

PASTOR'S FAMILY WASHES IN A BUCKET IN THE SNOW

Our contact person in Oltenia is Brother Ion Ilie. Ion is pastor of a local Roma gypsy church. For many years he has faithfully helped the poor in his area.

The house of Pastor Ilie is in reasonable condition but does not even have a kitchen or bathroom, and the family does not have the money to build these. They have to cook outside using a traditional clay oven and wash themselves in a plastic bucket. This is very inconvenient especially in the ice and snow of winter!

From the CSP we are trying to raise the funds for this project and approximately £2500 is still needed to finish this.

This is an example of the many House projects of the Child Sponsor Programme. Many families are in desperate need for better housing. Many houses need urgent repairs as well, often the roof is leaking, support bars have rotted through or the walls have holes. Will you help us to help these families?



Brother Ilie with his family

GENERAL FUND

Every year we try to send as much finance and aid to the field as possible. It is our desire to help the poor, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But to make this possible we also have to spend money here in our western offices. Every year we face a growing bill for banking costs, accountancy, general office costs, travel expenses etc. Please help us as well in this area of our ministry.

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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.

THEIR HELP IS IN YOUR HAND!

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?



CSP family with winter fuel

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

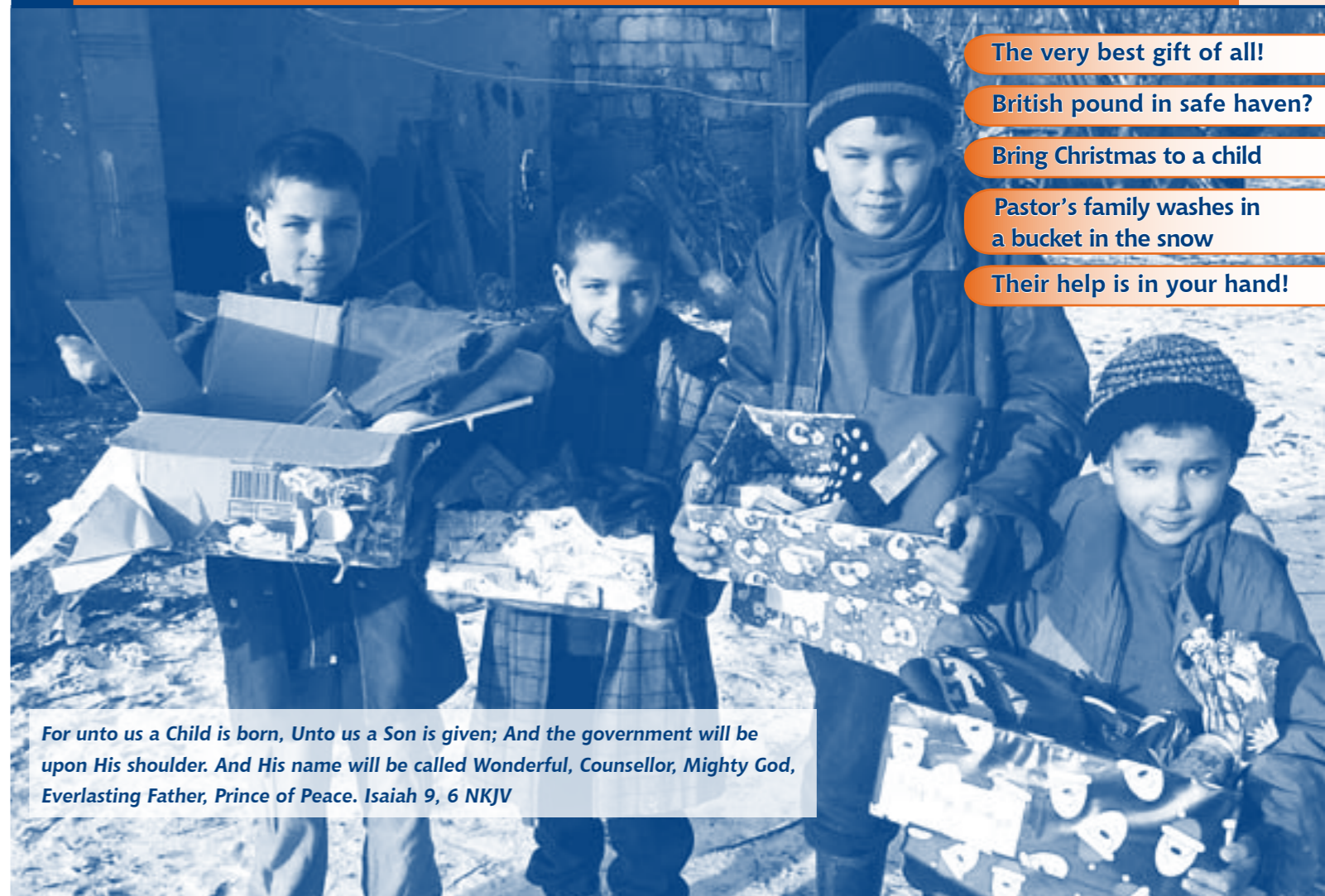


EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH
 Registered Charity: 290643

Outreach



- The very best gift of all!
- British pound in safe haven?
- Bring Christmas to a child
- Pastor's family washes in a bucket in the snow
- Their help is in your hand!



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9, 6 NKJV

When you receive this magazine, it will be just a few days before Christmas. For many this is a stressful time, the stress of buying (hopefully) the right gift with the money that isn't really there; the stress of having the house full with guests; the stress of cooking the Christmas dinner, followed often by disappointment as the gifts were not just quite right, the turkey undercooked etc. A comedian once sarcastically stated that our biggest Christmas problem in the west is 'how to fit a Playstation 3 in a child's Christmas stocking.'

The contrast with eastern Europe is enormous. Many families there will have the worries of trying to put any food on the table at all, let alone a roast turkey with all the trimmings. Here Christmas is generally a good time with the family in a warm living and dining room. In the east many families are celebrating in a small house often where it will freeze inside if they have not been able to purchase firewood, coals or pay for the gas or electricity.

