

CONNECT



TRANSFORM
EUROPE
NETWORK

January - March 2023

Magazine



BE

Expectant

Future Hopes & God's Faithfulness

WinterHelp Hope!

Beginning of Life - Ukraine Focus

Heart Cry Prayer Diary

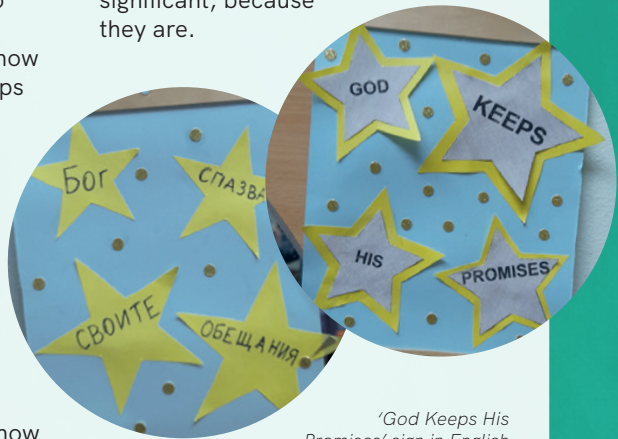
Be Expectant

There is no good work God is incapable of doing and there is no prayer he is unable to answer. This edition of Connect is all about knowing God's goodness and being expectant. The war in Ukraine continues. Poor harvests, skyrocketing living costs, illness and displacement are causing fear and deep uncertainty. But as Christians, we have every reason to trust God. What a wonderful encouragement to start the new year with.

Christ gives us eternal hope to share with the world. Read on to discover stories of the growing, faithful church in Bulgaria. See how God is strengthening relationships between churches there, in North Macedonia and UK churches. We are delighted to introduce a regular feature from Lucy Reid, our Mission Engagement Worker as she focuses on engagement with the next generation. Be encouraged by sustainable ministries, student sponsorship and outreach across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Learn how you can be part of that.

Our partners testify to the enduring goodness of God and their

privilege to serve him, knowing he will achieve his kingdom plans and purposes. Valentin at Beginning of Life, Moldova shares how serving God is not just meeting the needs of local Moldovans but giving Ukrainian refugees hope and the knowledge they matter. Rock of Ages, Romania have taken the good news of Christ into the prisons and inmates are getting saved. If you feel swallowed up by insurmountable challenges, just know that God makes the insignificant feel significant, because they are.



'God Keeps His Promises' sign in English and Bulgarian, in the Sunday School room at Shalom Church in Sevlievo, Bulgaria, led by Pastor Plamen Borisov

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Welcome



What are you hopeful for in the coming year? Do we expect God to work in us and through us in 2023?

Over the last year, in the face of many challenges, God has been speaking to me about being a person of hope. As a people of faith, we are called to be people of hope. Hope is a shaft of light from eternity (Hebrews 11:2). That applies in both the overarching plans of God and within the small part we have to play.

This time last year we did not expect the war in Ukraine, yet here God has been at work as the Church has demonstrated his gospel of love and truth. We were expectant about new partners joining TEN, and it has been encouraging to be able to build new relationships with new leaders. In the coming year we will continue our work to engage new leaders, see partner ministries grow stronger and we long to see the war in Ukraine end. With changes in our UK team we are expectant that God will bring new connections here too, particularly with a younger generation.

Someone recently emailed me "God is good, all the time." We can be expectant in the face of much uncertainty that God continues to say "Be still, and know that I am God." It is the deep understanding of this for which "the ancients were commended." (Hebrews 11:2)

The year ahead is full of unknowns, but I am expectant that we will see God's continued goodness and grace through the work of TEN. Thank you for your support and prayer.

I would like to wish you a very happy and fruitful 2023.

James Vaughton, CEO, TEN

Contents

- 4 Future Hope and God's Faithfulness
- 6 Student Sponsorship
- 7 Lucy's Roundup
- 8 WinterHelp Hope!
- 9 Heart Cry Prayer Diary
January - March
- 15 TEN Snippets
- 17 Trustees Update
- 18 Beyond expectations at Rock of Ages
Romania
- 19 Working together to build God's Kingdom
Bulgaria
- 20 Visiting our friends in
North Macedonia
- 21 God Works for our Good
Tom walks for TEN
North Macedonia
- 22 Beginning of Life brings Hope
Moldova

CURRENT CAMPAIGN



WINTERHELP

Freezing temperatures
leave thousands struggling
to stay warm.

winterhelp.org

Future Hope and God's Faithfulness

PETRE PETROV
EVANGELICAL CHURCH
OF MACEDONIA

I thank God I have learned to never say no to him, no matter how hard it is. I experienced God's faithfulness again and again: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." (Isaiah 43:2).

