



# Outreach



join him visiting families. When I arrived in the evening we went out to visit half a dozen families in his neighbourhood. The situation here was also very difficult, although there is slightly more work as Oltenita is a fairly big town. But as many Roma are not educated their job is often working on the fields or as a street sweeper. I have to admit that they do that brilliantly. The streets were almost spotless, but the pay for this kind of job is about £100 per month, and this is not enough to live on.

encouraged to see the faith and trust these people have in the Lord, also the thankfulness for the support they receive, this is really a gift from the Lord.

The next day I travelled to the south of Romania to meet up with Brother Ilie, Roma pastor and also contact person for the CSP. It was a great privilege to meet him and

My last day in Romania was spent visiting a Roma village about 15 miles from Oltenita. The Romas were given this land after the floods of 2007. The government gave them new houses and a bit of land as well. It was very encouraging to see that all these people used their garden to grow their own vegetables. It may not be sufficient to get them through the winter, but it is definitely

a start. A large percentage of this village is Christian. The church on the outskirts of the village is filled every Sunday with over 150 people who worship the Lord, and the church has more than sufficient room for expansion!

This made me leave Romania on a high, even though there is much need, and help is desperately needed. Some areas have more opportunities than others, but it is very encouraging to witness people keeping their eyes focused on the Lord, in good times, bad times or worse, always expecting their help from Him!

**If your heart is touched by the current situation in Romania, and you wish to help where it is most needed, please do not hesitate to contact us.**



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The story isn't finished ...

God reigns!

Crisis in Romania

Barnabas 2010

## Barnabas 2010

It is just a few more months before the start of our next youth festivals in Albania and Romania. At these festivals we train, equip and encourage young people (16-35 years of age) from different countries in the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After the festivals teams are going out to different areas to help local churches with their evangelism activities.

To give you an example of the outreaches: Two Romanian churches will organise a summer camp for youngsters from their area. This is a great opportunity to get in contact with the young people in the area and build a relationship with them.

One of the churches organised a similar event last year. Many children with a non-Christian background were really touched by the Bible teaching and especially the songs. They started witnessing to their parents, who asked the pastor whether he was willing to organise something similar for married couples. A few weeks later he spent a week with 5 couples in the mountains, teaching them about our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Barnabas conferences are a great opportunity for young people to make friends with people in different countries and cultures, to praise and worship the Lord together, to grow spiritually and step out in faith. Also for church groups this is a great opportunity for outreach and mission.

More information can be found on the youth section of our website [www.eeouk.org](http://www.eeouk.org) or give us a ring at 0800 298 0126 or email to [Gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org](mailto:Gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org)



**Presentations in Your Church: We are currently looking to get more people involved in eastern Europe, and to promote EEO UK. If you are interested in having a presentation about the work of EEO UK in your church, house - or cell group, please contact us at 0800 298 0126 or send an email to [gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org](mailto:gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org)**

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

**I'll tell you what it really means to worship the Lord. Remove the chains of prisoners who are chained unjustly. Free those who are abused! Share your food with everyone who is hungry; share your home with the poor and homeless. Give clothes to those in need; don't turn away your relatives. Isaiah 58 v 6 and 7**

## GOD IS ABLE

Many people are unjustly in chains and even more people are abused. Just as you are reading this, brothers and sisters in the Lord are tortured and abused in countries like North Korea, Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia. At the same moment, many people are suffering from malnutrition, and many are homeless. At EEO UK, we realise that we are unable to change this. But we do want to make as much a difference as possible in this world. On page 3 you will read a report on the current situation in Romania, and the desperate situation people have come into, and what devastating effects the current crisis has on their lives. We do want to continue making a difference in the lives of these people. As humans we are limited in what we can do, but God is able. He is able to change situations around, He gives hope. This God we want to make known to people, He is the hope for the nations. One of the ways in which we do this is to train and send out young people through the Barnabas conference and outreaches; read more about this on page 4.



## PENTECOST - the story isn't finished yet ...

I sometimes think that my favourite Book of the Bible is *Acts of the Apostles*. Here we learn about the founding of the Christian Church and how our spiritual ancestors worked things out. *Acts* makes no secret of the fact that things did not always run smoothly; it's a very honest book, and very human, and contains important precedents for us in the twenty-first century. Luke, its author, in his *Gospel*, gives us more information about Jesus' life than any other writer of the New Testament; details not only about the birth and childhood of Christ, but also of the key events; His death, resurrection, and ascension. And in *Acts* we learn about the all-important coming of the Holy Spirit. For without Pentecost, and the empowerment that the Holy Spirit gave to the Apostles, there would have been no Book of Acts, no Church to speak of, and no world-wide Christian faith. It has been said that the Book of Acts should more accurately be called the *Acts of the Holy Spirit*.

But, if Luke's Book were to be published today it would be unlikely to be considered for the Booker Prize. Why not? Because it has no significant ending, no climax or conclusion to grab our attention. It rather fizzles out at the end with Paul under house arrest. It is a historical fact that Paul was put on trial before the Emperor Nero. Surely this should have been the great climax to Luke's narrative? But *Acts* is not a novel; it is the Inspired Word of God. It is wrong to apply literacy criticism to it or expect it to stand out in any way other than as God speaking to His people.

And there is good reason why the Book of *Acts* ends in the way it does. The story hasn't finished yet. Luke wrote about what he knew and experienced. But we, in the twenty-first century, continue to live and experience the same story. It goes on, through two thousand years of Church history, until the present day and beyond. We are part of it. We are the living *Acts* of Christ's Church and the work of His Holy Spirit which began in the *Gospel* story, which carries on through Luke's account and continues through us today.

