

# CONNECT



TRANSFORM  
EUROPE  
NETWORK

January - March 2024

*Magazine*

## CREATED IN CHRIST *Jesus*

WinterHelp Blessings

Celebrating Fifteen Years of ISTL Albania

Turning Back From The Bus Station in Moldova

Giving Thanks for Easter in North Macedonia

# Created in Christ Jesus

**What a privilege it is to be '...God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' (Ephesians 2:10) We give thanks for you and our partners in Eastern Europe and the Balkans as you work together to carry out His transformative works.**

In this edition of Connect, discover how God is shaping leaders at Bible colleges in Kosovo and Romania, where those called to ministry are hungry to know more about Him and serve. Learn how you can pray for or sponsor students as they study. Celebrate with the International School of Theology & Leadership (ISTL) as they mark fifteen years of equipping Christian leaders in Albania and other nations. Praise God for Beginning of Life's holistic programmes that give young people a hope and future in Moldova.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, Pastor Anita Dimitrievska shares what Easter means to her and how the affirmation of Ephesians should spur us all on to serve our Saviour.

We give thanks for churches such as Cromhall Chapel who serve our partners by raising vital funds for Harvest for the Hungry.

And we can testify to the transformative impact of WinterHelp as people in Europe are supported through the desperately cold winter months. Thank you to our fundraisers and those who have sponsored them to support our Walk the Balkans Challenge.

A crucial part of our ministry together is prayer, so be sure to use our Prayer Diary to guide you. Take some time to learn how you can pray for Albania, by reading our Country Focus on the country. And if you want to get even more involved, take a look at our plans for TENteams this year.

Thank you for all you do in Christ's name and for the blessings of our partners in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. **Happy New Year!**



ISTL  
Graduates

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# Welcome



I've been reading the prophecy of Haggai and the accompanying narrative in Ezra. It recounts a challenging time for the people of Judah. There has been hope as exiles returned, a new beginning beckoned, and King Cyrus decreed that God's people can rebuild the temple. Then came opposition, discouragement and bureaucracy which stopped progress. I can imagine Zerubbabel and Joshua wondering what to do next.

You are reading this at the start of the new year. There is much that is uncertain in the world at this time. There may be uncertainty in your own life. There is uncertainty for partners, facing the impacts of war in Ukraine, threats of war on the Serbia-Kosovo border and the ongoing impact of rising costs.

At TEN we enter a new season having reviewed our strategy and developing plans for the next few years.

In Ezra 5:1 in this uncertain moment it says, "Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, prophesied to the Jews in the name of the God of Israel who was over them." God, who is over them, spoke. The voice that spoke life at the beginning, spoke life into these circumstances. Ezra 6:14 says, "They finished their building by command of God and by decree of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes." Wow!

God is over us still. In the Hebrew this word has the meaning of 'among' or 'upon'. As we enter 2024, please pray that our partners and TEN remember God is among us, by his Spirit and that we may hear the voice of God, as we all seek to do the good works for which, in Christ, we are created.

James Vaughton, CEO, TEN

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Help our partners provide  
fuel and warm clothes to  
those in need this winter.



[www.winterhelp.org](http://www.winterhelp.org)

# Illyria Bible School: Pristina's Hidden Gem

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Tucked away in Pristina is a hidden gem. Head up two flights of steps in an unremarkable apartment block and enter the door on your right and you will find Illyria Bible School.

You'll find a lecture room, a theological library, offices and a small kitchen bustling with students keen to learn. The school is led by Leonora Maloku and run by the Fellowship of the Lord's People Church.

In the small, predominantly Muslim nation of Kosovo, Illyria Bible School is a beacon of light. It has trained over thirty students in Kosovo in the last few years in theology, ministry practice and leadership. In a nation of twenty-three churches the importance of equipping God's people cannot be over-emphasised. James Vaughton, our CEO, with years of experience in youth ministry, was invited to teach the youth ministry programme over a weekend in late October.

About fifteen students from local churches joined the lectures. This included six on the main two-year Bible School programme and others who had chosen to spend their weekend learning more about how to engage a younger generation by attending. Over a third of the population in Kosovo is under eighteen. Engaging a younger generation is a critical part of the gospel witness. During the programme we spent time considering the value of young people, the world they are in and thinking about how the church can develop a disciple-making ministry.