It is good always to say yes to God and wait patiently to see his blessings. He is never late. My prayer is, "God, give me many sons." This is my passion to fulfil his call for me to make disciples.

I am in great anticipation to see God's miracles.



ANITA DIMITRIEVSKA
OHRID, NORTH MACEDONIA

Since I have started to serve in the church in Ohrid, I see how God takes care of us with his strong hand. In every situation, he shows us that he is with us. In every season we can see how God leads us in different ways and we are a blessing to the people here.

The people here are very closed and have a strong orthodox religiosity. One-on-one is the most effective - that's how we share the good news with them. We expect the seed sown to produce good fruit at the right time and raise many devoted disciples of Christ who will contribute to the kingdom of God. We trust that God will give the people of Ohrid completely open and repentant hearts to receive him as their Lord and Saviour.



LJILJANA BANICEK
BANJA LUKA, BOSNIA &
HERZEGOVINA

Living in a country with less than 500 evangelical believers, without God we would feel lonely and forgotten. God keeps sending different teams from all over the world to encourage us: to work with us, reaching students, helping the needy and sharing his love with everyone.

It is hard when you don't see results, but God knows what we need to have the courage to continue. He won't forsake us, and he keeps his promises. Remember, when you hope, be joyful; when you suffer, be patient; when you pray, be faithful and always remember God is good. God is faithful.



**VLADIMIR
& MARIJANA
CIZMANSKI, MONTENEGRO**

We as Christians have so many reasons to expect God to act in his kingdom and use us as part of his plan. We are very glad that he took care of us even more than we were expecting. God is always surprising us because it is his nature.

We are expecting God to bring about a big decision that will grant us government approval to start the church building project in Podgorica. We have been waiting for this for a few years but we believe the time arrived to finally get it.



**ICO &
JAGODA MATULIĆ,**
KORCULA, CROATIA

Many times we pray to God, and then we forget how faithful he is. I prayed the Jabez prayer last year: 'Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory!"' (1 Chronicles 4:10a) Indeed God has increased my territory of activity for this year.

As a church, we've started mission work on the surrounding islands. I also had the opportunity to speak at two international conferences and I was asked by Alpha International to restart the Alpha course in Croatia. My hopes for this year are high because God is faithful to his promises.



Student Sponsorship

By Lucy Reid, TEN Mission Engagement Worker

Student sponsorship is one practical and strategic step we take to support new church leaders in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. We want to see the next generation equipped for God's purposes.

We sponsor two students, Adelina Cipllaka and Flavia Buda, who study at the International School of Theology and Leadership, a partner college based in Tirana, Albania. ISTL is one of the biggest Bible colleges in the Balkan region and enables church leaders from Albania and Kosovo to receive theological training.

Adelina says, "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your financial support in the school... I learned new things but I have been challenged to practice according to them... ISTL is more than just a school for every student, it is a reflection, mentoring and example of how to lead a group where God has called you."

We are also partnered with Illyria Bible School in Kosovo. TEN has sponsored several students in the past and is looking to do this again this year. The Mathetis Bible School in Constanta, Romania, trains people for church ministry and there are other Bible schools within the Balkans.

Until now, direct financial support from supporters or TEN grants have funded student tuition fees.

We are now exploring how we support local pastors towards local financial sustainability. This could look like covering costs such as course tuition, church rent and personal support but with a gradual reduction in funds over the duration of studies. At graduation, the hope is the trained church leader's salary will be funded predominantly by local Christians, releasing the church to fulfil their call.

Did you know you can help?

Regular support can make a big difference to a student. Depending on the school, £20-£100 per month can cover student fees. If you would like to support a student, please get in touch with melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org.

Adelina Cipllaka and a fellow student at ISTL



Lucy's Roundup

Lucy Reid, TEN Mission Engagement Worker

'The harvest is plentiful...' (Matthew 9:37, NIV)

This is one of Jesus' sayings that you may be familiar with, and it is our reality. Today, our generation, including those under thirty, is hungry for a personal encounter with Jesus. Although the labourers are few, Jesus tells the disciples to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:37-38) and proceeds in Matthew 10, to send out the disciples, giving them his authority to carry out the same works he did.

Why do I mention this? Because I feel this passage sheds light on one key thing which I feel the Lord has highlighted during my time working with TEN. Over the past few months, having met with different church and ministry leaders, I have had the privilege of connecting the dots of what I sense the Lord is doing in my

generation and younger. He is showing the need for the 'equipping of the saints' (Ephesians 4:12) in missions and evangelism.