One type of stress is stress is caused by having too much, and the other type of stress is caused by having too little. Complete opposites but both can have devastating effects. Christmas is an ideal time for reflection, remembering and celebrating the coming of the Lord Jesus into this world. He became one of us, and finally gave His life for both the poor and the rich, for every human being that puts his or her trust in Him. This is a sobering but encouraging fact for the rich, and a great joy and hope for the poor. He is the only one to bring balance in our life.

I would encourage you to also use this Christmas to make time for Him. It is maybe a good idea to read the Christmas story at the table.

Join in with the millions all over the globe, in the shacks in Romanian gypsy ghettos, in refugee camps in Thailand, in clay huts in Africa, in the prisons of North Korea, or even with the secret Believers in the palaces of sheiks in the Middle East who will celebrate the First Coming of Jesus Christ into this world and are also looking for His Second Coming!



THE VERY BEST GIFT OF ALL!

CHRISTMAS, or rather, the CHRIST of Christmas, was God's special gift to Mankind. Christmas is almost here, lights will be switched on and the presents piled up under countless Christmas trees, but when they are opened many people will be disappointed, or do not appreciate their gifts. Thousands of these will be returned to the shops, others will be tossed aside or thrown away – we often just have TOO MUCH!

What about *God's Gift*? This is a Gift of inestimable value, suitable for people of all ages and the answer to any need or situation in which they may find themselves. But this is also a Gift which is often not immediately accepted or appreciated, and many people do not even know God has given us this Gift of His Son – JESUS CHRIST.

Other people acknowledge the Gift and have accepted Jesus in a theoretical or religious way, yet they have not started a *relationship with Him*, for they see Him only as a Child. But this Jesus grew to Manhood, suffered and died for our sins on Calvary, then rose again and is alive today, 2000 years later. Let us get past childhood memories, sentimental thoughts about a baby lying in the straw, true and precious as these are, and let us see Jesus for what He really is today – still God's Gift to us all in 2011. The Babe of Bethlehem must become our SAVIOUR and LORD!

The shepherds obeyed the word of the angel and came to find Him. The Wise Men followed the star and brought their gifts in worship. In the 1970's, NASA launched communications satellites to collect data and transmit it back to earth. In her Christmas speech our Queen also once spoke about the Wise Men, then used the following words:

"Today, we have built a 'star' ourselves. But if the message of this 'star' is not the same as that one almost 2000 years ago, then all our human efforts will be nothing..."

How true! Wise men and women today still seek Jesus and take God's Gift with all of their hearts! If you have never done that, I would encourage you today to let Christ be born in your heart this Christmas! Amidst all your celebrations, this will bring you the greatest joy – A GIFT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR ALL ETERNITY!