It was encouraging to meet such passionate young people committed to following Jesus and seeking to bring light and life to Kosovo.



## Please pray for:

- Illyria Bible School as it develops in the coming years.
- For past and present students, that their training will strengthen the witness of the church in Kosovo.
- For young people that they will turn to Christ.
- Pray for God's provision for the school.



# Mathetis Bible School: Equip to Make Disciples

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By Beni Micle, Director of Mathetis Bible School, Constanta, Romania

**The vision of Mathetis Bible School in Constanta is to equip ministers and leaders for churches around the Black Sea region, in response to the need of the Constanta Church Planting Project.**

**This vision is based on the calling of Jesus to ‘follow [Him] and [He] will send you out to fish for people’ and the command, ‘go and make disciples of all nations.’**

Mathetis Bible School started in 2015 and is a remarkable success. It has had 120 graduates, ninety-five of which are now involved in many aspects of church planting and church growth throughout the region. Thirty-two graduates are now ordained ministers. A new class started last October with forty-one students. This is the largest number we’ve ever had in an academic year.

The course runs for two years and is for those already involved in a ministry at their church or those who are responding to God’s call to ministry. The first year provides the basic information on Church history, Bible study, doctrine, leadership and finances management. The second year is advanced and practical vocational training, including theology and church planting development studies. For graduation, the students need to write and present a thesis.

TEN has committed to provide partial funding for the Mathetis Bible School for the next two years. We are blessed to have you as our partner for the expansion of Christ’s Kingdom in south-east Romania. Our multi-ethnic and religiously diverse region is one of the least evangelised in Romania with less than one percent evangelical Christians. Twenty percent of the region is Muslim.

We believe that Mathetis Bible School is a key solution to winning this region for Christ. Please pray for the staff as they serve, for the students to finish what they have started and for this region to be transformed.



*Students at Mathetis Bible School*

# WinterHelp Brings Joy

By Ken Millwood, TEN Partners Officer

Twenty-eight WinterHelp grants were sent out in September 2022 to partners in nine countries. TEN was able to fully fund six projects and part-fund twenty-two projects. At least 636 adults and 864 children were helped by WinterHelp grants. A huge thank you to all who give towards our WinterHelp campaign. Here are a few examples of the difference it makes.

## Novi Sad Christian Fellowship, Serbia

Every year we have the same challenge; to supply people on the street with warm shoes and clothes at the very least, to ease the minus temperatures outside and prevent some frostbite. And every year, together with them, we thank you for the donations that make that possible. With the help we received, we bought twenty-three pairs of fitted, leather ankle boots. With the rest of the money, we bought clothes for fifty adults—socks, underwear, and other items necessary for the winter.

This year's special project was the exchange of old shoes people received last year for the new boots. Even though their old shoes were worn out, they didn't want to throw them away, but returned a large number and accepted the new ones with special joy.

It is impossible to tell a story that will convey our feeling of joy when we gave them new shoes, but also their feeling of gratitude and happiness when they received this gift. We could see the relief they felt on their faces—at least one problem was solved for a while. Wet and frozen feet became a thing of the past for them at that moment, thanks to your donations. We are extremely grateful to you for responding to a need that many are turning away from.



## Bitola Evangelical Church, North Macedonia

Because the cost of firewood had doubled, it was hard to find. So, we decided to help people with their electric bills. One of the families that received help with the electricity bills was not expecting it and wondered how they were going to manage. After they received help, the husband was more interested in knowing God and His Word. He regularly attends the services and the men's Bible studies.

## Štip Evangelical Church, North Macedonia

The grant was used for firewood for the poor. The most touching moment is when you see their smiles; their face shines. We were able to give firewood to a woman who has two children. She was happy and full of thanksgiving because there would be wood to warm her children in the winter.

Last year we received the highest number of applications from our partners for help since the campaign started. In the past few years, the prices of firewood, clothes and other essentials to survive the harsh winters have more than doubled.

**Will you consider supporting us so our partners can continue to provide practical relief to people at their point of need?**

Visit [winterhelp.org](http://winterhelp.org) to make a donation online, use our tear-out slip on page 16 or call the office on 01179 615161. Thank you!