It has also been encouraging to discover more about what God is doing in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, particularly the desire among our partners to see the next generation of young leaders raised up to take the baton.

Prayer is a way we join in with what God is doing. When we pray for people or places, we find our hearts have a renewed affection towards the person or place we prayed for. Please pray for the under-thirty generation and specifically for the raising up of young leaders in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.



**Would
you like to get
young people
connected in
mission?**

Please contact Lucy at
lucy.reid@ten-uk.org
to explore ideas.

*Hervin Fushekati prays over a young
ISTL student, Albania*

WinterHelp Hope!



Twenty WinterHelp grants were sent out in October 2021 to partners in eight countries. TEN was able to fully fund twelve projects and part fund eight projects. A total of at least 601 adults and 680 children were helped by WinterHelp grants. Thank you for your generosity!

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE (MERCY MINISTRIES), KOSOVO

We rejoice in meeting and serving needy families, not only to fulfil a physical need, but the testimony such an action leaves; the Lord sees them. We are grateful to have friends to support us in making this possible every year.

Last winter, we were able to support twenty families and give them firewood. Only generosity like this opens doors for our team to gain their trust and share the true love and hope found in Jesus.

NOVI SAD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, SERBIA

Every year with cold weather comes the same challenge: to supply people on the street with at least warm shoes and clothes that will ease their endurance of

sub-zero temperatures outside and prevent frostbite to some extent. And every year, together with them, we thank you for the donations that make it possible.

NOVI SAD NEXUS, SERBIA

Vera was in desperate need. Each winter we were able to help her with food parcels and firewood. The most important thing is that Vera became a follower of Jesus. She was baptised in our Nexus Roma Church and was a regular attendee.

Last year, Vera collapsed and died. Our comfort is that she was a believer and our satisfaction comes from the fact that we've been faithful to her in supporting her for basic living. You guys were also part of her story, although you never met her. This is a reminder that we have just a short window of time to be a blessing. I am glad we did it together.



Photos: New shoes at Novi Sad Christian Fellowship, Serbia; Delivering firewood, Fellowship of the Lords People, Kosovo; Vera of Nexus Roma Church, Serbia

HEART Cry

Prayer requests from across Europe

January – March 2023

ten-uk.org/pray

— JANUARY 2023 —

DUSAN & MIRA BEREDI SERBIA



- 1 New guys often come to the Rainbow Rehab Centre in Duga in the new year. Please pray for God to bring to us those who are ready to hear and change.
- 2 Pray for our winter camps for children and teenagers between 3-12 January. Pray for God's guidance and organisation and for the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of the young people.
- 3 Please pray for our Christmas gospel outreach and the Alpha course that will follow. We celebrate Christmas in January. Pray for the fruitfulness of evangelism.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE KOSOVO



- 4 We are thankful to God for the lunch for the poor families we serve through Mercy Ministry and for the police officers who came in and said they were thankful for us looking after these people, who otherwise need to beg.

- 5 We shared the true message of Christmas by going out onto the streets, visiting the centres we work at and having special programmes and meetings. Pray people would receive Christ into their hearts.

EMIL & VESNA PUZDERLIEVI NORTH MACEDONIA



- 6 Please pray the Christmas children's parcel distribution. We want to reach new people.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF MACEDONIA NORTH MACEDONIA



- 7 Pray for the evangelism activities that we will have and for all the people that will come to the events in January, because Christmas is celebrated today in North Macedonia.

ANITA DIMITRIEVSKA NORTH MACEDONIA



- 8 During the Christmas and New Year holidays we will host events for children with Christmas packages. Pray that it would spark interest in our children's classes and Royal Rangers.

DRAGAN & BILJANA MANEV
NORTH MACEDONIA

- 9 Pray for the Christmas evangelism events, including Christmas shoeboxes distribution. We long for people to know the true meaning of Christ's birth.
- 10 Pray for the youth in our church in Resen. We want to produce future leaders.
- 11 Pray for us to have a sustainable ministry to support our evangelical church in Resen.



VALERIU & ANGELA MUNTEANU
MOLDOVA

- 12 Pray for the children's activities and the giving of Christmas presents.
- 13 Pray for continuity in preaching the gospel to the home groups.
- 14 Pray for our visits to poor people.
- 15 Pray for hearts to open to the gospel.



SLAVKO & SANJA HADŽIĆ
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

- 16 We are very thankful to God for the great evangelistic events which took place in November in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Karlovac.



GAVRIL & AGHI COVACI
ROMANIA

- 17 Pray for the Roma brothers in Tinca, Tarcea, Vasad and Gurbediu this winter. Due to escalating food and fuel costs, many have already had electricity disconnected because they cannot pay for it.