In EEO UK we thank you for every prayer, for every offering YOU have sent to help those in great need. Your gift has made the difference so those food parcels could be given, fuel bought for those families freezing in an eastern European winter; so that children could shriek with excitement and their mother cry for joy as the warm clothing was pulled out of the box; so those prisoners, unloved and forgotten, could be visited – the list is endless.. **Thankyou so much!**

Dear friends and Partners, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and God's richest blessings for the New Year!

Mission Monitor by Matthias J. Van der Weide



BRITISH POUND IN SAFE HAVEN?

Seeing how France and Germany are dealing with the Euro pains, surely all our UK friends are hoping that the British Pound is safe. Who and what is really to blame in the financial crises nowadays? People forget that money is only a tool and not the goal. When it is abused for the greed of some, and we forget about justice and enough for all, no currency will work.

The Nato co-operation with the Libyan people to terminate the Gaddafi terror, was important to improve the wellbeing of many. But helping to spread the Gospel worldwide would bring even more liberation and a better life to all. That is why Communism, Hinduism, Islam and other dictatorships are so fanatical about banning the Bible.

Bin Laden is dead, but in spite of billions invested in the liberation of Afghanistan it appears that still 80 % of Afghan women are inhumanly treated and are living in horror. Let us pray and work hard to bring them the liberation of Jesus Christ. Only He brings relief and freedom. Christmas tells all about it. When world finances crash, Christians must focus on what Jesus said in Matthew 6,31: *Be not therefore anxious, saying...* In today's setting: *How is the Pound doing today? or How is Wall street doing?!* **This Jesus is coming soon.**

Be prepared!

CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAMME; BRING CHRISTMAS TO A CHILD



In this article we would like to give an impression of the situation in eastern Europe and to introduce you to Ioan Scurtu and Laszlo Santa, two of our contact persons in Romania and Serbia.

Child Sponsor Programme Romania

My name is Ioan Scurtu. First of all I want to give God the glory for the way He guided my life.

I was first introduced to Eastern European Outreach Intl. in 1993 by Olga van Lavieren, who at that time worked as a missionary in Codlea. She offered me an opportunity to get involved with the mission. I gladly accepted this offer. Since that time, 18 years ago, I have been working as a contact person for the Child Sponsor Programme. In the beginning there were only 14 children in the programme, but in a short period of time this increased to 112 children, of whom 90% are of Roma gypsy background.

It is a great joy to visit these families and to experience how happy these families are with the financial and material blessings they receive from their sponsors.

Often I hear testimonies that families have been praying that I would be visiting them that day as they had nothing to eat.

Over the years I have not only been able to bring the financial support to the families, but through the aid of spon-

sors I was also able to help with House Projects (renovation and repair), and help 13 families to find a house. Without the support these families would have never found decent housing. With the support of EEO Intl. it was possible to have most of the Roma children to go to school.

The sponsor money is generally being spent on basic needs like food, school materials, medicines and shoes. The support also helps in the winter to pay for part of the heating costs. The families are very grateful for the support. Many would like to write letters of thanks but are illiterate. The parents are happy that their children are now able to go to school and get an education.

All families pray for their sponsors and thank God for the given support.

Child Sponsor Programme Serbia

Europe is in crisis, especially the PIIGS countries (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain) with their debts putting huge pressure on the stability of the European Union. Still many countries would love to join. One of these countries is Serbia. To qualify for Eu-

rope a new tax system had to be introduced into this country, with dramatic consequences for the working class. One Brother had to sell his company car, because of the increased tax on the vehicle. A Sister who just lost her husband had to sell the house to pay the tax bill. Our contact person Laszlo Santa informed us that many families had lost their house.

State Benefits are only about £20 per month, which is never enough to live on. Many men die because of heart failure due to the stress of life and the pressure to provide for the family. Most of them leave a widow and often young children behind.

The problems in countries like Serbia are increasing. Through the CSP we help these families in a practical way.

It is remarkable that in Europe there is little attention given to Christ and His Gospel, which stands for looking after people and helping your neighbour. Instead, people have become focused on success and wealth.

Jesus says: **"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."** Luke 4, 18a. How wonderful it is to know that we have a God who really looks after people and cares for them, even when the need is so great and no solution is at hand. The Lord Himself is personally comforting these people. The Second Coming is at hand. Jesus Christ will return soon. Be ready to meet Him!

