

# Europe?

# Euronews

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# Eurovangelism

[www.eurovangelism.org.uk](http://www.eurovangelism.org.uk)

# Out of the Comfort Zone



**Istanbul is one of the largest cities in Europe. Somewhere between 15 and 18 million people live in this vast expanse of cityscape that takes four hours to drive from end to end. It is beautiful. White buildings and mosques dominate the skyline in every direction and the glistening blue Bosphorus cuts through, separating the continents of Europe and Asia. There is a heady, exotic atmosphere as the streets bustle with the noise of so many people; the loud call to prayer from the mosques blares out five times a day and can be heard wherever you are, and the bustle slows as people respectfully wait for the ten minute call to end.**

Turkey has a population of about 70 million, of which there are approximately 3,000 to 3,500 believers. In Istanbul there are around 40 churches, many of which are small house churches with a membership of only two or three. There is no law against church meetings (Turkey is officially a secular country), but permission from the correct

authorities is needed, and churches are viewed with suspicion by the vast majority of people.

On my first visit to Istanbul for Eurovangelism I met with Adem\*, one of the first Turkish men to lead a church in Turkey. Adem became a believer in 1991 as he searched for a God who cared about his life and eventually tracked down a New Testament that he could read. He began attending a church which was led by foreign missionaries until 1998, when he became the leader.

Adem's church is not large, 20 - 30 people meet in a rented house where they worship God with great fervour. And they are making a difference. Many church members are faithful in sharing the gospel with family and friends, despite the risks and potential costs this involves, and this has led to new visitors to the church - some who keep coming back! In Adem's church, this method of evangelism has proven to be the most effective so far; thousands of leaflets were given out for an evangelistic concert, resulting in no new members. The church also do follow up for a Bible correspondence course (advertised anonymously in any newspapers that will allow it); and Adem is at the church building most days to receive visitors - people tend to go to him for prayer when they have had a 'spell' put on them - Adem responds by going through the Bible with them and sharing the Gospel!

Despite many problems, I was amazed to discover the church is an outward looking one, seeking to love and serve the local community. Adem told me that they recently studied the book of James and were challenged by the relationship between faith and action. They believe that giving to those in need is one of the basic principles of church, and often respond to such need when members tell them about friends or even people they have met in the street. One member met a lady who was begging, struck up a relationship with her, and eventually visited her in her home and saw the great need she was in. In this way, the



members build up relationships with people and the church helps financially, giving the small amount they have in the context of loving relationships.

The church is fantastic and lunch afterwards with Adem and his family was a real eye-opener. Adem talked of the burden he feels when people commit their lives to Christ, which often results in them being abandoned by friends and family, as well as losing their job. He told me of the many people he has seen coming to faith, only to have to send them elsewhere to a church that can afford to help them financially.

Indeed, only that morning, I had met a man, Mahmut\*, who had become a Christian in February. Mahmut lives in his one room office, which used to be where he ran his business. He is well known in his neighbourhood, so people soon found out when he made a commitment to Christ, something blasphemous for a Turk to do. A meeting was held and it was decreed that nobody would buy or sell from Mahmut any longer. He has not had money to pay his rent for three months now.

In the west we often talk about “counting the cost of following Jesus”. Mahmut wakes up each day to the reality of that cost. He



**Sunday morning at Adem's church**

and the few others like him have literally given everything to follow their Lord and make him known once again in a city that was once the proud home of Eastern Christianity.

**Sally Macpherson**

*\*Names have been changed to protect identity.*



### **Please Help**

The greatest burden facing Adem is a lack of finances to be able to help people in need, particularly people who risk everything to follow Christ. If you would like to be a source of great encouragement to this church, please mark your gift “Turkey”.



## **Alpha in Turkey**

*Other exciting news in Turkey comes following a meeting with a man who has a vision to start Alpha. He has set up a team of four people, has printed the Alpha Manual, and is currently awaiting funding for the book “Questions of Life” to be printed. This is fantastic as we have seen many people across Europe being introduced into a relationship with Jesus through the Alpha course. There are already six churches who are keen to start running a course this autumn!*

# Building for the Future in Kosovo

On 17th February 2008 Kosovo declared independence from Serbia and was immediately recognised by the US and UK, but the rest of the world and the UN remains divided on the status of this breakaway republic. In contrast to the Serbs who speak Serbian and are nominally Eastern Orthodox, the inhabitants of Kosovo are predominantly Albanian and are nominally Muslim.

In Kosovo today there are 22 churches, but only 9 are led by Albanians; of these only 3 have their own building. One church that does have a building is the "Fellowship of the Lord's People" in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, which is led by Artur Krasniqi. A few years ago the churches in Kosovo, led by Artur, formed the Kosovo Protestant Evangelical Church (KPEC) which acts as the evangelical alliance of the churches in Kosovo. This was in response to new legislation seeking to regulate religious groups. If they hadn't joined together they would have been further marginalised and denied protection under the law. KPEC has done a great job of fighting for the rights of the church in Kosovo.

