

BARNABAS 2012 - READY TO HARVEST

At the end of next month we will start with our annual events in Romania and Albania. It was really encouraging to meet up with our local leaders last month for the preparation of the event in Albania. The passion to win their own people for Christ is great. Most of the outreaches organised after the 5 days evangelism-trainings-conference are youth camps for the children and young people (read the main article on the importance of youth camps!). This is a great way to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please remember these events in your prayers. These are the dates for the events:

Albania event 21 July - 4 August
Romania event 30 July - 13 August

It is still not too late to join us.

Barnabas conferences are a great opportunity for young people to make friends with people from 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 brand new Barnabas website: www.barnabas.nu/english or give us a ring at 0800 2980126



Outreach

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

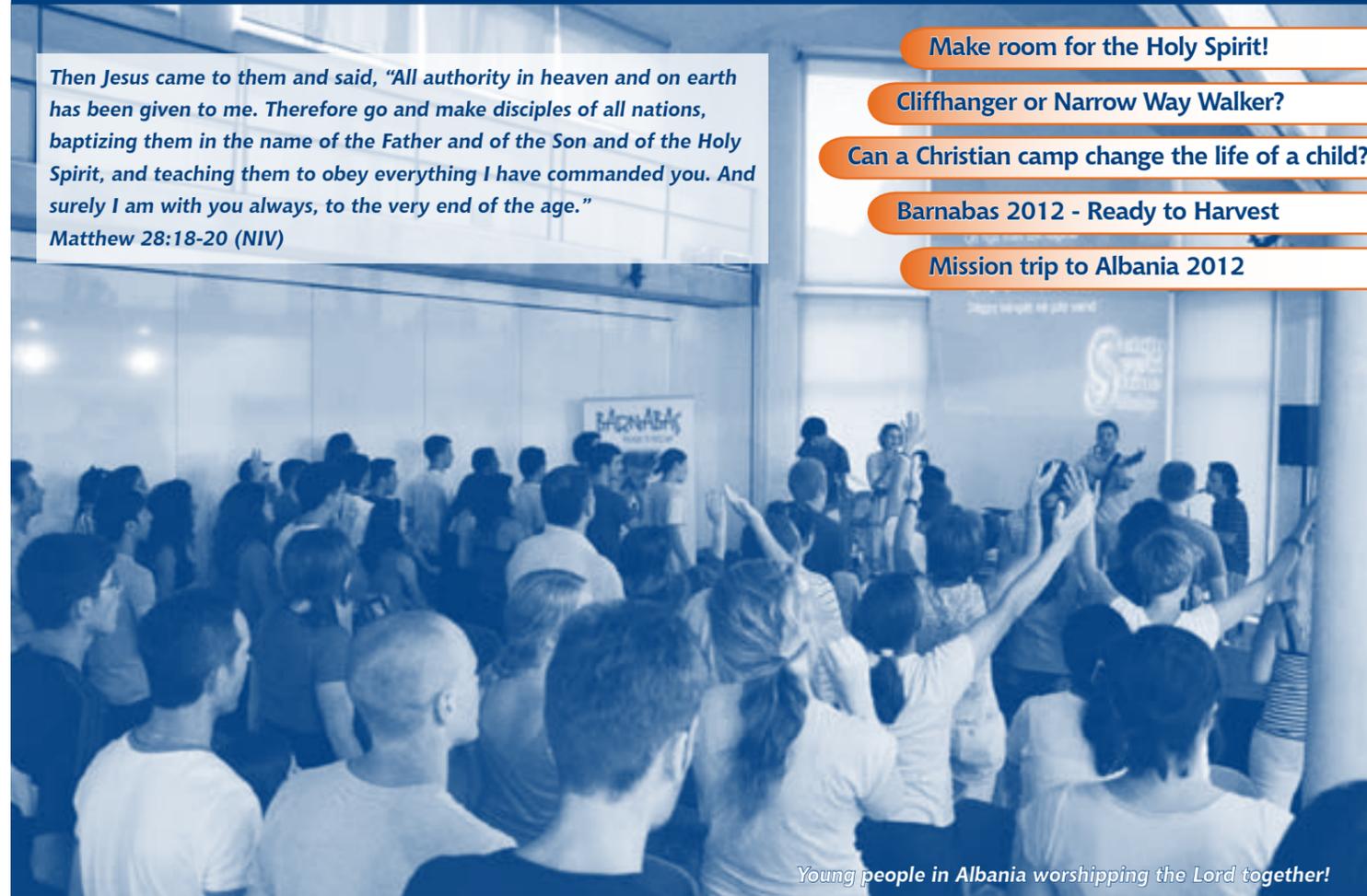
Make room for the Holy Spirit!

Cliffhanger or Narrow Way Walker?

Can a Christian camp change the life of a child?

Barnabas 2012 - Ready to Harvest

Mission trip to Albania 2012



Young people in Albania worshipping the Lord together!