*Photos: New shoes at Novi Sad Christian Fellowship and firewood distributed to families in North Macedonia*







## Harvest Blessings at Cromhall Chapel

By Allan Spencer, TEN Trustee

Over many years, members of Cromhall Chapel, Gloucestershire have faithfully supported the work of TEN, especially our annual Harvest for the Hungry appeal. This year, it was a delight to join with the fellowship for a glorious 'Bring and Eat' supper. I met old friends, enjoyed good conversations and excellent fare, and had the opportunity to share something of the work of our partners who distribute much needed food parcels and run vital drop-in food centres and soup kitchens. Food for thought indeed and a great evening to boot!

To everybody and every church community that has supported Harvest for the Hungry, thank you! Harvest for the Hungry practically serves and can bring hope for an eternal future. Your generosity is to many people, the love of Christ lived out in their lives.

## Turning Back From The Bus Station

By Serghei Mihailov, Director of Beginning of Life, Chisinau, Moldova

**"Bus station mentality."** What is it? Is it about living near the station, or riding the bus, or what? It is an expression we use to describe the situation and behaviour of the young people in Moldova, impacted by widespread labour migration, vulnerability and scarce opportunities. It is similar to waiting at a bus station, focused solely on catching their 'migration bus' and not at all thinking of others.

Over the past twenty-three years, the Beginning of Life team has developed a unique, holistic model that allows the gospel to penetrate all areas of human life and change the educational landscape, offering young people a pathway to resilience, hope and healing in their tumultuous life. It mobilises, equips and empowers them with the skills and hunger for mission, as future leaders. As they grow, our students develop critical thinking, emotional intelligence and the gifts to make positive changes in their lives, among their families and within their communities, continually seeking meaning in God and His mission, as new creations.





# Prayer Diary

## Prayer requests from Eastern Europe and the Balkans

January – March 2024

[ten-uk.org/daily-prayer](https://ten-uk.org/daily-prayer)

### January

#### Vasile Grigorita, Moldova

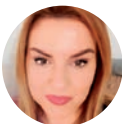


**1** We were delighted to take a number of people to the national outreach event back in July. Eight people responded to the call to repent.

**2** We rejoice that last year we had seven people witness to Christ in their lives through baptism.

**3** Last summer, we had about ninety children hear the gospel at camp. Praise God we were able to run it. Pray for the camp we want to host for young people at the start of this month.

#### Anita Dimitrievska, North Macedonia



**4** Pray that God would grant us wisdom and reveal effective ways we can reach people of all ages in Ohrid with the gospel. Pray for transformation in the lives of people across this city.

**5** Please pray that as we share food parcels, it brings physical sustenance and opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**6** Christmas Day is celebrated tomorrow in this country. Please pray that our Christmas event will attract new people who are seeking Christ and that they will encounter Him.

**7** Pray for our children's Christmas programme, that it would reach more young people and that through sharing gifts and Christ's love they would know who Jesus is.

#### Misa Hiorescu, Moldova



**8** Pray for our youth camp this month and for all the children we will give Christmas presents to.

**9** As part of our church's outreach, we hope to distribute food parcels, blankets and firewood to people in need. Please pray for the people we serve, that they would come to know Christ.

#### Ami Stavrou, Bulgaria



**10** Please ask God for health and strength for our family. Our first child, Theo has been recovering from surgery he had in November.

**11** Pray for our Bumps & Babies ministry to support mothers, help them with the development of their newborn babies and to witness to them. This ministry is very new but much needed.

**12** Please pray for more people to rise up in leading worship and help draw us into the presence of God.

**13** Ask God for wisdom and vision from Him as we prepare for Easter and our outreach events.

#### Emil & Vesna Puzderlievi, North Macedonia

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**14** Pray for blessings to come from the Christmas outreach events held last month and this month. We gave out gift bags with calendars and New Testaments, and sang carols.

**15** Pray for our children's outreach over Christmas where we distributed gifts and had an event for the young people. We have also started our new term of children's ministry.

**16** Next month, we will give out gifts to young people for Valentine's Day and we hope to host a special evening in church. Please pray for our young people and the church's ministry to them.

**17** It's International Women's Day on 8th March and we plan to give out roses to the local women and then host an event at church. Please pray for this outreach.

#### Evangelisimo en Acción, Spain

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**18** During the Christmas season, we shared the gospel and distributed devotional calendars throughout Málaga province. Please pray for us as we follow up with the contacts we made.

**19** Pray for our weekly outreach and personal conversations at three markets in three cities in Málaga, three days each week.

**20** Please pray for the discipleship of the new people who attend our worship services but struggle to be constant in their Bible study.

