

Barnabas Actions 2014 – ‘Jesus in You’

Report from 2013 by Dutch missionary, Jaco van der Sterre:



‘Jesus loves you!’

I meet Robin. He is an Englishman living at a seaside resort near the Black Sea in Bulgaria. Robin has a souvenir stall along the boulevard. I explain the Gospel to Robin. He knows the story, but does nothing with it. ‘You live your own life,’ he says. He asks me what the man with the ‘balloon-hat’ is doing. Francois from Belgium has gathered a large group of people around him. He makes balloon figures: one after another. Handing it over to the spectators he says, ‘Jesus loves you!’

‘Evangelism is great!’

After two hours, it’s time to leave. I buy ice-cream for all participants of the evangelistic outreach. If you work like this in the heat of the day, you should reward yourself. Together with Theodor (17), a young Christian from Silistra, I walk the way back. Theodore licks his ice-cream and says: ‘We should do this every day. This is great!’ And that was what we wanted to communicate: ‘Evangelism is great!’

‘Jesus in you’

The theme of Barnabas 2014 is ‘Jesus in you.’ The theme was inspired by Matthew 5:13: ‘You are the salt of the earth.’ In Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Belgium we prepare teams and send them out. We train, encourage, and go on the road together.

Raise up an army with us

In Albania, 110 young people want to participate. In Bulgaria 120 youngsters are ready to go. Their finances are insufficient. For these young evangelists we need sponsors. Raise up an army with us. An amount of £ 60 per participant is needed. For each conference an average of £ 7200 is needed. We want to be salt and make a difference in the places where we are scattered. **Help us reach the world with the Gospel**

Your Gifts by Cheque, bank or Paypal are most welcome! Use reply slip to share your wishes.

Barnabas actions in 2014 Join in!

Albania 21-31 July 2014 £ 630
Belgium 11-16 August 2014 £ 270
Bulgaria 14-24 July 2014 £ 590
Romania 28 July – 8 August 2014 £ 530

Contact us: eeouk@aol.com

Productive Trustee Meeting 16th December 2013



From left to right: Chris Truslove (office Margate), Trustees Douglas Graham and Helen Jesze, Gerrit Wiersema with his daughter, saying farewell, Trustees Matthais van der Weide and Kelton Black. Trustee George Jesze was not present, neither Trustee Greg Knight.

Trustee Greg Knight preached at an EEO Intl. conference in Kniebis (Black Forest, Germany)



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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.



Outreach

You in your small Corner

Floodgates of Heaven

Casa Lumina rescues child-brides

Barnabas 2014 Join in!

Productive Trustee Meeting



Ramona and four of her children outside their house

The curse of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is much in the news nowadays and takes many forms. One which we have often encountered is that in the Romany culture, it can still happen that your teenager daughter is kidnapped, to marry a man somewhere. Only later you may find out where she is. Or even when the child is a baby, she is promised in marriage to a boy from another family. It is said that the future belongs to the children, but what kind of future will they live in? Mother Ramona, herself, was a so-called ‘child mother’ when she was pregnant the first time.

In our mission network, built up over the past 47 years we have met thousands of such mothers, and in 2014 we have a lot of care projects for rescuing these ‘little sheep’ as Jesus called them.

Ramona now receives some financial support but it is unpredictable how long she will be here. Her clan may suddenly decide to live somewhere on the street in the open, or suddenly the household is sold or the house left as they, can no longer pay the rent.

The people who sponsor Ramona’s children are daily praying for God to move in their lives. This brings a great perspective that they will lead a better life in the near future or even become pastors and evangelists to their Romany people, because the Kingdom of God is at hand.

We hope you enjoy reading this first Outreach in 2014. Pray for us that we will not give up doing this good work and be able to rescue many such mothers and their children (See page 3 for full article).



YOU IN YOUR SMALL CORNER ...

As a child I was brought up to go to both Church and Sunday School where we sang a song:-

*"Jesus bids us shine like a pure, clear light
Like a little candle burning in the night
He looks down from Heaven to see us shine
You in your small corner and I in mine".*

Our world as children consisted of small corners - home, school, the park where we played and so forth. But, in the Bible, things happened when godly people came out of their small corners. When the prophets of the Old Testament came out and warned Israel, rebuked the King, or told of what was coming, the nation changed. And in the Gospels, Jesus came out of His small corner in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth and the world changed. At Pentecost the company of believers waited in their small corner in the upper room until the Holy Spirit came and, when they came out, the Church was born - three thousand on Day One! I was brought up on the stories of Missionaries who left their small corners to take the Gospel out to the world - as they still do today.

Some years ago in this my small corner in Kent there was a flood with, sadly, loss of life. I worked for the local council and we volunteered to help the flood victims. We set up an operations center in a pub and I recall that many people came from across Kent to volunteer. They had seen our plight on television and so came out of their small corners to help us. Our hearts go out to the victims of the present floods, (my daughter's home in Berkshire is on flood alert) and, again we see volunteers (including the Royal Princes) leaving their small corners to help.

