has epilepsy, through EEO UK's CSP in Albania. I really appreciated the chance to visit her and her family on this trip, not only to see their living conditions (which were very basic), but also to get an update on her health situation. It's really brought home to me how we often take for granted our free healthcare system here in the UK. In Albania, most people cannot afford to pay for healthcare, and even if they can, the corruption which is rife across the country, can mean that doctors demand extra payments. The father of my sponsored child tries to collect and sell scrap iron to make a living, but when the weather is bad he is unable to do this, which was the case when we visited them.

I would really recommend going on short-term mission to Albania. Despite being only a 3 hour flight from the UK, life is very different, and extremely hard for many people across the country, with many families on the sidelines, scraping together a living. I felt that it was important to focus on helping individuals rather than getting overwhelmed by looking at the big picture, as there are enormous needs right across the country. God is at work in many different ways, but Albania needs your prayers for the growing churches and tireless work of pastors and EEO UK's representatives on the ground, but also for good leaders and governance of the nation.



Tim and his sponsor family

Heating in the winter

We realise this request has been put in our magazine at least once a year, but the urgent need justifies it. For many eastern Europeans the winter period is a very hard time. In the villages people have to buy wood, which is expensive. In the towns and cities, people live often in apartment blocks, and have to pay to be connected to the communal gas system. With prices at about the same level as in western Europe, heating costs as much as many people's monthly salary, or more! Would you help us provide for the needy, and give your Brother and Sister on the other side of Europe a warm winter?

Desperate but determined

Granny Florica has just been sent home from hospital. In the hospital they had to amputate the toes of one of her feet because of diabetes. The doctors are still unsure whether the foot needs to be amputated as well. Despite her deteriorating health situation Florica chooses to look after her grandchildren.

Hopelessness

At her home in Oradea (Romania) the situation is hopeless. Her husband left her and five years ago her daughter died of lung-cancer. Her son-in-law has to stay in a sanatorium for health reasons, his outlook is very bleak.

Florica is looking after her eight grandchildren in her house without water and electricity. The children miss their parents. It is heartbreaking for her to see her grandchildren begging passersby all day on the streets of the city to give them some money or food. In the evenings they return home exhausted.

Difficult choice

The infection in her leg is causing Florica much pain but she is unable to buy medicines, much less proper hospital treatment. Also her ninth grandchild, a disabled girl who grew up in an orphanage and was then turned out on the streets when she turned 18, has come to live with her grandmother. Florica is desperate. Should she buy wood to keep the heater burning, food for the children or medicines for herself? A difficult choice, but Florica chooses for the children.

Please help us to help this brave lady!



Granny Florica in hospital



Florica and her grandchildren

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.

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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.



EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH
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Outreach



...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Rev. 1, 5 and 6 (NIV)

"The board of Trustees, volunteers and staff of EEO UK wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2013"

At Christmas we remember the arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ into this world. When I look at my own little baby it is staggering to realise that the Creator of the universe once was this small. The idea that His earthly (adoptive) father, Joseph, might have been on nappy duty just like me 2000 years later, makes me smile. The eternal King came into this world just like you and me.

All over the world people are celebrating the first coming of the Lord. He came to this earth to pay with His own blood for you and me. So that we can be with Him for ever. That is the real meaning of Christmas.

Especially in the western world Christmas has become a gift festival, taking away the focus of Christ, and going back to its pagan origins.

Let us, as Christians, not forget about Christ at Christmas, but join in with the millions of Christians who are truly remembering the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, often paying a high price for this commitment. Join in expectation of the Second Coming, where He promised us He will make everything new.

On this happy note we want to close 2012 and look forward to 2013. With the Lord's return getting closer every day our focus becomes more and more to reach out to people. Not only to help them practically but also to share Christ with them.



THE LIFE-CHANGER

In our last edition of Outreach, we showed a photo of my co-editor Gerrit, his wife, Laura and their new baby girl, Natasha. About the birth of their baby, he wrote: "On the 14th September the lives of myself and my wife changed forever...". Every parent knows this is true. How can such a small scrap of humanity cry so loud and be so hungry at 3 am?! But when those tiny fingers grip your hand, when bright eyes latch onto you with a fearless stare and that small toothless mouth widens into a first smile, all those other things are forgotten! As that child grows he or she will change not only their parents, but other people and circumstances in varying degrees.