- 18 Many people are coming to new life with Christ. God continues to be guide and provider but rising transport costs limit what we can do. Please ask God for wisdom and provision.
- 19 We thank God that we have been able to start providing mains water to homes in Tarcea. The Roma community are so joyful that they will be able to send their children to school and these children will not be sent home.
- 20 We give thanks for TEN and their supporters. Thank you and thank God so much for responding to the needs of Roma brothers in our churches. I thank you for encouraging me to advance in the mission through the projects you were involved in. May God bless you.
- 21 Please pray for me and my family as we lead four churches across Romania. It is much work visiting the elderly and the sick, leading Bible studies and evangelism both in the churches and homes.

ICO & JAGODA MATULIĆ
CROATIA

- 22 Pray for the new leadership of our church which start this month.
- 23 Pray for next month's mission work on the surrounding islands of Lastovo, Hvar and Mljet.
- 24 Pray for the coffee ministry in Split and our work with drug addicts.
- 25 We need to find adequate long-term space for our church to use.
- 26 We are starting the Alpha course at the end of this month. Pray for the team, participants, and the funds for this ministry.



METIN MINTAZ TÜRKIYE



- 27 My son, Emre, who was the worship leader at the church in Istanbul moved to Dalaman. We began to serve together in the church. May the Lord bless him and his family, and sustain him through his business projects.
- 28 We are discipling the new people who have joined our church. May the Lord mature them and reveal their gifts in church service.
- 29 The Lord directed us to plant a church in Marmaris. A few people in this area who wanted to get to know Christ contacted our church. Please pray with us for the ministry in Marmaris.
- 30 We are planning to hold seminars at the Blue Church this month or next. May the Lord give us clarity and guidance to carry out our plans in the best way possible.
- 31 Every year in February, we organise a three-day camp where church leaders in Türkiye come together. May the Lord reveal and bless the vision of the leaders who joined this camp.

— FEBRUARY 2023 —

ALBAN KRASNIQI KOSOVO



- 1 Please pray for the ongoing Superwoman training, which helps to equip young leaders who are called to work with teenage girls (aged 12-18). We offer a safe place for honest discussions and support from peers and adult volunteers.
- 2 We sent some young people to the Revive conference at the end last year, organised by IFES Europe. Pray that God provides for each person and that all those who joined will come

back more motivated and inspired for ministry in Kosovo.

- 3 From this month, Youth for Christ Kosova is planning to visit more churches in Kosovo and see how we can bless and support them.
- 4 Our focus this year is to grow the network of YFC Kosova. Pray that God will lead us to establish the right partnerships.

EMIL & VESNA PUZDERLIEVI NORTH MACEDONIA



- 5 Please pray for our Marriage Week events. It is part of our outreach to connect with new people.

DRAGAN & BILJANA MANEV NORTH MACEDONIA



- 6 Pray for the youth evangelism team that we are investing in. This month, we are planning to put on a short pantomime with our young Christians taking part.
- 7 Please pray for the families we will visit this month and next, so we can share food parcels.

DRAGAN & SANDRA NEDIC BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



- 8 Following the country's elections in October, the political situation is getting worse by the day. Although we don't believe things will escalate to armed conflict, there is a lot of insecurity and fear among the people.
- 9 Pray for our economy. People in Bosnia have next to no resources to buffer the increase in prices of almost everything. Only God can offer some solution.

- 10 The coronavirus severely affected the church in Bosnia, which was already small and weak. Many people have stopped coming to church and even those that do come seem switched off. Pray for the awakening of the faithful remnant.

**VALERIU & ANGELA
MUNTEANU
MOLDOVA**



- 11 Praise God there is a desire in our church to share the gospel with as many people as possible.
- 12 Praise God that the fear of being rejected has disappeared.

**DANNY & VERA KURANJI
SERBIA**



- 13 Praise God for raising future church planters and evangelists. From drug addiction to life-changing calls!
- 14 Praise God for his amazing provision for all that is needed in some amazing and demanding ministries over the years. He is faithful!
- 15 There are so many lost people without Christ who are suffering from addictions in Novi Sad and Serbia. May they make the brave move and come to us. May God change them forever.
- 16 May we and those in leadership clearly see and hear God's direction in days to come. We need him and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**VJEKO & JOSIPA MRSIC
CROATIA**



- 17 God is building his church in Split! Lately, we have had people join us from North Macedonia, India,

Philippines, Austria, Zambia, Nigeria and other countries who are living here. It makes me think of Revelation 5:9-10!

