

BARNABAS 2012 - READY TO HARVEST

It is just a few more months before the start of our next youth festivals in Albania and Romania.

Albania event 21 July - 4 August

Romania event 30 July - 13 August

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 go out to different areas to help local churches with their evangelistic activities.

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



SCHOOL BOOKS FOR PAKISTAN

EEO UK has been helping the Mission school in Pakistan for many years. For years young children have received free education, and with it a chance for a better future.

But like everywhere school books are needed, note pads, pens and other utilities etc. One of the greatest challenges for Pastor Samuel and for EEO UK is to find the funds for these basics. Over the next three months about £3,000 is needed to pay for the books for next school year. Can we count on your help in this matter?



CSP IS LOOKING FOR SPONSORS

The financial crisis has hit the poor especially hard. The cost of living increased significantly in countries like Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Albania, which as a result has put even more families into significant financial problems. This increases the amount of people that turn to us for help. On the other hand, we, as an organisation, have also lost donors because of the crisis and struggle to find new sponsors to help a family. Please help us in this matter. To give you an example of a family for whom we are looking for a sponsor:



Darina Aneva

Darina is a lively girl from Bulgaria. She has been on the waiting list for months. Darina was abandoned by her parents when she was still a baby, and raised by her Christian grandparents.

The family lives with five persons in a small house with two rooms. There is no kitchen or bathroom inside the house. The family lives on GBP 50.- per month, but needs much more than that to live on. The grandfather is disabled but despite his disability he now and then plays music at weddings and funerals to earn a little money.

The household is run by the grandmother, who also takes Darina with her to church every Sunday. Darina also goes to school and dreams of becoming a ballet-dancer.

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.

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EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH
 Registered Charity: 290643

Outreach

Courage for a fresh start

Jesus and the Olympics

A fire in the freezing cold

Barnabas 2012

School books for Pakistan

CSP is looking for sponsors



"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14v36 NIV)

Visiting a family in Ukraine, outside it is -24C

The Father's pain

My sister was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. This was a huge shock for the family. Even though the odds that one day someone in your family will be diagnosed with cancer are pretty high, you never expect a 26 year old mother of three to be affected by it. It is impossible to understand the consequences of the Fall of Man, bringing sin and sickness into the world. I see my younger sister fighting, but the rest of the family cannot do anything but pray and help her wherever possible. This really hurts us as a family as well, it is particularly difficult for my parents. They see their daughter struggling with a life-threatening disease, not able to do anything about it.

While writing this, it is just a couple of weeks before Good Friday, the time when we remember that the Lord Jesus gave his life for our sin. Have you ever realised that God the Father witnessed this event as well? That His own Son was tortured and hung on a cross? Do you realise that God just had to speak one word to send a few million angels to sort everything out, to take Jesus from the cross and take revenge on anyone who laid hands on Him?! How much pain must it have cost the Almighty to see His Son hanging on a cross, been put there by His own creation. This is indescribable.

How privileged we are as human beings that God allowed His Son to die in our place. We should be so grateful to Jesus who willingly died for us. Some songs make it sound like a normal thing for him to 'gladly take our place'. For Jesus this was not fun, when He pleaded with His Father to take the cup away if it were possible, he sweat blood, a sign of total distress. Jesus knew full well that it would not be a 'fun-ride', something easy. But to bridge the gulf between God and Man this sacrifice had to be made – "NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS BE DONE".

THAT is our God, a Father who went through the horrible experience of seeing His Son suffer and a Son who willingly sacrificed Himself to restore the relationship between God and Man. This is the Good News of the Gospel that we want to share with people.

As an organisation we do this in many different ways, by practical help and through evangelism. In this magazine we want to share with you some of the testimonies from the field and suggest areas where you may be able to participate.



COURAGE FOR A FRESH START!

Recently we were at a wedding. The bride was radiant in pale green satin and a feather stole, and the groom looked smart in a light grey suit and a white rose in his button-hole. The service was beautiful and who minded if the bridal pair did not get up quite so nimbly as some young ones after the blessing, for they are in their seventies?! It only added to the fun and a ripple of amusement went round the some two hundred guests! Every wedding is special but this one had some unique hallmarks, for the bride had been widowed, sold her house and shortly after moving into a new apartment block, met her groom. She invited him to church, he accepted Christ as his Saviour and now they are making history!

Why this title? Because it takes **courage** to start again. We are often confronted with the choice of going on the same old path, doing the same things, perhaps seeing ourselves as a victim of circumstances, or striking out into something fresh, writing a new page in the book of our life. Many would think it does not take courage to find romance and marry again, yet I have often heard people say they would not marry again after their partner dies, for there might be sickness and they might have to look after an invalid later on. This could be true, but not necessarily so. You might live to a ripe old age with no illness, and look at the years of love and companionship you could have had!

Another friend had become very disappointed with her job as a teacher, feeling worn out with the disrespect, violence and lack of motivation of her students. Her husband had just left her and the future looked bleak. "Betty, you've got several years before retiring. Have you ever had a dream or desire to do something entirely different?" I asked her. "O, yes! I've always wanted to go and work in China!" she shot back. "Why don't you pray about it? If God doesn't say No, make enquiries, go for it!" Soon I heard the news she had sold her house in the pine-forest, the divorce had gone through and she had been accepted to teach in a university in China! Now she has been there for eight years. Her students love her and she is still teaching, although past retirement age, one of God's secret missionaries in Communist China, and loving every minute.

