

Transport

Over the years, Eastern European Outreach has sent countless lorries filled with relief goods over to eastern Europe and the Balkans. In the last month we shared a lorry with a partner organisation for a transport to Albania, and in November a full lorry was unloaded in the republic of Moldova. At the moment this newsletter goes to print we expect a shared lorry to arrive at our mission centre in Krimpen aan de Lek (near Rotterdam, Netherlands), to be filled up with relief goods to Romania. While over the past decade or so it has become more complicated to send relief goods to countries like Albania, Moldova, Romania and particularly Ukraine, we have still managed to keep on sending transports to these nations, which has been a real blessing to so many people.

With new lockdowns in place and possibly coming up, Life has become increasingly difficult for people, especially for the poorest of the poor. As they tend to be day-labourers their income has plummeted. Good quality products from the west are an amazing blessing, if they can receive them.



Our Albania co-ordinator Renato (right) with part of a relief transport ready to be sent to Shkoder in the north. The second picture is a girl receiving school materials.



Moldovan families receiving mattresses, welly boots, clothing and crockery

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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.



Cot for a baby in Moldova

Editorial

Fake News or the Good News?!

By Rev. Helen Jesze (Trustee EEO UK)

What a year it's been! As we stood at the beginning of 2020, only those with prophetic insight guessed or saw what it would contain, with COVID-19, lockdowns, job losses, our normal life stripped away, economical problems, loneliness and isolation. Then we began to hear the words "Fake News", meaning that what papers and Social Media said and wrote, was contradicted by larger or smaller numbers of readers that accused the reporters, that they had, unwittingly or deliberately, written lies or distorted the Truth.

We in EEO UK have also had a very different year than normal, as no mission trips and conferences could be held. But in every way we can, we seek to spread the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, feed the hungry and clothe the poor. The virus has left much suffering in eastern Europe. "Fake News" will never help here, and only bring disillusionment.

This GOOD NEWS of the Gospel can never be fake! It is the only word upon which we should build our lives, and should be our very rock-solid foundation! Those who spread this Good News often make mistakes and do not always get it right, but our God is gracious and it is wonderful to see how He uses imperfect people to fulfil His purposes. We are a vessel in the making! His love and forgiveness extend to us anew every day.

It was a fantastic piece of GOOD NEWS when the angel came to a young girl, Mary, and told her she would have a CHILD, conceived by the Holy Spirit. His Name was to be called JESUS, for He would save His People from their sins. This Child, our Lord and Saviour was God's Love-letter to the world. His birth, teachings, healings, death and resurrection showed forth that divine Love, extended to all, and Salvation is there for any of us today, who will believe and receive it.

We want to thank all of you who pray and give to this ministry, and for those who faithfully sponsor a child or a family. May the Lord give you back a harvest of blessing for every seed you have sown! If any of you have experienced a difficult year, perhaps with illness, sorrow, loneliness, or any loss, we pray the Lord will comfort and lift you up, heal and bring you His joy, peace and provision!

'...the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid. I bring you GOOD NEWS of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2, 10 + 11 NIV

EEO UK's Trustees wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Beyond the Blackboard of a Romanian pre-school village nursery...

When I visited Lacramioara in 2019, I did not expect to meet a teacher in a small village such as Slobozia, who stands on a par with the internationally-awarded American teacher, Stacey Bess. Her true story was adapted into the 2011 Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, 'Beyond the Blackboard'. With love and determination, Stacey transformed mindsets and generations of homeless families.

Lacramioara's second assignment was in a tumbledown school for Roma children, where only 3 attended because parents did not see the value of school and where fellow teachers were more readily embracing a bottle of alcohol during teaching hours rather than imparting knowledge. Mostly illiterates themselves, in 1997, the great expectation of Roma parents was that their kids would finish 8 classes. With a firm vision that the only way she could help the Roma was by changing their way of thinking, while working with little children, she was courageous enough to ask her parents for part of her inheritance early, and offered that land for OEZ to build the preschool on it. Her legacy and influence is ongoing among the hundreds of students she has had. That well over 10 of Lacramioara's Roma students graduated from university, and that this has been the new great aim of Roma parents for their children for some years now, is in itself a huge credit to her efficiency and to the help that you, our partners have provided to keep this project alive for 23 years now.