**21** We need more people to join the leadership team at our Pinos Reales Camp Centre in Madrid. Give thanks for Hageo and Eva, a young couple who have joined the team as coordinators.

**22** We are preparing for our youth camps at Pinos Reales in Madrid and Montejaque in Málaga. Pray for us as we get ready.

#### Fetija Halili, Albania

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**23** Keep praying for our church members, especially for those who have decided to leave Albania for a variety of reasons.

**24** Ask God to give us divine strength and wisdom to serve and glorify Him.

**25** We need a lot of support for our children and youth ministry. Please pray for God to provide everything we need.

#### Transform Europe Network, United Kingdom

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**26** Please pray for all our dedicated trustees and staff.

**27** Give thanks and pray for all our volunteers—our Country Champions who provide a practical link between partners and the staff team, those who speak at churches and events on TEN's behalf, our TEnteach teachers and Lorina, our Prayer Ambassador.

**28** Pray especially for the new TEnteach term in January. Give thanks for all our students and teachers. Pray for Nick Clarke as he leads our TEnteach team.

#### Dragan & Biljana Manev, North Macedonia

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**29** This month, we shared Christmas shoeboxes and the gospel in Resen and also at one of the villages in Albania near to the border. Pray that God would bless our work.

**30** We have nearly completed the renovation of our mission bus. We want the interior to have a library and coffee bar and plan to share the gospel, Christian literature and free hot drinks as we travel around Macedonia.

**31** At the start of next month, we will host our *Night to Shine* event to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people who have special needs. Pray for this event as we join with several churches in our region.

## February

**Jovica & Savka Bacvanski,**  
Serbia

**1** After twenty-four years of ministering in Podgorica, Montenegro, we returned to Novi Sad, Serbia and began Christ Gospel Church here. Please pray for us and those who will join us to pray and start church meetings.



**2** Pray that every person in Novi Sad who doesn't have a church family will find one in us. Pray for the hunger for God's Word and fresh experiences with Him, for an atmosphere of love, acceptance and forgiveness.

**3** We have found a good location for our church; it is in a former shopping centre. Pray for God to provide everything we need, especially for rent for the long-term.

**4** Please pray for the possibility of starting another church 20km from Novi Sad. We have met people there who are hungry for the Word of God and would like us to visit and pray with them.

**Robert & Krasi Salamanovi,**  
North Macedonia

**5** Pray for us as we reach out to different groups with the good news of Jesus. Pray for our outreach among Turkish Muslims, the miners at the Buchim mine and young people.



**6** We have been visiting the local prison and sharing the gospel with the inmates. Please pray for spiritual breakthrough in the lives of the inmates.

**7** Please pray that we will be able to purchase our church building instead of having to rent it.

**Gavril & Aghi Covaci,**  
Romania



**8** Pray for me (Gavril) and my family. I and several family members are suffering with illnesses and poor health.

**9** We continue to disciple our Roma brothers and sisters and value your prayers for them and our ministry.

**10** Pray for people who struggle with finances and hunger, especially during winter. Remember widows, the elderly who do not receive financial support, people with disabilities and women with children.

**11** A number of people are ill due to diabetes. Our eight-year-old grandson, Luca, has recently been diagnosed with the condition. Please remember these people in your prayers.

**Igor & Tatiana Ismailov,**  
Moldova



**12** Join us in prayer for our ministry in Larga. Remember especially our various groups—the guitar, sports and English groups. Ask God to provide for the construction of the church building.

**13** Tomorrow, we are having family activities for Valentine's Day. Ask God to open the hearts of the families we've invited as we share His love with them.

**14** Next month, we will have events to celebrate International Women's Day in both Badicu and Larga. We are praying for God's guidance as we organise the events to share the good news. Pray that every woman invited will come.

**Daniel & Irinka Stracinski,**  
Montenegro



**15** We are reaching out to those who struggle to afford heating and food, especially during winter. Pray for us and the people we serve as we distribute much-needed food.

**16** Thank you so much for praying for us and God's work in Montenegro. Pray for our family meetings and discipleship programmes at Mozaik Church.

**17** We are very thankful for the good prayer breakfasts for men and women that we started at church. Praise God for the attendance of non-believers and pray for them to accept Christ.

