



Outreach

CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAMME - Winter fuel

The days have become shorter and temperatures are dropping. Autumn has started and will soon be followed by a cold winter. An expensive time lies ahead for many families. Many houses are not insulated, forcing families to spend a fortune to keep the room temperature up. This is a big problem as many families are going into debt simply because the alternative is to freeze to death. The only thing we can do here is to continue our appeal to raise funds for winter fuel. **Please help us to help them today!**



CHILDRENS RELIEF - A forgotten group

Dicănești is a Roma (gypsy) village near Oradea (Romania). Thirty Roma families live here in extreme poverty. They are a forgotten group. Nobody looks after them. Most of them have never been to school. They struggle to communicate, which makes it impossible for them to find work.

The nearest school is a few miles outside the village. When it rains the bridge that connects the village with the rest of the world is flooded. This makes it impossible for the children to go to school.

Mirela has been very touched by the situation. The Lord laid on her heart a desire to educate the children in Dicănești. In the summer she started a summer school for them. She was shocked by how under-developed they were. Many did not know how to hold a pencil, or how to draw a tree or a flower, but they were very motivated to learn. For them it is a great joy to be able to go to school.

A summer school seems like a drop in the ocean, however it brings great joy into the lives of these children. After the summer Mirela has continued to visit Dicănești at the weekends to teach the children.



Teaching children in Dicănești

Winning means ...

Arab Spring ...

Barnabas reports 2012

Winter fuel

A forgotten group

*13 As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
14 for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
15 The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
17 But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children—
18 with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
Psalm 103, 13-18 (NIV)*

Albano raised as a Muslim tells (pg 3) how he found Jesus.

Congratulations!

On the 14th of September 2012, the Lord blessed EEO UK office manager Gerrit and his wife Laura with a beautiful baby girl, Natasha Christina. We are thankful to the Lord for this precious gift.



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 2980 126 or send an email to gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org

FROM GERRIT'S DESK

On 14th September the lives of my wife and myself changed forever. Just before 4pm we were holding our little Natasha in our hands. An overwhelming sense of joy was going through us. What a privilege that God had given us this little girl to care for!

It is incredible to realise that God looks at us in the same way as we look at our baby girl. The Creator of our universe, the Alpha and Omega, loves us. He loves us even more than we could ever love our children.

In a broken world love is often missing. One of the most uncomfortable places I have ever been to, was an orphanage I visited on my first trip to Romania in 2001. We went there to meet another team who were doing a renovation project in the orphanage.

This orphanage was a place where all love had gone, it was extreme chaos. Children were constantly abusing each other, it was hell on earth. I was very relieved to leave that place after just a few hours, to go back to the orphanage where our team were doing the renovation project. Not all orphanages in Romania are as bad as the one in Tirgu Mures.

Love is essential for a human-being to function. When love is absent things go wrong, very wrong. This also means that when people feel loved and appreciated, situations change for the better.

This is one of our core values when going out into the mission-field, to love and care for people.

We are not always able to solve the problems of the people we meet. However, we can encourage them, spend time with them, appreciate them and tell them about God's love for them.

In the next few weeks, teams will go out to Albania and Romania. These are people who are motivated to encourage Christian Brothers and Sisters abroad.

We will never fully comprehend God's love for us, the closest example will be our love for our children. We are made in God's image; ask Him how to love and appreciate others. He knows best!

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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.



WINNING MEANS...

What a summer we've had with London 2012 and then the Paralympics -- how the athletes amazed us with their skill and courage! Now just this week, Europe winning the Ryder Cup in Golf! Most of us will never win a medal at the Olympics, but in the race of Life, with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ, we too, can win. However, His standards of "winning" often look very different. The following are some excerpts from our book "Born to Win":

Winning means to do the right thing when the wrong is so much easier; to take the right road when the wrong one looks much more inviting; to say "No", although it seems everybody is doing it, simply because God says so; to try once more if you've failed a thousand times, to plan for tomorrow when today lies in ashes at your feet; to give to the needy what you'd put aside for yourself.

Winning means to pick up Life's broken pieces and start to put them together again; to learn to live to the full when emptiness stares you in the face; to practise when it seems you'll never reach the winning post; to water and nurture your dreams when it's impossible they could grow to fruition; to plant a tree after the forest has burned down; to dig a well although you're in a desert; to light a candle when darkness presses in.

Winning means to be the first to say "I'm sorry", when you would love to prolong the quarrel; to open your hand in acceptance when rejection has been your lot; to make another's miracle come true when you badly need one yourself; to give tithes and offerings when you think you can't afford it.

Winning means to "kick the habit" when every cell of your body is screaming for a fix; to live honestly and with integrity when swindling is the order of the day; to keep your eyes on Jesus when the storm threatens to pound you to a pulp, to awaken the Word lying dormant within you and use it to command the wind and the waves; to take advantage of Calvary's cleansing, instead of "turning over a new leaf" and clinging on to dead works.