**MIRCEA & RONELA CRISTIAN
ROMANIA**



- 18 Please pray that the Lord will raise more men who are willing to take the gospel into the Romanian prisons.
- 19 Please pray with us for more volunteers to join the Prisoners Bible Institute (our Bible study programme) to grade the studies. The number of requests from prisoners wanting to take part in the programme is increasing.
- 20 We continue to pray for at least five prisoners each month to get saved. Please pray with us!
- 21 We are praying we can help all the people we have come into contact with who are in need during these hard times.
- 22 Pray with us for the necessary financial support for our office team.

**ROBERT & KRASI
SALAMANOVI
NORTH MACEDONIA**



- 23 Please pray that the young people who have started coming to church may remain rooted in the Lord.
- 24 We have five new children attending our creative workshops. Two of them are Muslims. Please pray we can minister to their parents as well.
- 25 Pray that through the Samaritan's Purse packages we shared with the miners' children, we will be able to reach the miners and their families with the gospel.
- 26 I have started visiting drug addicts in the prison in Štip. Pray for me and that the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts powerfully.

- 27 Pray for an awakening in Radovis, that people would be on fire for the Lord.
- 28 Please pray that the people who received food packages from us would come to know God.

— MARCH 2023 —

FETIJE HALILI ALBANIA



- 1 I send you greetings and may God bless your church. Pray for spiritual revival in our churches.
- 2 Pray that we may have people to serve full-time at our church services.
- 3 Please pray we can lead men to Christ in the churches in Tirana and Bathore.
- 4 Pray for the healing of all those who are sick.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF MACEDONIA NORTH MACEDONIA



- 5 Turkish students have started coming to our church in Štip. Pray that God reaches them and many more Turks.
- 6 Pray for our mission conference which we are hosting this month. There will be approximately one hundred church leaders from Malaysia who will come to North Macedonia. The main goal is to strengthen the vision and challenge churches and seminaries from different countries to embrace mission in the Balkans.
- 7 Pray for our church planting work among the Macedonians, Roma, Albanians, and other nationalities.

EMIL & VESNA PUZDERLIEVI NORTH MACEDONIA



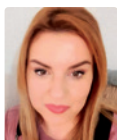
- 8 Please pray for us as we share flowers with women to celebrate Women's Day today. We are also hosting a women's event and through it, we hope to reach people with the gospel.
- 9 We will distribute vegetable seeds to the local farmers this month. Please pray that we can reap a spiritual harvest through our outreach.
- 10 Join us in praying for all young people – teenagers, students, young married couples, and young families.

VANCE & TANJA GOLOMEOVI SERBIA



- 11 Pray for our Bible School and the students who come to our church. Our school is two years old. We hope to see our students graduate and go on to fulfil God's mission for them.
- 12 More people are coming to our home groups in Pozarevac. Pray for these groups and that we would start more groups.
- 13 We have started a Christian movie fellowship, where we show a Christian movie to unbelievers and discuss what we have watched together. Please pray for this ministry.
- 14 We stream our services on Facebook. Please pray especially for those who do not know Christ to put their trust in him.
- 15 We have new believers in our church. Pray that they will take the next step of water baptism and pray also for those who got baptised but have stopped coming to church.

ANITA DIMITRIEVSKA
NORTH MACEDONIA



- 16 Pray for freedom from religiosity in Ohrid. We want people to be truly hungry and thirsty for God.
- 17 Please pray that God works among the young people in Ohrid, so we have more open doors to work with them.
- 18 I lead handicrafts workshops at Secrets of My Heart, an organisation that cares for children who have special needs. Please pray that God works in the hearts of the parents, that they draw closer to God and witness miracles in the lives of their children.
- 19 The harvest is great but the workers are few. Please pray for God to raise up more people who are willing to work for his kingdom in Ohrid.

DARIO & SILVIJA KAPIN
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



- 20 We need to raise funds to have our own church facility. We are currently renting a pub.
- 21 Please pray for our goal to plant a church in Derventa.
- 22 Pray for our work at the apiary. Our bee project provides income to sustain our ministry.
- 23 Please pray for my family, especially our children Rut and Debora. Debora got married last year and Rut has graduated from university.
- 24 Please pray that God will financially sustain us as a family.

ANATOLI & DESI YANKOVI
BULGARIA



- 25 We need more employees on our team, especially men. Please pray for God's provision.

- 26 Please pray that during the winter months, people would be able to cope with the high prices of heating and food.
- 27 We long to see believers become more passionate for God and his kingdom. Pray for more people to join our church and receive the good news of Christ.
- 28 Pray that God would completely heal Pastor Desi's left kidney and gall bladder. The doctors have recommended surgery to remove them.