**18** Some of us pastors have started meeting regularly to pray and fast for revival in Montenegro. Our desire is to mobilise all believers in the country to be on fire for Christ and those who are lost.

**Vance & Tanja Golomeovi,**  
Serbia



**19** We want to renovate and develop our Prayer House and are seeking permissions and finances. Please pray that God will provide all we need.

**20** Pray for a youth worker for our church's ministry in Pozarevac.

**21** Pray that those who made a commitment to God through baptism but have since stopped coming to church will return so they can be fully involved in all God has called them to.

**22** Ask God to give me wisdom in my one-to-one ministry. I would love to see more people open their hearts to the good news of Jesus and receive Him into their lives.

**23** Pray for all those who struggle with addiction, that God would release them from their dependency on these things which are corrupting their lives. Pray that they will trust God.

**24** Pray for Adriana, our worship leader, for my daughter, Ana, as she learns to play the guitar and that God will bring more musicians to our church so we can glorify Him through music.

**Srdjan & Ruth Vorotovic,**  
Montenegro



**25** We thank and praise God for sparing the life of our brother Pedja. During an argument with his neighbour, Pedja was shot. Pedja is experienced at handling firearms and has acknowledged that he only survived because God performed a miracle.

**26** Pray for Pedja's complete physical and spiritual healing from God.

**27** Ask God to connect us with people of peace in our neighbourhood and in the city of Kotor, where we serve.

**28** Pray with us for our young people, that they would understand that being a Christian is not about going to clubs and camps but is about having a relationship with God.

**29** Pray that Dragan and Joško would put their trust in Christ. We met these men during our outreaches.

## March

**Katerina Koleva,**  
North Macedonia



**1** We are having our National Student Conference at the start of this month. Please pray for the conference as we share the Good News of Jesus.

**2** This month, I will be the main speaker at our mission week. I will give talks on New Age and Manifestation. Pray for me and everyone involved in this week as we share the truth from God.

**3** Pray for our new discipleship book launch and the launch of our student small groups.



## Ruslan & Larisa Telpiz, Moldova



**4** As part of our church's outreach, we have been giving out food parcels and firewood to people in need, thanks to funding from TEN. Pray that we may effectively serve those in need.

**5** Pray for the parents we share the gospel with at our Day Care Centre.

**6** Please ask God to provide a place for our football ministry.

**7** We value your prayers to find a suitable location for our church meetings in Tiganca.

**8** Today is International Women's Day. From the start of this month, we have been using this day as a focus to minister to the local women. Please pray for them to be blessed.

## Evangelical Church of Macedonia, North Macedonia



**9** International Women's Day is a great opportunity for the churches in Macedonia to host evangelistic events and for our sisters to share their testimonies. Please pray for all the outreach that took place yesterday and for women who don't know Christ to receive Him.

**10** Please pray for our Albanian churches. In January, we celebrated the 4th birthday of the first Albanian church we opened, located in Skopje. We also have a church in Struga. Almost all of Albanians in Macedonia are Muslim and the mission field is tough.

**11** This year, we will have parliamentary and presidential elections. Because our country is multicultural, culture and religion affect other things such as jobs, businesses and tenders. Pray for the elections and for the Church to remain a sign of hope in such difficult times.

## Dusan & Mira Beredi, Serbia



**12** Back in December, we had a youth conference. Young people from all over the region came to our church. Pray for spiritual breakthrough in the lives of many young people.

**13** Pray for our Alpha course. Last winter we had about twenty guests discover the truth of the gospel. Pray that they remain rooted in truth.

**14** We have twenty former heroin addicts living at our rehabilitation centre who are fighting for freedom from both addiction and debt. Pray for these men that God would give them the victory through Him.

**15** Pray for our Hand for a Friend homeless ministry. An average of forty homeless people come to our meetings and this presents various challenges. We want to be the voice of love for these people.

## Valeriu Munteanu, Moldova



**16** Pray for our ministry as we share the gospel in the local school. Pray for us and for the teachers and pupils as well as our children, that they will accept Christ as Saviour.

**17** Ask God to give out wisdom and vision in our ministry. We would love to see the church grow.

## Boris & Ursa Curcic, Montenegro



**18** I (Boris) became pastor of Christ Gospel Church in Podgorica last year so pray for me, Ursa and the church during this transition period.

**19** Pray for Montenegrins to know and accept Christ. We long for many people in Montenegro to become believers, for our church to grow and for people to become coworkers and servants for Christ.