Winning means to strengthen the things that remain, when others would kick them aside; to see and build potential in another and not be jealous if he overtakes you; to dry another's tears when your own eyes are brimming; to bind another's wounds, when your own are throbbing; to stand up and go on again although you've fallen at the same corner a dozen times; to find a hurt and heal it; to find a wrong and right it; to find a burden and lighten it...

Winning means... and so the list could go on; each of us knows the areas where he or she needs to win.

Be encouraged today, for if the Great Winner – Jesus -- lives in you, he will put you over and make you, too, a winner!

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



Arab Spring and mbb Mosab Hassan Yousef

What is an 'mbb'? This means 'a Muslim background Believer'. This stands for someone who was born and educated as a Muslim, who now becomes a Christian.

The 'mbb' in our title gave his life to Christ 10 years ago in Ramallah, Jerusalem. He wrote a book under the title "Son of Hamas" in 2008. Last summer he appeared openly in Jerusalem and spoke on many Arabic TV news programs as well as CNN (17-9-2012). He told about his conversion, but also that he worked a long time as a double agent for Hamas, as well as for the Israelis, saving many Arabic and Jewish lives. He came to realise Israel serves an honorable and real moral issue, and Hamas and the PA are only acting criminally, slaughtering and oppressing their own people. He was in the middle of a war between 'the god of Islam and the God of Torah'. In his work with Israeli Security Services he met Christians in Ramallah and soon understood that only the Prince of Peace, Jesus, offers the peace that Jews, Arabs and all people need.

The Israelis allowed him to leave their operations and live for a while under cover in the USA. Mbb Christians are always in a very vulnerable position as traditional Christians in the Middle East will not, and cannot, help them at all. They are the most persecuted Christians in the world. They are always hiding and on the run (even in the free western world sometimes), and only Christian broadcasting gives them safe Christian fellowship. It is significant that this 'son of Hamas' came out into the open after the Arab Spring has brought major changes in the Middle East. He expects, with many others, that the current Islamic power will one day collapse, and Islam will join a worldwide religious alliance initiated by traditional non-born again Christians and led by a person that we will recognize as the Antichrist. How far are we from the return of Jesus?! Let us say and pray together: Yes, Lord Jesus, come soon! Amen.



Barnabas Albania team 2012

A difficult start

From the bedroom I had a splendid view of the Albanian mountains. I heard voices coming from the room beneath me. I remembered the miracle of God's provision the day before. It was two days before the end of the Barnabas conference and we needed a large sum to cover the costs of the event. I decided to text a friend who had helped us out on previous occasions.

The message was as follows:

'I am here at the Barnabas conference in Albania. Just like last time we need special provision for a large amount. I have waited until now but from the £8000 we still need £2500 needs to be provided for and there are only 36 hours left to come up with the money. Eighty young people are currently being prepared to reach out to their own communities in this Muslim country.'

During the evening collection my phone beeped. A text: 'My sister has pledged £400 and me too. God's blessings and enjoy your time in Albania...'

Thankfulness

I received another text while I was interviewing a Muslim background believer. Enthusiastically I told him the good news of God's provision. That evening the organiser of the event came to me with a draft of the final costs of the event. When he told me the amount I just smiled at him and when he finished I told him that the Lord provided the sum that was needed. We were both very relieved and glad.

The sun came up over Pogradec. Around 7.30am many participants gathered in the church building. The morning prayer meetings were very well attended. Instead of having that extra hour of sleep most participants committed themselves to prayer. There is a great desire for revelation from the Lord.

It became very clear to me through conversations with participants with a Muslim background, that before they gave their lives to the Lord, they had a special encounter. An encounter in which the Lord revealed himself.

We are important to God. He wants to use us to make His Gospel known to the people around us. The more we are available the more He will use us.

Albano's testimony

Albano (24) lives in the city of Erseka near the Greek border in Albania. He grew up in a Muslim family, at the age of 14 he met with Lord. At the Barnabas conference he shared his testimony.

'My parents were part of the Bektashi movement, an Islamic sect. They worship sacred stones and trees. The sect would meet at a 'thesha' (sacred place) on a daily basis. In their worship services they would kiss pieces of rock and sacrifice a lamb.

When I was fourteen I moved to the city of Shkoder to study. My Muslim roommate started to criticise the sect I was part of. From

that moment on I started my quest to find God. My roommate told me that the only way to heaven would be through Islam. I wanted to know what I had to do when I would stand in front of God. He told me to pray five times every day and do good deeds. God would then weigh up the good deeds against the bad deeds. If the balance is positive you would earn your place in heaven. Otherwise hell would be your destiny. I did not really like the prospect of spending eternity in hell.

A little later I met an Albanian Christian. I discovered that I was a sinner and that the Lord would forgive me through Jesus Christ. My friend prayed with me. It was my first prayer to the God of the Christians. I was filled with joy and had a great desire to learn more about this God.'

Albano went through a very rough time where most of his friends left him. After one year he was allowed to enter Campus Crusade Bible School.

This summer Albano participated in the Barnabas event in Albania. He also is part of the leadership team of a church, the conference really encouraged him in his ministry.



Blessing outreach teams