But I'm thinking of another Child who was laid in his parents' arms and their world was changed forever. Although the birth was foretold by prophets and the angel, Gabriel, to his mother, Mary, yet they could not imagine the change that their Son would bring. Wrapped in human form and flesh, yet He was the Living Word, the Son of Almighty God, who had stepped into Time from Eternity, to fulfil a mission. A godly mandate was on that life, a divine plan to make a way back to His Father, God, for Mankind who had sinned were for ever cut off, and could not save themselves. As Mary studied those small hands, did she know that one day they would be pierced by cruel nails? As she bathed that small, helpless body, how could she have known that 33 years later it would be scourged and beaten, and that back would carry the Roman cross to Calvary? True, Gabriel had said they were to call Him JESUS, for He would save His people from their sins, but how that was to come about, Mary and Joseph did not know. Yet today we are able to see the full story of Christmas when we celebrate His birth, and His death and resurrection at Easter, for they belong together. Those of us who have taken Him as our Lord and Saviour know that He has truly changed our lives forever! Today He is no longer a helpless baby in a manger but His life has changed the world as nobody else's could ever do. The calendar, time and dates were all centred round His birth; more books and songs were written about Him than about anybody else; millions of people in all generations have received hope and the certainty of eternal salvation through His Name, and His love surpasses all other loves.

Coming to the end of another year and about to step over into a new one, our hearts are filled with gratitude to our Lord for past blessings, yet we also face many challenges and question what the future will hold for us. Let me encourage you to allow this Life-Changer to come into your life, to change you and your circumstances. His love is extended to you TODAY to be all that you need in the coming months!

We wish you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mission Monitor

by Matthias J. Van der Weide



Calimero, Hamas and the Apocalypse

When Hamas finally agreed on a ceasefire it had sent nearly 2000 life-threatening rockets towards Israeli civilians. When a journalist confronted the Hamas spokesman with this fact he stated, "... but they are strong and we are weak". This was like Calimero, the little cartoon chicken who overcomes every trouble and finally says: It's not fair...they are big and I am small!...This play on the world's opinion by Palestinian leaders reminds me of the well-known books of Tim La Haye, fictional end-time releases where the Antichrist appears in the person of world leader Carpati, who openly executes other leaders and manages to manipulate world opinion by making spectators believe that these other leaders tried to kill him.

This is how Stalin came to power and this is exactly how Satan is also twisting the facts to blame Israel, although Israel is obviously the only democratic and peacekeeping power in the middle of an Islamic and self-destructive world. The Vietnam war inspired secular people to speak of the Apocalypse, but now Vietnam is even at peace with the USA, developing intense partnerships together. It is definitely possible that Israel and its neighbours will live one day in total peace, and the book of Isaiah tells all about it. It has to do with this tiny baby, Jesus, who escaped from his murderers until they eventually crucified Him. He rose from the grave and was appointed to become the world's Judge and Ruler. He will establish peace for ever!

O, come let us adore Him, so that we may also receive His peace, to bring healing to a bleeding world!

MISSION TRIP TO ROMANIA AND SERBIA

By Lynley Foy



Family visit in Romania

In October an EEO team from Holland, Venezuela and the UK went to Romania and Serbia to visit EEO projects and encourage the local people. One of the participants was Lynley Foy. Here is her report on the trip.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation " (2 Cor. 5:18). This is a verse relating to my initial missionary call. Thankyou for praying for me while I was in eastern Europe, and I was conscious of the prayer support. Having arrived in Rotterdam, I stayed at the EEO Intl. head office. We set off in a mini-van with a Dutch team and two Venezuelan ladies, so translation between Dutch and English flowed. Reflecting on all the travelling we did, it reminded us of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys, visiting places, churches and families in both Romania and Serbia. In two days we travelled from Holland through Germany, Austria and Hungary until we crossed the border into Romania. We stayed in Oradea and Timișoara, then moved unexpectedly into Serbia.

A Helping Hand

While staying at the new mission guest house in Oradea a large lorry arrived from the Netherlands, containing food, clothes and other essential items to help families in need. We visited some of those needy families. Some had 2-4 children and others 11-13 children to care for. The father may have been at home, employed locally or further afield. In some cases a father had abandoned his family altogether. So the mother was left to bring up her family single-handed.