**20** We need finances to renovate the church bathroom facilities. Please pray for God's provisions.

**21** Pray for our relationship with the government and Catholic and Orthodox churches. Things are slowly changing in this country. We pray that evangelical churches will be accepted here.

**Anatoli & Desi Yankovi,**  
Bulgaria



**22** We need more servant-hearted people in our church, especially men. Pray that believers will become more committed to God and His kingdom.

**23** Pray for more people in our city to receive the good news of Jesus Christ and join our church.

**24** Our loudspeakers are over twenty years old and we desperately need two new ones for our worship. Please pray for God's provision.

**Rock of Ages, Romania**

**25** Pray that God would keep this ministry going! Ask Him to open the doors for the gospel, for health and strength for our teams and to sustain the ministry financially.



**26** Pray for our postal Bible study course that we run in the prisons. We need more volunteers to grade the work and the finances to cover mailing costs.

**27** There are two prisons—one in Oradea and the other in Bistrita—that would like us to provide our programmes. Pray that God will provide the volunteers for these programmes.

**Albano & Genta Manxhari,**  
Albania



**28** Pray for us that we will faithfully serve God according to His will. Pray for our marriage and for family unity, so God can protect us as we serve Him fully.

**29** We need a church building so we can gather to praise God and have Bible studies. Pray that God will provide somewhere that is just right.

**30** Ask God to touch the hearts of those who meet with us but are not yet believers. Pray for those who do believe that they will walk closely with God.

**31** Pray for our outreach day, that it will be fruitful and glorious God.

## Intercessors

If prayer is your passion, would you like to join our small team of intercessors?

Around fifty people currently receive a fortnightly prayer email, so they can pray for immediate

prayer requests our partners send us. This way our partners know that any unexpected events which happen are covered in prayer. It is a huge encouragement to our partners and the TEN team to know that all we do is underpinned with your prayers.

If you would like to be a part of our intercessors team or would like to know more, please contact Melanie on [melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org](mailto:melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org).

Thank you so much!



# Lucy's Roundup

By Lucy Reid, Mission Engagement Worker at TEN

**Ready for some exciting news (drum roll)? We have now officially launched The TEN Podcast! Hooray!**

With The TEN Podcast, you can listen to encouraging God stories, discover what God is doing in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, as well as here in the UK, and get equipped for mission.

Get ready to unearth some kingdom treasures as we hear from guests such as Ian Watt of Burn 24/7 Europe about how to intercede for the nations, and Ben Knowlman on how to reach the younger generation. I have enjoyed recording these podcasts and have been blown away and encouraged by everyone who has come on the show so far! So, give it a listen!

You can find The TEN Podcast on Spotify at [open.spotify.com/show/6XWP5aMp4guhEIE2i0rVjn](https://open.spotify.com/show/6XWP5aMp4guhEIE2i0rVjn) or scan the QR code.



## **Christian Resources Exhibition and St Botolph's Church**

Last November, Melanie Griffiths (Supporters and Churches Officer) and I went to CRE Midlands. CRE (Christian Resources Exhibition) is geared specifically for resourcing churches in the UK. We spoke with people about this year's TENteam opportunities and our *For the Nations* study. We also had a 'name the sloth' poll—the winning name was Sid. I also got the privilege to visit St Botolph's Church in Barton Seagrave and share about God's heart for the nations with their youth group. We discussed what it means to 'go' in response to the Great Commission in Matthew 28.



## **Sponsor a Student**

Do you want to encourage indigenous discipleship and church planting? Do you know you can sponsor a student at Illyria Bible School and or Mathetis

**Bible School?** Sponsoring a student is great way to enable people, including the next generation of leaders to fulfil the Great Commission.

To find out more, contact TEN Partners Officer, Ken Millwood at [ken.millwood@ten-org.uk](mailto:ken.millwood@ten-org.uk)

# GIVE TO TRANSFORM EUROPE NETWORK

## 1. SINGLE DONATION

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

I enclose a cheque made payable to TEN ☐ | Please charge my: Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ CAF Charity Card ☐

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. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO:

☐ WinterHelp ☐ TEN's Strategic Fund\* ☐ Specific people or projects:\*\*

☐ I would like any tax reclaimed to go to the above people or projects.

(Leaving this blank will enable us to use your reclaimed tax for our Strategic Fund\*.)