As of last Monday, all schools are closed for a month while online classes are offered. It is very unfortunate as this disrupts the routine Lacramioara has only just managed to establish among the young new students. The children loved hearing the Bible stories and they had only just grasped the concept of being thankful to God.

This finds Lacramioara preparing and delivering packages with activities and instructions for the children to carry out at home. If only she had an extra 2 laptops with Microsoft Office licences, she would be glad to organise online classes for her preschool class to continue their level of preparation for school. Over the years, as her students attended the surrounding higher schools, she often received Thank you letters from teachers acknowledging the difference they noticed in a child who had been to the Licurici pre-school, and others who had not. A further result is that the level of those schools was raised, because of this influx of better-prepared children.

Such is our Lacramioara Voinescu from Slobozia, Romania who found and turned to the Lord herself through reading to her first students from the Anne de Vries 'The Children's Bible' in the mid 90s.

Shalom!



Christmas parcels for school Ukraine

Our contact person Viki Antal works at Internat Keresztúr, a boarding school. In October she arranged a food parcel action for the families of the children. Over Christmas we would like to bless the children with some small presents and some sweets.

We would also like to give the teachers and the rest of the staff a small Christmas parcel, to show our appreciation. Especially now during the crisis it is unlikely that staff, even if they are on the government payroll, will receive anything extra at this time of year.

The cost to make this possible is about £500, which would be sufficient for 50 small parcels.

George Jesze, man of God!

As our mission ran into a deadlock and was threatened in its existence in the summer of 1999, God reminded me how an English brother named George Jesze had interpreted for our mission founder, Kees van Olst, in 1973 at a London Christian conference.

My search for George was successful and when he phoned me back I asked him for help. He told me that just before, God had been leading him to get in contact with the mission again! And he came to help, together with his wife Helen. As we learned to know each other step by step, I felt a wonderful unity in the spiritual treasures we both received from Jesus. Many 'christians' express their faith only by theological views and doing their best, but for both George and Helen, it has always meant full commitment and obedience to Jesus.

It will surprise nobody that in a few years our fight to keep EEO UK on track was over, and since then we have seen great harvests. As trustees walking in faith, George and his wife are still great examples for me, even now, although George went to be with the Lord in April 2020. George also served on our Swiss, Dutch and German Boards.

George had served great servants of God who had ministered to millions of people, but not one of them had the favor and opportunity to work so closely with George, and for so many years in the Lord's harvest field. I feel greatly blessed and still connected to him.

Matthias van der Weide

President of EEO International, trustee of EEO UK



Challenges

In our 'line of business' there are often challenges. When everything is 'normal' the work of our contact persons is already full on, but in a crisis it becomes even more difficult.

Our main contact person in Moldavia, Gheorghe Marchitan, arranges everything distributing the money to the local CSP contact persons who visit the families. He also visits families personally, arranges the distribution of relief goods when the lorries arrive, and much more.

Two years ago Gheorghe stepped through the ice on a very cold day, causing frost bite. Over time the foot got seriously infected and an appointment was scheduled for an operation in a private clinic in Ukraine, from the middle of March. Unfortunately the borders closed that week. Only last month in November could the operation take place, which was a miracle, as the borders are still closed.

In Moldova we also struggled with many of our contact persons having COVID-19. Most had mild symptoms, but there was a scare when Gheorghe Marchitan caught it, due to his pre-existing foot infection. Praise the Lord, he soon recovered and after his mandatory quarantine he was ready to go out and help again.

In Ukraine our national director, Peter Gabor was hit by COVID as well and was hospitalised for a few days. Like Brother Marchitan, he also struggles with serious health issues.

Thank the Lord both of them have been able to resume their duties.

Please keep the workers in the field in your prayers.



Brother Marchitan in the storage room after receiving a transport