Over Easter, KPEC organised a week long series of events under the title "New Life for Kosovo". Over 100 church members from across the country came to Pristina and cleaned the main street in town, gave blood, visited an old people's home and visited poor families with aid packets. On Easter Sunday over 200 people gathered in front of the National Theatre in the main square for an open air service where they praised God, preached the gospel and prayed for their nation and the government. This was a huge encouragement for the believers in Kosovo to come together in public and be a witness to their nation. It was also encouraging for each believer to realise whatever the size of their church, and however isolated they feel in their town or village, they are not alone and there are other believers in Kosovo.

Both KPEC and the public events they organise are very important in preventing the further marginalisation and discrimination of the Church in Kosovo. It is vital that the church has a public presence and voice in their society.



Another key factor is the physical presence of a vibrant Christian witness in the capital city. That's why the "Fellowship of the Lord's People" Church has such a key strategic role given their size and location in the heart of the city. Unfortunately the building they use is falling apart.

Behind the church an old house was recently demolished and an apartment block is being built.



This allowed Artur to get behind the church and he was very upset by what he saw - the back wall of the sanctuary is falling down. Because of the building work going on

behind the church at the moment, there is a window of opportunity, there is never usually any access to the rear of the sanctuary for building materials, a digger etc. As a result Artur has requested that we help him raise funds urgently for a new sanctuary.

Please help us encourage and support this key church in a region where Islam, the secular UN, and EU, seek to ignore or brush the church to one side. Let's ensure that the light of the gospel continues to shine brightly in the heart of the nation of Kosovo, whatever the future holds for it.

## Kosovo Appeal

To help with the Kosovo building please mark your gifts **"Kosovo"**.



# Compassion Ministry celebrates 20 years

In May the Compassion Ministry in Moscow celebrated 20 years of ministry to the sick, the poor, those with disabilities, orphans, refugees and ex-offenders. On behalf of Eurovangelism I attended a special 20th anniversary event at the Central Baptist Church in Moscow. The church was filled with several hundred people including the Directors of the shelters and orphanages they help, various pastors they work with, people involved with the ministry since the beginning (including Lydia, Mikhail Zhidkov's wife), and almost 100 of the volunteer 'sisters of mercy' who do the hospital visiting.

It was a very emotional event with speeches, presentations and thank you's. I said a few words on behalf of the staff, Trustees and you, the supporters of Eurovangelism, congratulating the Compassion team and the many volunteers for their dedication, professionalism and most of all, their witness to the love of God through their actions.

**David Roderick, Director**

## You can help

If you would like to make a gift to help the work of Eurovangelism, here are four easy ways:

- 1 **By post** - complete this form and send it to PO Box 50, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1EX
- 2 **By telephone** - phone us on 0117 961 5161 to donate by credit card/debit card
- 3 **On line** - please visit our website at [www.eurovangelism.org.uk](http://www.eurovangelism.org.uk)
- 4 **Regular giving** - please phone 0117 961 5161 for further details

Here is my gift of  for the work of Eurovangelism in Eastern Europe.

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev/Dr) Name

Address

Post code

Telephone

If you would like to gift aid your donation please tick here:

Please tick if you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive our bi-monthly newsletter:

(Please tick if you wish to receive an acknowledgement of your gift).

**Visit our website**  
**www.eurovangelism.org.uk**



## Setting the captives free

On a previous trip to Constanta to visit Heart to Heart Old People's Project and Project Romanian Rescue for Street Children, I met Ronela Cristian from the Rock of Ages Prison Ministry. She explained that one of the dreams they have had is to provide a library for the women in prison containing books that could help them grow and develop and also inspire them about their worth in God's sight.

Thanks to our 'Where Most Needed' fund, we were able to provide a grant of £700 to buy books for this library.

In June I had the privilege of visiting the prison to deliver the new books with the Rock of Ages team! It was so exciting to be able to offer these books written especially for women - a range of Christian novels, personal growth / development books, and how to pray for your children - providing them with their very own library within the large prison grounds.



**Mircea & Ronela Cristian with a map showing all the prisons they work in.**

What was even more exciting was that the money we gave was enough to be able to buy books to set up similar libraries in two other women's prisons in Romania! A total of 27 titles were carefully selected and bought, with ten copies of each title. These books are so important to the women who will now be able to read about how to develop personally, care for their children, and most importantly, how precious they are to their creator.

A hearty thank you goes to all our supporters who are able to give to the "Where Most Needed" fund!

**Sally Macpherson**

### **Will You Speak For Eurovangelism ?**

*Eurovangelism seeks Area Representatives across the UK. The purpose of the role is to promote the work of our partners across Eastern Europe, seeking prayer and financial support from UK churches and groups.*

*You may be a practised church speaker or have experience of public speaking in other areas of life. Our Area Representatives feel led to tell others of Eurovangelism's partner ministries. We provide the necessary training, resources and expenses.*

*Want to talk it through?*

*Please phone me, Roger Poole, on 0117 9615161.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

### **Look out for Eurovangelism's Christmas Gift Catalogue coming out on 1st October**

**- an opportunity to buy meaningful gifts for yourself, your friends or family members!**



**Eurovangelism**  
your partners in mission

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