Poor families

In one case the mother managed to build a shack in a large field. The family had been put out of their home because she could not afford to pay the rent. Other families had small houses with large families and these were damp properties with sizeable holes in the ceilings.



Family reading a Bible verse

These families received food parcels and we were able to share the Gospel with them. Some of the people were individually prayed for as they were struggling with health problems.

On one occasion, driving off the roads over several hills, we came to a Roma (gypsy) village. These were Roma from many different nationalities, having come up from the south and settled in Romania. The pastor and his wife come out from Oradea to take Sunday evening services in a very small room, helping to build up and encourage the people there. In Serbia, staying in Vrsac we went to small villages where there were similar problems with homes and families; some of these people do know the Lord.

Vision and Projects

In both countries there are ladies in the local churches who have projects to be developed and are praying to see the Lord's provision for these. Near Oradea the vision is to have fulltime education in the Roma village. Education is for only half a day in some areas in Romania and Serbia. Buildings would be needed to use for school and church services. Then in Timișoara, suitable premises are required to help disabled people. There is further a big need for wheel-chairs to assist people who are immobile.

In Vrsac a large building is required for disabled people to develop activities and the arts. We visited one of these painting classes while it was in progress, then turned our vehicles around in Serbia and took the homeland journey back to Holland. When we reached Rotterdam again, we had travelled a 2,500 mile round trip.



Lynley Foy

MISSION TRIP TO ALBANIA 2012

By Barry and Bette Radley



Visiting a family in Albania

At the end of October a small EEO team from the UK went to Albania to visit EEO Intl. projects and encourage the local people. The participants were Barry and Bette Radley, Jenny Harris and Tim Wigley. Here is a report of their experiences:

Arriving in Albania

We left the UK on 26th October 2012. At the airport we were met by Renato Jani, our host for the coming 10 days. As it was late in the evening he brought us straight to the Christian Centre in Tirana where we would be staying. The next morning we made the long journey to Korca, quickly dropped our bags at the hotel and went to meet Linda, the local CSP contact. She took us to different families in the city. The next morning we went to the local Roma church and from there we made some more visits. We encouraged every family and gave them a food parcel.

Meeting family

It was a great experience for Barry and Bette when they met the family they sponsor through the CSP. A great encouragement for both the family and the sponsor. The next home we visited was Tim's sponsor family. They have just enrolled into the programme. The gifts that were given by the team and the sponsors were very well received. The look on the children's faces was amazing!

Church in Iba

After a few days in Korca we went back to the Christian Centre in Tirana. The next morning we met up with Renato who was taking us to the Christian church at Iba which doubles as a classroom teaching English as well as other useful activities to the local community. Jenny met her sponsor child here and had presents for her. She gave the little girl a coat and she loved it very much, then we again went out and

visited other poor families in the area. At one place the access to the house was a mud track and the heavy rain made it inaccessible for some of the team. However, Tim and Barry made it up to the house, Tim carrying the food parcel. When we were at the house, only the son was in and he was ill in bed so we left the food and a few other gifts and left.

Brightening up the day at the Old People's Home

On day 5 we set off to travel to Shkoder. On arrival we settled into our hotel rooms then went out visiting families in the area, taking food parcels with us. On visiting the Old People's Home Bette, Jenny and Barry met the director for the second time. She also remembered us from our visit last year and told us that the situation in the Old People's Home has not got any better with regards to financial help from the government.

On the positive side she told us that the new industrial washing-machine is now installed and working every day which is a blessing. We had a walk around the Home, visited the laundry-room and saw the machine working; a huge pile of washing ready to be washed was piled up at the side. It was nice to see and greet some of the residents that we had met last year. There have not been any changes in any of the residents' rooms, which are still in a very poor state. On our way around we met the residents and gave them bananas which they love to eat, but do not get very often.

Orphanage

In the afternoon we met up with Klodi who is the pastor of the Illyricum Church. We had lunch with him and talked about his church and the radio station that he has set up to help spread the word of Christianity, which is proving fruitful. After lunch we went to an orphanage. We first had a meeting with the director of the orphanage who told us that the orphanage has two parts, a day centre and a residential part. About 80 people in total use the orphanage, and the age difference is between 5 and 45 years, and some of the people that use the orphanage have very severe learning disabilities. We were shown around the orphanage and what we saw was very impressive; the staff who were working there, caring and nursing for the people were very happy in their jobs.



Children receiving gifts



Jenny and her sponsor child