



Rescued from the Hand of the Oppressor

Euronews

June/July 2008

In this issue:

Shelter for women at risk in Bulgaria

Autumn Conference

Summer Camps

Update on Alpha

Eurovangelism

www.eurovangelism.org.uk

Shelter for women at risk in Bulgaria



In a recent survey 22% of the respondents admitted to being 'beaten regularly' by their partners. A further 11% had been sexually abused, and over 50% said they knew somebody who was 'continually molested' (Bulgarian "Agency for Social and Marketing Research"). UNICEF has stated in the past that "domestic violence is widespread and serious in post-communist countries". In Bulgaria today many accept domestic violence as a way of life, a crime so common that it is even found within the church.

Life in Bulgaria is out of balance as it continues the transition from communism. Unemployment, low wages, and a widening gap between luxury and extreme poverty continue to dominate the economy. Even though a part of the EU, people are forced to have two or three jobs to make ends meet, leaving no time for leisure. This situation can leave people feeling powerless, which often leads to pent up aggression and heavy drinking. This volatile mix then explodes into violence with more and more women and children becoming the victims.

Our partners in Bulgaria, Mission Possible, have worried about this escalating problem for years, wondering how they, as Christians, should respond. While seeking God's will in prayer last year, they were given a verse from Jeremiah 22:3, "Deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor" (KJV).

This has given them the vision and determination to open up a shelter for women at risk. Following this vision, they have now purchased a building and are faced with the awesome task of refurbishing it and training up a team to run the

shelter. Rumen Ivanov, Director of Mission Possible, and his team, are fully aware of the difficulties and responsibility involved, but they are committed to making an inroad into this terrible problem. Rumen himself is really sticking his neck out, as a pastor of a church he risks much criticism from his peers by starting this project. Providing a shelter for women to escape abuse and violence within the home, Rumen will be seen as separating families. But the abuse cannot continue and Mission Possible know that something must be done for those suffering - they need to be rescued.

This is a big vision and Mission Possible need our help to see it happen. Not only is there an entire derelict building to be put into order and a professional team to be trained, once it is ready there will be an ongoing need for funding to help the many women (and their children)

who will pass through the doors. Women who hope for love, care and restoration.



Mission Possible

Mission Possible in Bulgaria are involved in evangelism, education and help for the needy. Projects that Eurovangelism have been directly involved in include:

- *Printing the Alpha resources in Bulgarian*
- *Soup kitchens and literacy programmes for poor children*
- *Training programmes to help Roma girls find employment*
- *Distribution of humanitarian aid*
- *Training and conferences such as a recent "Coping with Grief" seminar*

One such woman Mission Possible told us about we will call Ivana. "Ivana is a typical 25 year old gypsy, who like many others, was married when she was 15. Then one day, her cousin brutally raped her. For two days she did not dare tell anyone and when she finally told us, we took her to a doctor, accompanied her to the police, and encouraged her to tell her husband. When he heard what had happened, he battered her, broke a chair on her back, and drove her away from the home. The court case continued for over two years, and every session the rapist smiled across the court at her, knowing a gypsy lady would not be believed."

Helping a woman with three children, unemployed, abused by her husband and with psychological trauma from the rape, is not only a matter of a good Christian heart. There is a need for knowledge and experience in providing spiritual and psychological support. She also needs housing and finances until the court case finishes. When the threat posed by the violator is removed, serious and persistent efforts will be needed for restoration of the family, and for emotional healing to take place.

Please pray for Ivana and for the others like her, that God will heal and comfort them. Pray also for Mission Possible as they seek to help women like this and "deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor".

Maria became pregnant with her third child not long after accepting Jesus as her Saviour. Her husband tried to force her to have an abortion, so she left home for a few months and gave birth to the child. Today, her daughter is six years old, but the harassment from her husband continues. He spends all his wages on alcohol, and Maria must support her family whilst being the victim of physical abuse.

Maria says "I am no longer worried about myself. I am used to this, but my children suffer a lot. My oldest daughter is a teenager and every time she sees her father come home drunk, she goes out or curls up in bed, expecting the usual beating." Maria is seeking advice, protection and help. For all these years she has passed through all the stages of anger, malice, forgiveness, guilt...

Despite the constant harassment, she has not filed for a divorce, but seeks support and hopes that God will send people to help her and the children. Maria needs a place to be restored, a place she will not be startled at every door slamming, a place she can receive help from Christian psychologists, so that she can move on and raise normal and physically healthy children.