## 4. *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.

\* The strategic fund forms part of our general funds and enables us to meet whatever need arises.

\*\* At least 85p in every £1 donated goes towards your chosen fund, with no more than 15p ensuring we continue to support that ministry, now and in the future.

Please complete and return this form to:  
**Transform Europe Network, 23 Apex Court,  
Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4JT**



# Country Focus: Albania

By Chris Hill, TEN Ambassador and Country Champion for Albania

**After one of the most authoritarian dictatorships of modern times, a period of instability, and more recent moves towards religious freedom and a western lifestyle, this beautiful country has seen significant growth in the number of churches.**

Many believers are from a Muslim background but some have faced a real cost in following Christ, as families and friends have rejected them. Despite this, recently converted believers are often enthusiastic to share their faith through mission and planting churches. Tirana's International School of Theology & Leadership (ISTL) has sought to offer training to such. Over ninety new churches have been planted. Whilst many Muslims are

nominal, there are pockets of radical Islam in various parts of the country.

The poverty of church members is a challenge for churches in Albania and this leads to difficulties in paying pastor salaries and covering running costs, including rent. The country suffers as a result of corruption and the current trend for many to leave their villages for Tirana or overseas to find work or study. This impacts churches as well as wider Albanian society. Pastors can feel isolated and may lack fellowship and support. Many churches, especially in Roma communities, find it hard to attract men.

Summer camps have provided a great way of attracting children and young people. There are frequent reports of significant numbers deciding to follow Christ. But the cost to these young people as their families find out about their faith can be tough.

## Please pray for:

The trend of Albanian emigration to slow and indeed reverse.

Church pastors to receive fellowship and support—a second pastors' refreshment conference is planned this March.

Fruitful outreach from existing churches and mission organisations (e.g. Mission Possible Albania and Adopt a Child) as well as new church plants that are being considered.



# Celebrating Fifteen Years of ISTL

By Eri Ndreca, Vice Principal of International School of Theology & Leadership, Tirana, Albania

**In the spirit of celebrating God's faithfulness, I am pleased to share a glimpse of the International School of Theology & Leadership's rich history and its dedication to equipping students for ministry.**

ISTL, now in its fifteenth school year, began in September 2008 with the initial vision of serving as a local church educational programme. Initially intended to equip its members for leadership and church planting, ISTL quickly gained momentum as pastors and missionaries recognised the need for broader ministry training.

The school's growth has transcended denominational and national boundaries, training students from over forty different denominations and independent churches, not only in Albania but also from

Kosovo, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Ireland, and beyond. ISTL has truly evolved into an international and interdenominational leadership Bible school, making a significant impact on the Balkans.

Currently boasting around a hundred active students in our bachelor programme, ISTL contributes to the development of over a hundred churches and numerous ministries planted and facilitated by its dedicated students and alumni. Despite the challenges of 2019, including earthquakes and a global pandemic, ISTL has shown resilience and adaptability by successfully transitioning to online learning, and expanding its reach to distant areas and countries.



*ISTL graduates and a study session*



*Hervin Fushekati accepts the ECTE certificate from Carmen Crouse*

In addition to our Bachelor of Theology programme, ISTL has expanded its offerings in collaboration with TCM International Institute, allowing students to pursue a master's degree. Looking ahead, ISTL remains committed to equipping, networking, resourcing, and enabling students for the challenges and opportunities of ministry, with a focus on church planting, strengthening existing churches, and pioneering in areas where the Gospel has yet to reach.

One of the highlights of our journey was receiving accreditation from the European Council for Theological Education (ECTE) this year. Carmen Crouse, the Director of Accreditation from ECTE, joined us during our celebration of this affirming milestone. This accreditation not only underscores the commitment to academic excellence at ISTL but also positions us as the first accredited school of theology in Albania.

Students at ISTL testify to the transformative impact of their education, expressing gratitude for the depth of biblical knowledge and critical thinking instilled during their studies. As one student eloquently stated, "ISTL has helped me a lot to grow more in the Word of God. I have gone deeper in the Word of God because of the studies here, and what I have done here will remain and will be given in the ministry."

ISTL began with the passion to fulfil the Great Commission of our Lord, by making and equipping disciples. We feel that this is the most effective strategy to impact lives, and through them, transform the society around us.

