



# Outreach

## OLD PEOPLE'S HOME IN ALBANIA



Encouraging the elderly in Shkoder

the waiting-list contains 30+ people from Shkoder alone, there is a great need here!

In eastern Europe and the Balkans the children traditionally look after their parents when they become elderly. It is seen as something shameful to put your parents in an Old People's Home, which means that nearly everyone in this Home has no family.

It is sad to notice that the Albanian government does not look after these people and has cut their operational allowances significantly, with dramatic consequences. The building's heating system is powered by a diesel generator, and now the government has completely withdrawn the support for diesel, this basically means that these old and disabled people have no heating in the winter.

It would already be a great blessing if £2000 could be raised to power the generators for 2 hours per day during the winter months. It would be ideal if more money could be raised to provide heat for a longer time, especially if the winter is very cold.

For years we have been supporting the Old People's Home in Shkoder. Not only elderly people are living in this home, but it is also a home for the disabled.

There are 5 of these homes for the whole of Albania of which the home in Shkoder is the largest. The home is serving for the whole north of the country, and has a maximum of only 70 residents. At the moment of writing

Heating is the main need, but the home lacks so many basics it is nearly impossible to mention it all, but here are a few: an industrial washing-machine, a boiler (the current one is broken and there is not enough money to replace it), wheelchairs, mattresses, bedlinen, medicines etc. etc.



Deep fryer in Old People's Home



Family with charcoal for the winter

## CSP - HEATING FOR EASTERN EUROPE

Realising that this request has been put in our magazine at least once a year, 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 western Europe prices, 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?

**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](mailto:gerrit.wiersema@eeouk.org)

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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.

**"How long will you keep judging unfairly and favouring evil people? Be fair to the poor and to the orphans. Defend the helpless and everyone in need. Rescue the weak and homeless from the powerful hands of heartless people."**

**"Do something, God! Judge the nations of the earth; they belong to you." Psalm 82, 2-4 and 8** (CEV, Poverty and Justice Bible)

Are you ready for the Journey?!

Promising Progress!

Taking on the Challenge - Albania

Old People's Home in Albania

CSP - Heating for CSP families



English/Dutch EEO team in Albania

The Psalm-writer, Asaph, had observed the injustice around him, and asked God to do something. On my recent visit to Albania I witnessed the unfairness of this life. A government that leaves old and disabled people in the cold, the helpless abused and the poor being unfairly treated. It makes your blood boil, but humanly speaking, only so much can be done about it.

People may seem to get away with doing injustice but God has promised us that He will set the record straight. On Judgement Day everyone has to give an account (Romans 14,12) and the Lord God will judge. Until that day let us cry out to God as Asaph did, and ask Him to return, sooner than later.

We cannot solve the world's problems, however we can do our share making life better for a few. This edition of Outreach focuses on the problems in Albania and the injustice, but also on the heroes that make a difference. Not in their own strength, but with God's help they are making a difference in their country.





## ARE YOU READY FOR THE JOURNEY?!

Many of us in EEO UK and Intl. go on several missionary trips every year. There is always a lot to prepare before we go. Not only are there our clothes and personal things, but there are relief goods, resources for ministry, and important papers and documents we must take with us, without which we cannot enter or stay in a particular country. My husband went to minister in Romania with some friends. When they reached the border they were told a new law had been passed that week, and without a certain paper, they would not be allowed in. A phone call to the mayor and a church pastor resulted in the needed letter, but they had to wait several hours for it to arrive. Then there was a mad rush to drive some hours for they had a service that night! There was no way they could have known – **but they were not ready!**

A young man, Hansie, waited until the last minute before he packed his case. The bus was to come at half-past, and he still had not packed by quarter-past! His hostess was in despair, but Hansie was not to be hurried! But usually when we go on holiday we try to pack our cases and prepare for the journey, but what about the **Journey of Life**? This is the longest, most complex journey there is and our destination will be Eternity, we cannot turn back, but must go relentlessly on.

Many of us are not prepared for this journey with its difficulties. Like Hansie, we think there is plenty of time. *Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die!* But how do we know it will be tomorrow?! The 7 people who died in the 34 vehicle pile-up on the M5 this month did not know when they got into their cars or lorries that morning, that soon they would be standing at the border of the Heavenly country, and if they did not have God's 'passport' of eternal life through Jesus Christ, they would not be allowed in.

If you have not yet done so, I would encourage and urge you to get ready for this Journey, with either Heaven or Hell as its final destination. We do this by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour. He will walk with us each day, lift those heavy 'cases' of worry, and protect us as we go through Satan's enemy country. At the end, it will not be St. Peter who will make the decision whether we can enter Heaven, but our Lord, Himself!

This year EEO UK and Intl. have not only helped thousands of people with food, clothing, finances and other relief goods, but very many have been shown how to get ready for the Great Journey.