So if you are in that position today and wonder if you could have the courage for a fresh challenge, let me encourage you! God will help and give you strength! Don't know what to do? What about coming on a trip with EEO UK, visit poor families, take hope to those in prison...? Or start sponsoring a half-starved child from eastern Europe...ask us for suggestions. The rewards will be great! **So take courage and make that decision TODAY!**

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



JESUS AND THE OLYMPICS

Holland campaigned to host the Olympics in 2028, but because of the financial crisis and a letter from the Dutch government which leaked out that it would cost 8 billion Euros, the campaign collapsed. What lasting good do the Olympics bring to this world, anyway? However, everywhere when people come together at these huge events, we, as Christians, can reach them. Special evangelistic teams are preparing to spread the nets of God's love out to catch 'fish', winning people for Jesus.

Soon, football matches will bring people to Poland and Ukraine. Poland is a rising a little out of poverty, but Ukraine is still tied down by it. The Olympic 'gods' tried from the beginning to soften the need of the people by the thrill of the games. Rome gave its people "bread and games" but Jesus, as the Bread of Life can only bring the real change that people need. This Easter 2012, again we still face a world slain in pain and sin.

Last winter more abandoned babies were taken into the Ukrainian hospitals than usual. The Holiday industry shows clearly how people are desperate to find amusement and inner rest. Jesus says in Matt.11,29, "Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls." Jesus can do this, as he paid for it with His own blood. No Olympic award for Him, but to Him was given the Name above all names and He became conqueror over death and evil, Amen!

A FIRE IN THE FREEZING COLD



With a very sunny start to Spring we could almost forget that just two months ago it was -30 degrees C in many areas of eastern Europe. A huge "Thankyou" on behalf of the families we were able to help with your generous donations! An EEO team went out to visit Ukraine; here is a report of their trip.

Food Parcels

On one of the first days of our visit we prepared 200 food parcels for families of the Roma (Gypsy) camp of Janosi. The products were bought locally to help the economy. The budget of £10 per parcel allowed us to fill a large shopping bag with basic foods like pasta, oil, flour, rice and sugar. Peter Gabor (CEO of EEO Ukraine) helped us distribute the parcels to the families. As our guide and translator he helped us to be a blessing to the families in these little houses.

Romanian in Ukraine

We visited a new project headed up by Klaus Ionica. Klaus had been a Barnabas participant for many years before the Lord called him to Ukraine. Klaus married Vicky from Ukraine, and together they are working in God's Kingdom. Klaus' ministry is leading a shelter for young people. Many of them are addicted to alcohol, sniffing glue and drugs. The owner of a flat allows him to use the basement where he helps these young people by befriending, counselling and sharing the Gospel with them.

Salom Food Kitchen

We were very impressed when we paid a visit to the food-kitchen in Salom Church in Muzsaly. Marianna and Kinga, two young women, were serving lunch to twenty chil-

dren and old people. They receive £175.- every month although they actually need about £350, but somehow they manage to survive on half the amount. When confronted with this, Kinga smiled and said: "God foresees time and time again. He provides the money and food. Every month we receive exactly what we need and on time!"

Granny Pirooska

After lunch we visited 62 year old widow Pirooska. She lays in her bed in a small and

cold house. There is no wood for heating as she does not have a pension or any other sources of income. Grandmother Pirooska lives on just what people give her. On weekdays she walks to the Salom church for a warm meal. As we were about to leave we gave her a food parcel. She asked us to give it to the neighbours because if it stayed with her, it would be stolen. We discussed with Kinga how we can help Grandmother Pirooska. Kinga told us that if we give her things, those will also be stolen. We prayed for Grandmother Pirooska and her difficult situation and the group was very moved at the plight of this old lady.

24 degrees C below zero!

The cold weather caused our van to have problems starting. This was really discouraging, but God helped us. Mission workers picked us up and arranged for the car to be repaired. Then we heard that the weather was to become even worse and that we could expect a snowstorm.

As we did not want to become snowed in and miss our flight, we decided to leave for Budapest a day earlier than planned. On our way home we were remembering what we had seen, the families we visited, the people we met. Will the weak, poor and helpless survive the winter? A fire was lit in our hearts, a passion to help more! We realise that there is just so much we are able to do. That is why we are so grateful for the local workers and missionaries. These men and women are really going the extra mile to help the people around them!

A Cry for Baby milk

At the same time as the EEO UK team was handing out food parcels, we received an email from our contact person responsible for the hospital ministry in Berehove and Vinogrado (Ukraine). In this email he asked us urgently to help.

The hospitals in Ukraine do not receive support from the government for babies from 0-6 months old. The hospitals we work in are desperate for milk powder. In Ukraine there is a good product Malyutka (Nutricia) available, the costs will be about £4,000 per year to feed 12 babies. More may be needed, as during the big freeze this winter, many desperate parents brought their babies to the hospital; currently there are 33 mouths to be fed. Please help!