ERION & GENTIANA CUNI
ALBANIA



- 29 A big wave of Albanians are leaving the country. We have had to say goodbye to more members of our church. Pray for our country, our church and for wisdom in how we serve those who remain.
- 30 Pray for us as a family, that we will experience God's blessings in our lives and that we will have strength, joy and all we need to stand firm and continue to serve in Albania.

GAVRIL & AGHI COVACI
ROMANIA



- 31 We want to thank you for the good heart you have. May God bless you as you always contribute to the Lord's work. We greet you with much peace.

TEN Snippets

TENteach in 2023!

Our online English lessons which use the Bible for comprehension and discussion started in September. Students (including some pastors) from Albania, Moldova and North Macedonia have joined the classes, which range in ability from Elementary to Upper Intermediate.

This year, we are considering how we might offer TENteach to people in more countries. We have not yet been able to run online classes for people who have no knowledge of English, but we are hopeful this may start this year. Several pastors have said that they know people who don't currently speak any English but are keen to learn. The pastors have also told us they think it is good that people can learn English whilst studying the Bible.

TENteach students discuss the Beatitudes



Katerina & Mile Kolevi Move to Štip



We believe that God has called us to reach out, raise, encourage and train the new generation of believers in North Macedonia. Living in a tiny town we didn't get many people to reach out to. Štip is a bigger city, so moving there is really exciting for us. There are many high school and university students that we can share the gospel with and we already made contact with many of them. Pray for vast spiritual influence!

Building Financially Sustainable Ministry



Just over forty people from sixteen nations joined our online event on 20 October, to hear from Sebastian Vaduva from Emanuel University, along with ministry leaders from across the TEN network.

The feedback was very positive. Our hope is that this will be a catalyst to encourage partners to continue to build local financial resilience. We will be following up with those who have expressed interest in moving ideas forward.

Over forty have watched the webinar on our YouTube channel. You can find it at www.ten-uk.org/sustainableministry.

GIVE TO TRANSFORM EUROPE NETWORK

1. SINGLE DONATION

I would like to give £ (total amount). Please acknowledge my donation: ☐

Please charge my: Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ CAF Charity Card ☐

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to TEN

Card number:

Security code: (Last three digits on back of card) Expiry date: /

Signature:

Name on card:

2. REGULAR DONATION

Instruction to your bank or building society to make standing order payments to TEN.

Name and address of your Bank or Building Society:

Bank/Building Society:

Branch address:

Postcode:

Account number: Sort code:

Please pay to: **Lloyds, Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2HT** to the credit of **Eurovangelism**,
account number: **38611760**, sort code: **30-94-80**, the sum of:

£ First payment date: / /

and on the same day of each successive (month/quarter/year) until otherwise advised.

Signature:

Full name:

Date:

3. *giftaid it* MAKE YOUR GIFT WORTH 25% MORE!

If you are a UK taxpayer please complete this Gift Aid declaration which will enable us to claim tax back on your gift, making it worth 25% more.

I am a UK taxpayer and want TEN (registered name Eurovangelism) to reclaim tax on **all my donations until further notice**. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Title:

Full name:

Address:

Postcode:

Date:

☐ Please tick if you want tax to be reclaimed only on this single donation.

Please complete and return this form to:

Transform Europe Network, 23 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4JT

Trustees Update

After fourteen years of faithful and generous service as a board member and Chair of Trustees, Hazel Vinson will step down from the board next month.

Hazel joined in early 2009 and has been a person of stability through a period of change for TEN. We are deeply grateful to her for her kindness, wisdom and leadership.

Hazel continues as a TEN Ambassador and will conduct a piece of research into the experience of women in ministry in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, over the next year. Michelle Jennings, who served for 12 years has also recently stepped down from the board. We are deeply grateful to both Michelle and Hazel for their years of serving TEN and our partners.

Stepping into the role of Chair of Trustees is Lorenz Jorgensen. Lorenz has had a long-time commitment to TEN as supporter and, since 2018, as a trustee. He brings a wealth of experience, from his time working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and four years as a trustee at TEN.

Lorenz is passionate about seeing the gospel transform lives in the region where TEN is focused. He can also read the Cyrillic alphabet—which came in very handy on his recent trip around Bulgaria with James Vaughton!

Allan Spencer is stepping into the role of Vice Chair.



Hazel Vinson



Michelle Jennings



Lorenz Jorgensen



Allan Spencer

We are looking for new trustees at this exciting time for the organisation.

In the spirit of this edition of Connect, we are expectant that God will bring the right people into the role of board member. If you are interested or think you know someone who might be, please can you email james.vaughton@ten-uk.org in the first instance.