**We thank everyone of you who have helped us. It would not be possible without your prayers and sacrificial giving!  
May God bless you in a special way as you continue to do this!**

### Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



## PROMISING PROGRESS!

After Saddam Hussein and Gadaffi's fall – both known for their cruelty and madness, the world is looking and hoping for deliverance from other madmen, like Mugabe and the Northern Korean leadership. But even if that happens, the world will not really be a much better place. Seven billion people will daily suffer from the worst infection, which we all know as sin. NATO blasted all Gadaffi's strongholds and so freedom fighters could finally finish the job.

It is very evident that neither NATO nor Brussels and no other nation can resolve its problems, if sin always causes violence, greed and selfishness. Terrorism is not the disease itself but the symptom of sin, the real problem. The promising progress I see is that EEO UK and Intl. and their partners and numerous fellow Christians are more determined than ever before to preach conversion and deliverance from sin. Last but not least, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is at hand. He who started the job by sacrificing Himself and giving His Blood to cleanse us from sin, if we will do our part by accepting what He has done, He himself will finish it off. He will make everything new. NO doubt at all about that!

## TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE - ALBANIA TRIP 2011



Part of the team with Vera and her husband in Shkoza

From 22-29 October a British/Dutch team went out to Albania to visit projects and encourage local families. It was a trip which took us to the highs and lows of the country, on the one hand the cheerful friendly people, the stunning locations, and on the other hand the deep social problems, immense poverty and hopelessness.

Just after our arrival at Rinas airport we went to the Christian Centre, our base camp for the week, to drop off our bags, and went on to visit the local church. The American pastor preached on Nehemiah. The following week we would be meeting many Nehemiahs, people like you and me who took on the challenge, and made a significant difference in many lives by the projects they started.

### CSP visits Korca

On Sunday morning we made the long journey to Korca in the east of the country. On arrival the team was split in two, and each group was to visit 3 families. Especially impressive was the commitment from local contact Linda, who despite being 9(!) months pregnant joined us visiting the families. The families in the Child Sponsor Programme (CSP) belong to the poorest of the country; many families live on a few thousand Lek (£1 is 160 Lek) per month, which they receive in Benefits or pensions. One family consisted of a young mother and 3 young children, for the father had died a few years ago, aged 27. This family is living together in a very small room for which they have to pay rent, their only income are the Child Benefits and whatever help they receive from their church. The youngest son had his legs covered with spots, the family cannot afford his medication, which is about £5 per month. These are the circumstances many Albanians are living in. Despite their situation most families we visited were happy and joyful, especially the children were full of life.

### Women's Prison Tirana

Our contact person, Renato, had arranged a visit to the prison in Tirana. The team was joined by 2 pastors who visit the prisons on a weekly basis. This time it was the turn of the Women's Prison to be visited. After entering the first gate we had to leave our passports with the officer, one by one we

were searched before we were allowed through the second gate. About 40 women were queuing up to shake our hands. The pastors led us to the activity room. After we were sat down on one side, the women prisoners came in. The pastor shared God's Word and we sang several songs with the women and encouraged them. It is great to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached even in prisons. It was a pleasant surprise to see the quality of life in the prison. There are regular activities organised for the women, and the barracks were painted in bright colours; there is also space for them to walk around in a small square. Without judging whether these women deserve to be there, it is good to see that they are treated with some dignity.

### Visiting Shkoder

On Wednesday the team made the journey to the city of Shkoder in the north. Together with Pastor Klodi Lumci we first went to visit the local Old People's Home, where we handed out bananas and did a short programme with several songs. It was great to spread some joy in this place. We split the team once more; each group was to visit three families again. All the families visited have come from the mountains and moved to the city, hoping for a better life. Some families work hard to make life better. The CSP support enables some of them to achieve their dream, for example the Prendi family. This support enabled the

father to buy tools to become a skilled marble worker at the local graveyard. There is still a long way to go, but the hope is that one day they will become self-sufficient. What a contrast with a family down the road, where we spent a long time listening to the mother and children. The father is an alcoholic and abuses them. He has a job and earns about as much as the neighbour but spends all his earnings in the pub. The house is in a terrible state, and the family is suffering. The CSP support helps this family to still have food on the table for the mother and children, and to allow the children to go to school.

### Shkoza

The last day before we went back home we visited the ministry of Vera Piperku in the borough of Shkoza on the outskirts of Tirana. People living in this area moved after the fall of the Iron Curtain from the mountains to Tirana, hoping for a better life. For most of them this better life never came. Not only is poverty a big problem, there are also many social problems. Mental, physical and sexual abuse are common. In this difficult area Vera started her Seed of Hope project. Three days per week 500 children come to the centre and have a programme with songs, Bible stories and English and computer classes; they also get a free meal before they are sent off to school. Vera has also classes for the women and teaches them about hygiene and how to raise their children. She also organises sewing classes so they may be able to find a job at the local clothes factory. Her husband teaches young men how to work with metal. This training enables them to gain a skill and find a job.

It was a great privilege to visit Albania to see what is happening in the country, to see the projects and to be involved with them for a few hours. Please remember these projects and especially our contacts Linda, Klodi, Vera, Louisa and Memli, and, of course, country co-ordinator Renato and their families in your prayers. As frontline warriors they are being confronted by the hard life in Albania on a daily basis.



Serving food to the children in Shkoza