Mission Possible have purchased a building like this

Mission Possible are committed to this shelter for women at risk, to help women like those you have just read about. Please help us to support them, so that they can "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" Proverbs 31:8 (NIV). Please mark your gift 'Bulgaria' - any amount you give will go towards the realisation of this project, restoring women and giving them hope.

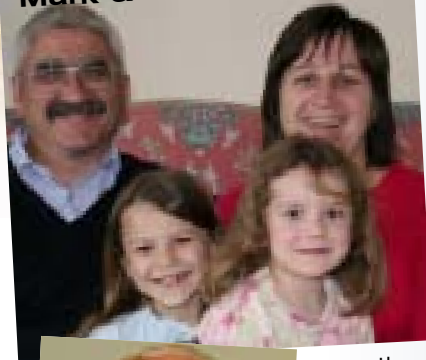
Eurovangelism's Autumn Conference

**Hothorpe Hall, Theddingworth,
Leicestershire**

Fri 7th - Sun 9th November 2008

Hothorpe Hall is a beautiful Georgian Manor built in 1799, surrounded by extensive lawns and gardens, situated in the heart of England. All rooms are ensuite and the cost will be £120 per person full board.

**Special Guests:
Mark & Mari McCormick**



Moldova is the poorest nation in Europe with half the rural population living below the poverty line. Mark and Mari McCormick moved to one of these rural communities to be salt and light in the midst of terrible poverty. Come and hear about the amazing things God is doing through them, their church and other church planters across the region.

***Bible ministry from Revd Douglas Coombs,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of
Eurovangelism Canada.***

*Join the Eurovangelism team for a weekend of inspiring presentations and reports,
uplifting worship and wonderful food!*

For further details phone Lorraine Cooper on 0117 961 5161.

Booking Form

Please complete and return to Eurovangelism, PO Box 50, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1EX

Tick boxes as necessary.

Please reserve: en-suite double room at £120 per person en-suite twin room at £120 per person
 en-suite single room at £120 per person

I enclose a non-returnable deposit of £ at £25 per person or I enclose full payment £

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Name

Telephone no.

Address

Post code



Summer Camps

As summer approaches many of us will be off to Christian conferences and events, and our children or grandchildren will be attending church run holiday clubs or Christian camps. We all know what a blessing these events are to us and our families and how many of us gave our lives to Jesus on a camp or at a holiday club.

At Eurovangelism we receive many requests from our partners for funds to help sponsor children to attend the summer camps they are running. Why not take this opportunity to give thanks to God for all the blessings you and your family have received through these camps and events by making it possible for a child living in poverty to go on a camp.

Please help us give a child the opportunity to hear about God's love and what Jesus has done, and will do, in their lives.



**A gift of
£70 will
enable a
child go on
a one week
camp.**

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
- 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 updated website
www.eurovangelism.org.uk

reporting back

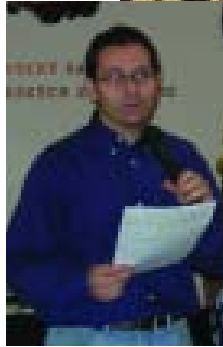


Citywide Alpha Initiative a Success

In the Czech Republic today fewer than 30% of the population believe in any kind of God giving it the title of “most secular nation in Europe”. The Church in the Czech Republic however, is working hard to overturn statistics like these and to see more and more people come to a new life in Christ.

To further this goal, seven churches in Brno, the second city in the Czech Republic, recently joined together to run a city-wide initiative inviting everyone to attend an Alpha Supper event. Personal invitations were supported by a publicity campaign (***Is There More To Life?***) including huge banners on the sides of the city trams. As a result 180 people attended Alpha courses run by the seven churches!

The initiative was organised by one of our Czech partners, Michal Vanek, who is the Regional Alpha Coordinator. He recently attended the Alpha Conference at Holy Trinity Brompton, London, the birthplace of Alpha, together with our other partners from Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Serbia.



Over the past 10 years we have shared the vision of Alpha, provided the various books and manuals in each of the languages, set up national and regional Alpha Advisors, and trained nationals to run courses through the local churches. As a result we anticipate that in the coming year upwards of 1,000 courses will take place across Central and Eastern Europe.



Alpha advert on the side of a tram

Please help us as we continue to support churches as they use the Alpha Course to reach people with the Good News of the Gospel. With your help we can underwrite more campaigns as we did in Brno, and together with your prayers see more people in Europe turn back to Jesus.

Please designate your gift to 'The Alpha Course'.

Eurovangelism

your partners in mission

PO Box 50, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1EX Tel: 0117 961 5161 Fax: 0117 935 2127

email: office@eurovangelism.org.uk www.eurovangelism.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 247788