



Editorial by Pastor Kelton Black, EEO UK Chairman

### **Making Time for Priorities!**

In our lifetime, wouldn't it be sad if we were found to have spent more time washing dishes, taking out trash, mowing the lawn or watching television but taking little time to pray for world missions? Everyone has the same number of minutes in the day. Things in life make their demands on us and we fulfil these duties. But things of more *eternal worth* and *significance*, we must choose to do them.

It is said "A man will find time for the things that really matter to him". Praying for missions is one of those tasks that is worth choosing time for. Time or money invested in missions, God promises to reward abundantly.

Can I encourage you to find time to explore what is happening and what the needs are in maybe a specific nation or people group? Thank you for taking an interest in eastern Europe; I know God will bless you, if you would like to find out more of what we are doing in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary, Israel or even Pakistan. Please contact us for more information on projects we are involved with in these areas, and we will send you details. Maybe you could join us on a mission trip. Finally if you know a church or a group that would be interested in someone from EEO UK to come and do a talk about eastern Europe, contact us and we will see what we can arrange.

Remember this, the Scriptures say, "He who gives to the poor lends to God."

God bless you,

Pastor Kelton

### **Barnabas Albania**

In July and August 2 Barnabas events were held in the Balkans. Here is a report of the conferences.

Participants arrived from many different areas of Albania and Macedonia. The theme of the conference was Unity – with the Lord but also with each other. The atmosphere at Christian events, camps and conferences is generally quite special. Christians almost see this as a foregone conclusion. However, because of increasing tension in the Balkans, unity between the Macedonians and Albanians is absolutely not to be taken for granted.

Preconceived ideas melted like snow in the sun and for many it was very refreshing to find out that those Macedonians, or those Albanians were not all that bad!

The first evening started with some very powerful worship from a worship team from Tirana, followed by teaching from Zoran Spasovski, a Macedonian pastor. The following days started with seminars, followed by workshops. The other meetings started with worship by either the worship band from Shkoder or Tirana, then a team leader preached.

The final evening was different with time for fun, drama and 2 songs from one of the participants, who had been the background singer for Albania at Eurovision 2019. Most impressive for me was a testimony from a former inmate, who was paroled after serving 26 years of a life sentence in the US prison system. God really can change people's lives! With 110-120 participants (some stayed just one or two days), the conference had been a real success. 120 is the maximum number we can host at the current site. As there are several other churches which have shown interest in getting involved, it is very likely that next year there will be 2 Barnabas events in Albania, both in Pogradec one after the other.

### **Barnabas Bulgaria**

Due to car problems we travelled from Albania in 2 days, arriving Thursday evening at the conference centre in Obroshishte near Varna.

Friday morning it was my turn to jump into the action, doing the last preaching session of the conference. I spoke about the Name of God and the importance of names in the Bible.

The service was followed by workshops. As this was the final session everyone prepared for the evening in which a few of the participants would show what they had learned over the course of the week. After a short time of worship and thanksgiving the different groups performed a medley of songs, drama, dance and tricks.

## CSP Sponsors needed

After the fall of the Berlin Wall and Communist borders, eastern Europe opened up and help was poured into the countries by the truck loads. Much has changed since 1990, countries like Romania and Bulgaria have shopping malls which could easily rival places like Bluewater in the UK. For the rich and fortunate eastern Europe has become a very pleasant place to live. The average family however struggles to make ends meet. Normal salaries in countries like Albania and Ukraine range from 100-200 Euros per month, even in EU countries like Romania and Bulgaria many people earn only 250-300 Euros per month. This is the income for people who actually work; people living on Benefits receive significantly less. Food, fuel and utility bills are very similar to those in the UK.

Due to the high cost of living compared to their income, most families buy low quality food with loads of chemicals and sugars, and little nutritional value. The consequences are being felt now as well, many people are eating painkillers like Paracetamol and Ibuprofen like sweets. Many people are chronically ill but can't afford basic medical help, and when they do visit a doctor they are expected to tip the doctor and nurses and bring their own plasters, disinfectant wipes and bandages.

Only a minimum of repairs are done to the houses, and another problem is school materials. Children are expected to bring their own pens, books, pencils etc.

We believe that children should have the possibility to get a fair start in life, so with the CSP support we help families with children to provide food, send the child(ren) to school or to pay for a medical bill.

Our contact persons are all connected to local churches. During the personal visits they pray with the family and share the Word of God. Where needed our contact also helps with counselling. As an organisation we don't want to only help practically, we believe that the spiritual part, the eternal part is much more important.

**While the situation in the East has worsened, the number of CSP sponsors has declined. Please help us to help the needy. If you would like to support a family, don't hesitate to call us on 0800 2980 126.**



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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 application. However, a freewill gift of £10 a year would help to cover postage and production costs. EEO UK works with Eastern European Outreach International, a group of missions and ministries. The main partner is Stg. OosteropaZending, Netherlands, on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East and West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina.

## BARNABAS TESTIMONY

### *Victoria 15 years old, from Ruse, Bulgaria*

During the past months I had nightmares and felt really strange. I had the feeling I need people in my life, to stay next by me, but I couldn't manage to allow them to be close to me, thinking they will reject me. I kind of disconnected my relationship with God too, blaming Him for everything I was facing, and couldn't pray or read the Bible. Then I went to a camp and felt better, but still struggled.

Since I came here to Barnabas, everything has changed completely. I am refreshed, have renewed my relationship with God and found good friends, allowing them to come close to me.



## Casa Lumina Church

Matthias, Gerrit and Elisha travelled down to Oradea for the goodbye party for Pastor Cristi Giurgila and the inauguration ceremony for Pastor Edi Tar at Casa Lumina.

A moving service followed in which Pastor Cristi Giurgila handed over the baton to Pastor Edi Tar. Then Cristi and his wife were prayed for, ahead of their move to the USA. Edi and his family were prayed over as they now start their ministry, leading the Casa Lumina church.

Many church members shared their testimonies of their experiences with the church, profound testimonies as many of the members are former street children.