Beyond expectations at Rock of Ages

Mircea & Ronela Cristian, Rock of Ages, Romania

Rock of Ages, who works with prisons and their inmates in Romania, is here to fulfil God's desire for all people to get saved! We plant the seed and we expect that the promise that any word from the Bible will bring fruits in the lives of those who hear it to be fulfilled!

We are joyful to receive such testimonies:

From an inmate's letter:

I believe and accepted that Jesus Christ died for me. But your letter made me realise that I never confessed my belief in Jesus Christ. Your message functioned as a trigger, so I clearly write yes, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and died for my sins! I know that it is not good to trust my thinking, because many times it plays with me and makes me doubt my faith. Sometimes I suspect that I don't have a real faith ...so if you can advise me how to grow in faith, please do it!

One prisoner said recently:

"I got into the prison as an atheist and now because of the Rock of Ages Bible study, I became a Christian!"

Last year, 161 prisoners asked God to forgive their sins and got saved! We have prayed every month to see at least five prisoners get saved. God's response was beyond our expectations!

As we see these results, please be encouraged to ask and expect great things when you fulfil God's will for your life!



Ronela and Mircea Cristian of Rock of Ages

Working together to build God's Kingdom

Amarh Amartey, Pastor of Gateway Church, Leyton

My expectation for my trip to Bulgaria was to meet people, establish and enhance relationships with one or two congregations there. It is the culmination of discussions between me and James Vaughton over the last couple of years concerning partnership.

At the first Men's Conference in Bulgaria, I witnessed a godly passion to spread the gospel. When I visited Pastors Teddi and Didi Oprenovi, we observed the feeding of the homeless in Sofia. I was encouraged by how churches and Christian organisations can work together for social justice. In contrast, both myself and Gerry Partridge were the ones who were blessed when we visited a tiny church in Yasno Pole, who currently meet in a converted caravan.

My journey left some lasting impressions on me. It has deepened my understanding of God's transforming work in the lives of people regardless of their backgrounds. I was struck by the impact of the partnership between TEN and the Church in Bulgaria to extend God's kingdom in this part of the Balkans. The trip has strengthened my desire to enable the church my wife and I lead to partner with a congregation in Bulgaria.

Church at Yasno Pole

Gerry Partridge, TEN Ambassador & Country Champion for Bulgaria

"Where are the men in the church?" This was my question when I visited Bulgaria in 2018.

My prayer then was for men to be raised up in the church, to be leaders and fathers. On my return to Bulgaria last September, the first event I attended was the Men's Conference in Dobromirka. It was amazing to worship with over a hundred men chasing after God's heart, passionate to serve Him.

What a wonderful answer to prayer! Though the challenges of empty villages, poverty and the marginalised communities still exist, we can praise God he is raising up godly men to take responsibility and help make change happen.



Men's Conference in Dobromirka



Visiting our friends in North Macedonia

Tom Harflett, TEN Ambassador & Country Champion for North Macedonia

Holy Trinity Church, Frome has supported Josip and Biljana Pastor, who are church leaders in Bitola, North Macedonia since they visited us in October 2019. We have wanted to visit them in return, but Covid got in the way!

Four of us finally managed to get there this autumn and had a wonderful time experiencing their generous hospitality and enjoying the amazing scenery of mountains and beautiful Lake Ohrid.

We also visited the Bitola Roma Church, Dragan and Biljana in Resen and Anita Dimitrievska in Ohrid. It was challenging to hear first-hand how hard it is to plant and grow churches in that region and they are such faithful and wonderful followers of Christ.

We spent a lot of time talking and praying with Josip and Biljana. They have had a difficult time with illness and leading

Everything is getting more expensive and they are not sure that they will be able to heat the church.

the church through Covid and it was good to be able to encourage them. Some of their members have not returned since lockdown ended and they are not a large church anyway. Josip and Biljana are worried about getting through the winter. Everything is getting more expensive and they are not sure that they will be able to heat the church. While we were there we painted the outside of the church and it now looks very smart!

We are looking forward to growing our partnership with these wonderful people and expecting to see God do great things in North Macedonia through them.

*Photos:
Repainted church in Bitola;
Midweek meeting in Bitola
with Josip and Biljana*



God works for our Good

Ken Millwood, TEN Partners Officer

“And we know that in all these things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NIV)

I rediscovered the truth of this verse during my recent trip to North Macedonia, as some things did not happen as planned, but overall, it worked out better than expected.