MISSION TRIP TO ALBANIA 2012

Short interview with Barry and Bette Radley

Last year Barry and Bette Radley went on a mission trip to Albania. Following is a short interview in which they share their experiences.

Barry and Bette, last year you visited Albania for the first time. What made you want to go again this year?

We were very impressed last year by this country. The people are very friendly and the country is beautiful. We really want to spend more time to help the people over there.

What in particular touched your heart? We were struck by the poverty of some of the families we visited. But especially the Old People's Home touched our heart. It was encouraging to see the staff trying to work as hard as possible to give these old folk a decent life, but it is a real struggle. The home is understaffed, and there all basics are lacking. The government even cut their support for the heating of the building! We really want to help here.

What are your expectations for the October trip? We have high expectations, we hope to visit some new projects in different areas of the country.

What are you most looking forward to? We are specifically looking forward to meet our sponsor child, Marinela, again, and we are also looking forward to visit one of the orphanages in the country.

How would you sum up Albania for our readers? Albania is a very poor country, but the people are very nice and friendly, and the scenery is just breath-taking.



Barry and Bette serving food at the Seed of Hope social centre

Reaching out to the un-reached

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the unreached was the reason Eastern European Outreach was founded 45 years ago. Jesus' last words were not to look after the poor or be good to people, but to go out and make disciples, teaching them what He had taught.

Even though the UK, USA and the Netherlands are 'Christian' nations, they have now become a mission field. Soon the Olympics will be held in London, a great event and also a great opportunity to show God's love. Many churches and organisations will be involved in outreach to the athletes and the thousands of visitors. It is a blessing that this is still possible!

Many people in the west have some idea about Christianity, although this is decreasing. In many eastern European countries, the people know even less.

Albania, for example, is a country which officially declared itself an atheistic state in the 1980's. At the time it was estimated that there were less than a handful of Christians in the whole of the country. Many Albanians have still never heard the Gospel. This is the same in Bulgaria, where also many people have never heard the Good News. These are the countries we are reaching out to.

In this edition of Outreach magazine you will find an interview with a couple that has gone out onto the field and are going out again to Albania this year. You can also read more about the importance of children's camps and evangelistic outreaches. Reaching out to the unreached!

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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.



MAKE ROOM FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Today, as I write, it is Whit Monday. This weekend we celebrated the first coming of the third Person of the Godhead to this Earth – the Holy Spirit. He came like “a rushing, mighty wind” upon the 120 gathered in the Upper Room, and “tongues of fire” sat upon each of their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to praise God and speak in languages they had not learned, as the Spirit gave them this ability (Acts 2). Thousands gathered there from many places for the Jewish Feast of Pentecost were amazed, as they heard them speaking in their own language. After Peter’s sermon, 3000 souls were saved and the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ was born.

I came to a personal faith in Jesus Christ when I was 9 years old and also received this ‘infilling’ or ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit’, with the evidence of ‘speaking in tongues’, 5 years later. Immediately I could understand the Bible better, Jesus became more real, and I was able to witness more for the Lord than before. I will always be grateful for the Holy Spirit’s help in my life. He is our Comforter and Guide, and will lead us into all Truth.

In 1963 I went to work in Birmingham. In the church I attended there was a strong emphasis placed on God’s Word, and also on allowing the Holy Spirit to move. There were 250 members, 600 children in the Sunday School and many visitors who came to see and experience God’s working in their lives. The church stood in a rundown area and sometimes cars were stolen during the service, but through the Gift of “a Word of Knowledge” (1 Cor. 12, 8), the Holy Spirit would show where they were, and they could be recovered.

Not only adults but also children were saved, called to missionary service and filled with the Holy Spirit. One Saturday evening in the Revival Night service, an 8 year old girl gave a “Message in Tongues” and someone gave the “Interpretation” in English. Suddenly a big, black man began to push his way through the crowd, shouting, “Where’s the little girl who spoke my language?!” At first we did not know what he meant. Then we realised it was the “Message in Tongues”! The little girl had never learned his language – Amharic (Ethiopian) – but God had spoken to him personally. That day he gave his life to Christ.

The Holy Spirit has often been criticised, misunderstood, pushed into a corner – the unwanted ‘stepchild’ of the Trinity – until God began to pour out His Spirit at the end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th – bringing into being the Pentecostal movements. Then during the 1960’s, people still in the ‘historic denominations’ began to receive their personal Pentecost and experience the working of the Holy Spirit in a new way, being allowed to stay in their own church. This was called the Charismatic Renewal.

Each of us can discover or re-discover the Holy Spirit for ourselves, if we will only open our hearts. Yes, He is alive and well, wanting to show Himself to us, to YOU -- TODAY!

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



Cliffhanger or Narrow Way Walker?

As Christians living in a world which looks more and more chaotic, we can sometimes get really confused. When will the Lord finally return!? Where will we end up? We often have questions, whether we are young and full of energy to serve the Lord, or older, seeing less opportunities to participate in the battlefield of the Great Commission.

