



EASTERN EUROPEAN OUTREACH
Registered Charity 290643

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"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Proverbs 9:10



Children's Bible study at Eagles Nest

Editorial: Fear Not

Because of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh and especially during the Pandemic, people have been confronted again with the pain of death. In the Dark Ages the term Memento Mori ("Remember your mortality") was very much in people's minds. Back then the Bubonic Plague ran rampant through the whole world. With the many tragedies and wars we see on the News, it is possible to become desensitised, (especially when we are young and healthy); we almost forget about these things until they are right at our door. This sudden realisation sweeping the nations has caused depression and fear, which has gained a stronghold on the people. We see that many have left God, so they do not even have his comfort and protection at this difficult time. Yet there have been large numbers who have turned to Christ, have watched online services, or made enquiries about the life after death. Thank God that He can turn evil around and use it for His purposes!

I would like to encourage you as brothers and sisters in the Lord, that while there should be a normal, 'healthy' fear of the virus, that we should not be consumed with fear. The term 'fear not' is mentioned 365 times in the Bible, once for every day of the year. About 2000 years ago Jesus, the Son of God was nailed to a cross, that by His death and resurrection and the Holy Spirit, anyone who trusts in Him might have eternal life. One day we will all die and meet the Lord. Are we prepared for that day?

The first Adam lived to the good age of 930 years and still he died. Even with the best medical advancements -which are a great blessing- we would be very fortunate to reach nearly 100 years like Prince Philip. If we were to live 1000 years, or as the song "Amazing Grace" says, when we've been in Eternity 10.000 years, it's as though we've only first begun. We have this hope through Christ, our 2nd Adam. In this time between Passover and Pentecost, let's remember our mortality, but now especially reach out for immortality, Eternity with Him. He has made it possible! One short prayer is enough, even with our last breath!

Eagles Nest

The Eagles Nest is a shelter for young children in Beregowo (Ukraine). Currently 9 children are living there permanently. There is also a Day Care Centre, where children can go, instead of spending time on the street with all its dangers. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions this was not possible for the whole year. The 7 girls and 2 boys live here, as their home situation is too dangerous for them. The parents cannot look after them, or they are being abused or there is a serious alcohol or drug problem at home, or a combination of all these factors.

In December 3 sisters Viktoria (10), Alexandra (7) and Krisztina (6) were the latest additions. Due to lockdown rules the children are now more often at 'home' than at school. This puts more pressure on the staff. The children receive online classes taught by their teachers, but the individual help needs to be provided by the carers at the house. It is quite hard for the children as there is not a computer for each child. In the last two months each of the children has had a spell of sickness. One of the boys struggled with Covid, and due to side effects of the medication against the virus he has developed kidney problems.

The children have spent a lot of time at the house, which meant a lot of extra water, food and electricity. The children are very happy to live in this safe environment and to be well looked after.

The day shelter and homework support was allowed to continue for the past 6 months. The support worker teaches 5 of the children on a daily basis. The children who have just started school need more help, especially as they have not learnt anything from their parents. Hardly any of them has internet at home to follow online classes, so the Eagles Nest is the only place they can go to learn. These children also come to us because for the past year many of the parents lost their jobs and the financial situation has deteriorated even further. They also come to us for a free meal, and every day we welcome them with fresh sandwiches; then they go home after dinner.

The day care is for a maximum of 30 children. After breakfast the children listen to a Bible story. This year we are focussing on stories from the Old Testament. After the Bible class we play games or organise crafts. The children can also take a shower or wash their clothes during this time. In Spring we try to be outside as much as possible. This year we hope to finish building our playing field with Basketball nets. We also want to hang down a net over the whole court so children can play ball games without running the risk of the ball ending up in neighbours' gardens. We hope and pray that this year it will be possible to organise a youth camp for the children.

Update from Albania

At the end of February we received 5 cubic metres of relief goods for our ministry in Albania. Besides clothes and crockery we also received 12 computers. These have been very helpful, as due to the Covid crisis the children use them for online education. A few PC's have been given to our contact Bledi in Iba, and the rest have been given to our church partners in Shkoder. We have also received electric heaters which have been a great blessing as the winter has been particularly cold this year. Albanians who are used to the mild Mediterranean climate were not prepared for this. On behalf of the families a great THANK YOU!



Family with a new heater



Playing games

Casa Lumina

Jesus said: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

These words encourage me when we are going through difficult times. We are grateful that the school has been allowed to re-open.

The children go to school again with a smile on their faces. It is very hard for them at home. They know that the nursery is a warm and safe place where they can learn and play and also receive a cooked meal.

I speak with the parents on a weekly basis, to update them on the progress their children are making. It also helps me to find out how the situation is at home, so I can better understand the child. The pre-schoolers come to school in the morning and in the afternoon the school-going children. I help them with online les-

sons and homework. Most children tell me that they find it hard to do their homework at home due to the difficult situation there. They tell me how happy they are that they can come here and be helped. Some of the parents are so scared to get Corona that they don't allow their children to come anymore. Our social worker

has visited these families to ask them if they could please allow their children to come back to school. Please pray that these families put their trust in the Lord.



Children at Casa Lumina: We love to draw and paint.



Ladies learning to sew



Food for the food parcels

Sewing project Pakistan

At the end of 2020 we started a project in Lahore teaching women how to repair clothes, and to make new clothes using a sewing machine. Currently 7 women are following the classes. Hamira is one of them. Her father is a carpenter, he is the only one earning money in the family. She has a passion for sewing and with this skill she wants to also help provide for the family. Rehana is mother of 5 children, her husband is a day labourer. She is very grateful for the skills she learns as it helps her to top up the family income.

Food parcels

Just before Easter we were asked by our contact persons in Pakistan whether we could do another food parcel action. Due to the 3rd lockdown in the city even the shops were struggling with a food shortage so our contact persons had to visit many different shops just to purchase sufficient food to prepare 130 parcels. The lockdowns make it increasingly hard for the poor to provide for their families. Especially Christian families are suffering badly. Please remember our Brothers and Sisters in Pakistan.

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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 £12 per 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. OostEuropa Zending (NL), on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina

Transport Bulgaria

We are currently preparing our first transport to Bulgaria. In the middle of May a truck is destined to deliver up to 90 cubic metres of relief goods to Silistra, a small town on the border with Romania. Part of the goods are for the local hospital. At the moment there is a significant health crisis in Bulgaria, People are dying in droves, not only from Covid but also from poor health and other diseases. Especially the north of the country is largely overlooked by the government in Sofia. So despite the fact that Silistra is a city in an EU country the health care is well below par. This has nothing to do with the quality of doctors and nurses, they do a great job. The main problem is the lack of decent medical equipment, even the basics are in short supply. For decades we have seen people being blessed by the transports we have sent to Ukraine, Albania, Romania and Moldova. We would love to see the same blessing in Bulgaria! Please pray that the transport may be a great blessing to the people in Silistra, that the Love of Christ may shine through.