To give you an example, on the first night when a supporter and I arrived in Radovis at midnight, we discovered that the hotel we had booked did not have any rooms left. So, the partner we were visiting rang his wife, who arranged beds for us, and we stopped with his family during our stay. This gave us more time for fellowship and an opportunity to enjoy some home-cooked meals!



To read more of how God worked for our good while we travelled, visit: www.ten-uk.org/kens-macedonian-report.

Tom walks for TEN

Tom Harflett, TEN Ambassador & Country Champion for North Macedonia

Last June I walked the coast path from Land's End to Plymouth to celebrate my new eyesight and raise money for TEN.

I have always had poor eyesight and it was getting worse as my corneas were deteriorating. A cataract operation went wrong and nearly blinded my left eye. This led to complex keyhole surgery and I now have better eyesight than when I was a child!

I left Land's End on a beautiful sunny summer's day. I met very few people but saw lots of wildlife and magnificent scenery. I had a few nights in a B&B but most of the time I was wild camping in a bivvy bag on the beaches and cliffs. It was a wonderful experience!

I had prayed for years for God to heal my eyes and he did, but not how I had expected. God can work in so many ways—expect the unexpected!



Beginning of Life brings Hope

Valentin Kirgan, Coordinator of Refugee Crisis Response Programme, BoL, Moldova

Since 24 February 2022, when the full-scale war in Ukraine started, Moldova found itself again in the midst of a burning region. Moldovans had to deal with unprecedented and catastrophic crisis caused by this conflict, adding to all the damage caused by two years of the pandemic.

During the last ten months, 700,000 people have fled from Ukraine to Moldova. Over 85,000 decided to stay in our country, adding almost 4% to Moldova's population. For the first time we needed to address the biggest crisis of refugees combined with economic and energy shortages.

Moldovans opened their houses and hearts for people, mostly women and children, who lost everything. The Beginning of Life (BoL) team, like many Moldovan churches and organisations, has actively engaged in addressing the refugee crisis. Only by our team, have over 15,000 Ukrainians been holistically supported in food, hygiene supplies, transportation, accommodation, clothing and medical services.

Knowing the traumatising nature of this situation, we have opened all our programmes and centres for women and children from Ukraine. This way, young mothers and their children can attend early child education classes and learn how to continue raising their children in this 'new normal'. Children and teenagers, along with adults, are finding healing and restoration through our therapy centre.



When I hear how my children laugh again, I feel hope and desire to live.

Our teenager's leadership group reaches out to teenagers within our Urban Youth Centre and those in the refugee camps, who are a big part of the refugee influx. Together with Moldovan teenagers, many of them come weekly to outreach programmes and find hope and healthy growth in the good news of Jesus.

This significant increase of people in need, whom BoL serves on a regular basis, require a suitable facility, and together with TEN we work now on having a new space for young people, children and women who can find a safe and welcoming place

to bring about acceptance and healing.

I met a woman a week ago from Donetsk, and she said to me: "Leaving my

home, ruined by bombs,

I thought my life is ruined, but after months spent with you here, I can say God exists and he sent you my way. When I hear how my children laugh again, I feel hope and desire to live. Thank you for all you do for my family". Every smile, hug and warm word from these people proves that God invited us to be his instrument of hope.

Brothers and sisters, we are so grateful for the support you have



offered us both in prayers and resources.

The situation as you see is getting harder, as we are now in this winter season. So please pray for the families who are suffering extreme trauma and need. Pray for our team who serve both Moldovan and Ukrainian young people and their mothers daily. Pray for peace in this new year.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the emotional, social and spiritual healing of refugee women and young people who attend our art therapy programme.
- Pray for the leaders and their teams to be trained in therapy and healing for young people this year.
- Pray for the 150 Moldovan women and young people as well as several hundred refugees who heard the gospel to take the firm decision to follow Christ.

Photos: Local assistance (p22); BoL building extension for refugees Humanitarian convoys to Ukraine.

Freezing temperatures, huge rises in fuel prices and little or no state help will leave thousands struggling for warmth this winter. You can help.



→ **Donations to TEN's WinterHelp appeal** enable our partners to buy fuel, winter clothes and other provisions such as food to help survive the harsh winter months much more cheaply than it would be to source and send supplies from the UK.

Visit www.winterhelp.org to make a donation.

→ **Essential Gifts can be purchased** to help support those living in extreme poverty. Here are some Essential Gifts our partners have requested for this winter:

- Firewood (£45)
- Blanket (£12)
- Woolly Hat, Scarf and Gloves (£15)
- Winter Coat (£25)
- Winter Bundle (£70)
- Hot Meals (£25)

Visit ten-uk.org/essentialgifts to purchase an Essential Gift.