We don't know what brought the Good Samaritan out of his small corner but, when he came across human need he dealt with it. This story tells us that helping those suffering cuts across ethnic, religious and national boundaries. Our calling at EEO, is very much the same as the Good Samaritan - "Mission With Heart and Hands". But does this mean that we all have to come out of our small corners in person? No! In World War II for every pilot fighting in the Battle of Britain there were many ground staff manning radar and the radio, servicing and repairing aircraft and providing meals - all very important even though they were not in the air fighting.

The fact that you are reading this newsletter shows that you have come out of your small corner in spirit and cast your eyes beyond your immediate horizon towards the human need in those places where EEO UK ministers. To complete his mission, the Good Samaritan had resources - oil, wine, bandages, and money to pay the man's hospitality bill.

EEO UK needs this today and, when you give to our work, "He looks down from Heaven to see us shine; You in your small corner and I in mine"!

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide

FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN



Open the floodgates of Heaven! Behind the steering wheel is sometimes the only place where I can cry out loud to the Lord, listening to the song version of Michael W. Smith. Next comes: *Let it rain, Let it rain!* This gives me goose bumps! But that's talking about *spiritual* rain. What a disaster for so many English people now with their serious weather conditions, and as a Dutchman, I can say we know all the blessings but also the curse of water. Water management is a serious subject nowadays.

Can we speak about 'water management' in regard to the mission task we have? Yes, indeed. Water as a sign of the Living Word of God as well as the blessings of the Holy Spirit is regulated or 'manipulated' in many ways. The so-called 'christian' tradition of Europe is sometimes a mixture of heathen and Judaic culture, resulting in church institutions with proud cathedrals or theological universities, one richer and prouder, or wiser and deeper, boasting against the other.

Some people are euphoric about the new pope, but it's very strange that when the leader of one of the largest church institutions suddenly is focusing on some real aspects of the Gospel, this is declared as *new* and a *change*, just where it should be *normal*. I am not enthusiastic at all about much of what I see, because Christianity has gone very far from its roots. Only by following this Jesus in His footsteps can we establish an effective 'water management'. God's direct help moves perfectly. The blessings come where they should be, and pass by the door where no hearts are open for it.

God's principle was always: Call unto Me, and I will act and send help! Calling in expert Dutch or other knowledge to help with flood rescue can be part of the natural answer. But the spiritual principle is that no problem will be resolved totally if we do not return to basics, as nations and individual Christians, back to the teachings of Jesus Himself! **Let the water of salvation flow today!**

UNDER THE "WINGS" OF CASA LUMINA

House of Light for those who need shelter from the darkness



They have it so good at Casa Lumina!

Olga van Laviere from Holland managed the first EEO UK office in 1984. This brings another celebration in focus: 30 years EEO UK in 2014! After the Romanian dictator Ceacescu's fall in 1989, Olga started the Rechabja work in Codlea, which is still one of our field associations. Later in Oradea, she started to work with street-youth and founded the Casa Lumina work, bringing great blessing to the poor, prisoners and many in great need. Now she runs the Childrens' Relief department in Holland but after Gerrit's resignation from the UK office last October, Olga has joined our editorial team for the Outreach Newsletter.

Marriage as a trauma

For many of the young Roma girls, the rule that they must marry very young, is something terrible and traumatic.

"There sat a small gypsy girl, crying on a stone..."

This children's song could absolutely fit the childhood experience of Ramona and Cristina, two Romanian gypsy sisters. Their life looked like this: Two neglected girls, begging on the streets, while their mother kept watch from a distance.

One of them is now 24 years old, the other almost 17. They found a hiding place in Casa Lumina. Both were given in marriage when they were very young. Ramona, the oldest, never went to school. Only a child herself, she gave birth to her first child. The same happened to her sister, Cristina. Without having any say in it, she was given in Romany marriage to a 12 year old boy. She needed to find peace in her dark destiny. Not one spark of hope. She became suicidal.

Abortion - Yes or No?!

In a couple of years' time, Ramona had three children, one after the other. Six weeks after she gave birth to David, her youngest, she was pregnant again. This made her depressed and desperate. How could she ever fill these little mouths with food? Why did nobody take her into account? She seriously considered having an abortion. Her sister Cristina was dreading the day she would have to get married. This was a very traumatic development. Ramona has now 5 children.

Future dreams

For the two sisters, Casa Lumina became truly

and is retarded in his development and under supervision of specialists. Her husband cannot find a job easily, for he never went to school.

Due to the fact that the local council decided to make a Ring-road around Oradea, they had to move. Their new little rented house costs € 70 per month. In this house they have no water and no electricity.

Because we have stood by Ramona and Cristina, we have been able to make God's love visible in their lives. The practical help, social, emotional and spiritual support given by the workers of Casa Lumina, makes all the difference to people like these young women.

Please will you help us to make the difference in the lives of the most vulnerable here in Romania?!



Ramona with Rebeca Maria

YOUR GIFTS FOR CASA LUMINA ARE WELCOME BY CHEQUE, PAYPAL OR BANK (page 4) or Other (see Reply slip)



Rescued child-bride, Cristina, with her sister, Aneta