Pentecost, and the revival that follows, is an on-going experience in the Church. There was a first Pentecost (*Acts II*) when the Spirit came in a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire. But a second Pentecost followed (*Acts IV*) with the building shaking. We can trace the ongoing Pentecost experience through Church History - the 18th Century Wesleyan Revival, the birth of Pentecostalism, and so forth. Each of these events is a sure sign that God constantly revives His Church.

The most exciting thing about being a Christian is knowing that God has an over-arching Plan for the restoration of fallen humanity - and you and I, through whatever acts we are led by the Spirit to do, are part of the great ongoing story.

## Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



### God reigns!

A new prime minister in England and maybe soon also in my country of Holland. Political parties claim they can govern best, but, in fact, God reigns over all and considers them from His universal throne as local authorities to whom He has given a temporary chance to serve as best they can. In the system of election and rejection, God expresses His diversity in choice and opportunities. From Israel's history in the Bible, we have the best proof of how God rules. He will hold accountable all who oppress and deceive others, also those who do not try to oppose wrongdoing or abuse of power. There are huge 'bills' to be paid. Who can pay them? The damage of World Wars, as well as domestic violence, and all we owe in personal responsibility where we have done wrong? God, himself, finally paid all the bills in the sacrifice of His Son. Let us preach to all nations that this settlement by Jesus' Blood only works by personal choice, whether we will accept or reject it. Not accepting means: eternal pain which is not enough to pay off what we owe. Let us entrust ourselves to Him who reigns the best! Jesus our Lord.

## Crisis in Romania



In the week that the UK welcomed its new Prime Minister, I had the privilege of visiting Romania, a country arguably under even greater financial pressure than the UK. The goal for my visit was to spend time with the outreach leaders. Together we were going to prepare for our annual Barnabas youth conference. I also wanted to spend some time with a few CSP contact persons, and join them on visits to some of the sponsored families.

It was a great joy meeting up with Brother Scurtu again. Contrary to my visit in 2008 this time we were to only visit a few families mainly sponsored from the UK. During the 20 mile journey I got to know quite a bit more about the current economic problems of Romania, and also what the consequences are for the families we would be visiting in the next few hours.

The government came up with the idea that the best way of cutting the many billion pound debt of the country was to cut the salaries by 25% (an average salary is currently about £350), and pensions by 15%. The Romanian government is also planning on making severe cuts in the social benefits; for the average Romanian this is a disaster.

In the Roma (gypsy) families this means that there is just sufficient money coming in that they do not die of starvation, but way too little to live.

I remember the villages very well from my visit in 2008. At that time it was nice weather, which camouflaged quite a bit of the real problems. This time it was pouring with rain; the streets had turned into a sea of mud.

The first family we visited were the grandparents of one of the sponsor children. They invited us in for a cup of coffee, and after talking for a while we came to discuss the current situation they are living in. The

main problem for the people in this village is not having a job.

The nearest town is about 15 miles away. To get there would cost money which they do not have, and this is also not a guarantee that they would be offered a job. Another problem is that some companies abuse the current situation by offering jobs only based on a verbal agreement without a proper contract. On payday they refuse to pay or pay much less than first was agreed upon. Unfortunately they are often getting away with it, as there are many people looking for work, so even if one refuses to take the job on their conditions, there are ten others more than willing to take their place. The last problem and probably the most important, are prejudices towards the Roma. They are known as untrustworthy, lazy, and that they will steal from you. Of



course this does happen as every society has its rotten apples, but that does not mean that all Roma are like that. Unfortunately, because of these prejudices, when there is a job going, first the Romanians and Hungarians are considered before giving a Roma a chance.

In the villages there are many born-again Christians. They are really looking forward to the return of our Lord and Saviour, because then all will change. I am looking forward to this as well, but I also wish them a better life until the moment He returns!

From the grandparents we went to visit the child and her family. I had some gifts from the sponsor which were greatly appreciated. Six people were living in one room; two couches were standing against the wall, 2 shelves and a table with a TV. I had some gifts from the sponsor which were greatly appreciated. After we spent some time with the family, we moved on to the next village, where we would be visiting more families.

We parked the car in front of the house of some of the local believers. We entered the house and I was introduced to the family. What really touched my heart was that of the 6 children (all younger than 10), two of them were suffering from Cystic Fibrosis. The family has been given an oxygen mask and a pump to give these children their much-needed medicines, to keep the disease under control. This really is a struggle.

Every family we visited was struggling in one way or the other. Help is really needed in this area.

Another family we visited also really touched my heart. This mother is living with 3 children in a small one room house, the father is currently in prison, where he is serving a four year sentence. It will be another 2 years before he will be coming home. The house of this family is absolutely horrendous and there are many holes in the walls. Last winter the temperature was -35C. The family tried to block the biggest holes with a bag of potatoes which were completely frozen by the end of the night. The mother is struggling with Pneumonia and should go to a hospital for a scan, but she cannot do this at the moment, due to a lack of money.



Brother Scurtu told me that another child of this family will also be put on the waiting list to be sponsored, as this family desperately needs extra support.

The last visit that day was to the Budi family. Last year their house was severely damaged by a fire. With the help of several sponsors it was possible to build a new roof and to paint the inside of the house.

After the visits I was quite sad really, the situation in these villages is so bad, and humanly speaking there is not much hope that things will change for the better. I was