The pain of so many, caused by wars and famines as well as the madness of modern science and society, makes us cry out: Lord please return soon!

Surely He will appear suddenly, in one moment – totally unexpected! He may find that not many believers are prepared for this. How will Jesus’ return turn out for so many who have not yet forgiven their debtors, or so many who have not prepared their hearts to meet their Lord?

By sending out the Outreach newsletters we hope to touch the hearts of our readers to commit themselves fully to the cause of God’s Kingdom. By praying for our mission activities or participating in support or even by joining us in the field, you will experience God’s direct moving into your life, changing and preparing you for the great day of reunion with our Creator. Jesus, by His blood, reconciles us with His Father, and by His Spirit will, without a doubt, renew us, making us into the image of God that we were expected to be when He created this earth. Walking the ‘narrow way’ means nothing more or less than staying very close to these basic principles of the Gospel: Reconcile with God, reconcile with men! Walk with God, share your faith and life with people around. You will find yourself not hanging from a cliff but safe in the Father’s hands, no matter what situation you are in or if things seem to be upside down. Have a blessed Summer, everyone!

CAN A CHRISTIAN CAMP CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD?



Daily Bible study

Christian camps for children exist in many countries and churches around the world. This is the same in Bulgaria, almost every big church organizes Christian camps for children and youth during the summer. But what happens with the small churches in the villages and the children that cannot afford the camps? Well, very simply, they just don’t go...

Christian camps for the poorest

We want to change this. We want to make Christian camps available for all children regardless of how rich or poor they are, whether they are coming from a big or a small church. We want to help the poor children and especially the Roma (gypsy) children. Most of these children live in extreme poverty. They have never been outside of the gypsy ghetto. They have never communicated with other people. They do not know what a train is, or a camp, they have not met any other Christian children, they often do not even know the names of different kinds of food.

There are many ways to help these children, but wouldn’t it be great to take them out of their environment for one week and send them somewhere nice, where they can meet other children? Somewhere they will be trained in the Word of God, will learn new Christian songs, play happily and safely with other children.. and most of all – they will stay in a pleasant room and eat good, healthy food, not just physical but more importantly – spiritual food! Poor children often grow up depressed and sad with a wrong view of the world and what is worse – a wrong view and perception of God, not having experienced His love and care.

Mitko’s testimony

Can just one week help with this problem? Of course, it can! We have seen it many

times in the past and it happened to Mitko, years ago. Mitko was 11 when he went to a Christian camp. Before that he had only been to Sunday school in his church and never met other Christian children, never heard any good Bible-believing message. During that week he realized he was not saved and that he needed Jesus in his heart. He dedicated his life to the Lord and came back home totally changed. His parents (a poor family from a small village) saw the difference in his Christian walk and his love for the Lord, so much so, that they themselves were encouraged and uplifted. His life is now different and he is committed to following the Lord.

We do not want to stop with Christian children. Many years ago, a non-Christian child went to a Christian camp and accepted Jesus into his heart during the camp. This changed him and the life of his family after he came back home. The whole family was touched. Since then the Christian camps are open for non-Christian children, too, and every year children give their lives to Jesus during these Christian camps.

What it involves

The cost of one child to attend a Christian camp in Bulgaria is approximately £80. This includes:

- Transport – some children live far away, some live close to where the camp is going to be...

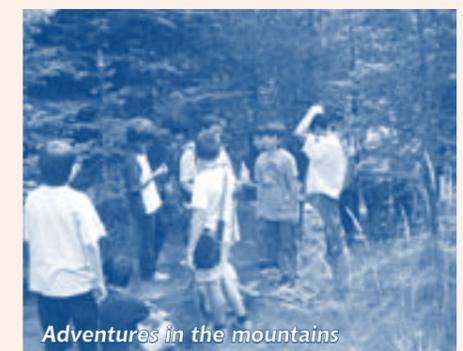
- Nice accommodation. The Christian camps are organized in the mountains where it is cool during the summer, clean and quiet.
- Food – good meals 4 times per day. For many of these children this will be the first time they eat something other than bread!
- Showers -- the sewerage system is not yet developed in Bulgarian villages so the houses do not have showers and bathrooms. All the people who live in the villages warm up water in buckets and then pour it over themselves. Many have never seen a shower in their lives.
- Most important – all day Christian activities. The children have a Bible lesson every day, many games, prayer time, reading time, competitions, craft work, Christian songs, music lessons and many other activities – all organized by professional Christian teachers and other volunteers.
- The youth camp also includes lots of adventures in the mountains -- mountain-biking, rock-climbing, hiking and many other adventures.

This is a great opportunity to help these children from the ghetto. The ghetto where most children have no toys, no playgrounds, where they just play in the dust with stones and sticks...

Will you help us to take them out of the ghetto for a week, give them a break and change their life for ever?!



Dinnertime



Adventures in the mountains