Throughout my thirty years of ministry, I have come to a clearer understanding of a threefold purpose of the gospel: the Great Priority, the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. The Great Priority is seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness. The Great Commandment is loving God and your neighbour and the Great Commission is making disciples.

Conversely, making disciples secures the next generation of leaders that will impact church life, encouraging the experience and expression of loving God and your neighbour. As a result, more of society will be transformed into an expression of God's Kingdom. His righteousness will cascade onto all aspects of life and draw us closer to His image.

Hervin Fushekati,  
Executive Director of ISTL



*Hervin teaching students*

# TENTeams 2024

Each year we ask our partners in Europe if they would like a team for a week to help them with their outreach. TENTeams are a brilliant way to inspire your church for mission overseas and at home. You can send a church team or alternatively, you can join a TENTeam as an individual. Interested? Here's what's coming up this year:

## Women's Trip: Albania, 2nd–9th May

This year our TENTeam will support partners in Albania. We will help women in village churches who are new Christians develop a daily practice of Bible reading and prayer. The trip is open to women of any age upwards of 18 years old, who can help disciple new Christians. The cost to join is £535 plus the cost of flights, and this includes full board and accommodation. You can join us as an individual or encourage a few people to come from your church.

## Camp Fokus: Croatia, July

Do you love having fun and working with children? Aged 18 or over? Want to step out in faith? Then join us during the first week in July to support our partners run Camp Fokus in Croatia. Details of dates, flights and costs are to be confirmed.

## Church Opportunities

Partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo would love a church team to help them this year. Projects could be teaching English, helping with children's camps, evangelism, being part of a women's team or student outreach.

If you and people in your church are interested in helping serve our partners, TEN can support you by:

- Linking you with a partner
- Helping you plan your trip
- Running trip training for your team

To find out more about TENTeams—as an individual or a church team—contact Melanie Griffiths and Lucy Reid at [tenteams@ten-uk.org](mailto:tenteams@ten-uk.org)



# Walk the Balkans: Rising to the Challenge

## **Gillian Daniel**, TEN Supporter

My husband loves doing sponsored activities and I've often wanted to try something. Walk the Balkans Challenge was my opportunity, something close to my heart and doable. I've supported TEN since leaving home, as my parents used to support them. My husband and I explored more than our usual paths and the mileage soon added up.

Our walks took us through parts of York, Skipton and Northumberland, finishing 300 miles in October in London while visiting family. Despite challenges such as bad weather, there were definite highlights: walking with Melanie Griffiths (TEN Supporters & Churches Officer) and her sister from Fenwick to Lindisfarne in July and one day when I covered 11.11 continuous miles through four parks in Romford. I have renewed my appetite for walking so much it was like an addiction at one point. Thank you TEN for the challenge.

## **Naomi Greenwood**, TEN Communications Officer

I'm not confident at organising fundraising events. But I can put one foot in front of the other and keep going for a bit. God uses what you can do for His glory. I've loved these walks. People have prayed for me, walked with me and made donations to grow God's kingdom in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The most exciting thing has been discovery—discovery of roads that go a little bit further than first realised, a footpath that I didn't know existed; best of all is walking with somebody and just learning more about them.

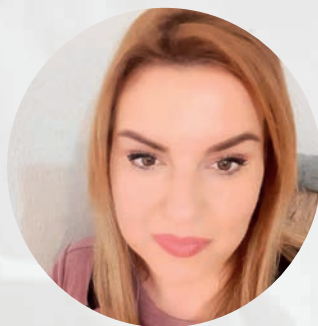
**Melanie Griffiths** completed her Walk the Balkans Challenge by walking St Cuthbert's Way and St Aldhelm's Way. "I experienced a great sense of achievement as I've always wanted to walk a national trail. Thanks to everyone who joined me." **Lorina O'Chieng**, our Prayer Ambassador, also completed her challenge—a valiant effort all round!

*Gillian Daniel on the Thames footpath outside Kew Gardens; Lorina O'Chieng; Naomi Greenwood with a walking team including Moira Ruff and Melanie Griffiths of TEN*



# New Life at Easter

By Anita Dimitrievska, Assistant Pastor of  
Ohrid Evangelical Church, North Macedonia



As we approach Easter, it is important to reflect on the message of Ephesians 2:10—that we are God's handiwork, created in Christ for good works. This verse reminds us that we have a purpose in our lives, that God has a plan for us, and that we are called to carry out good works for His glory.

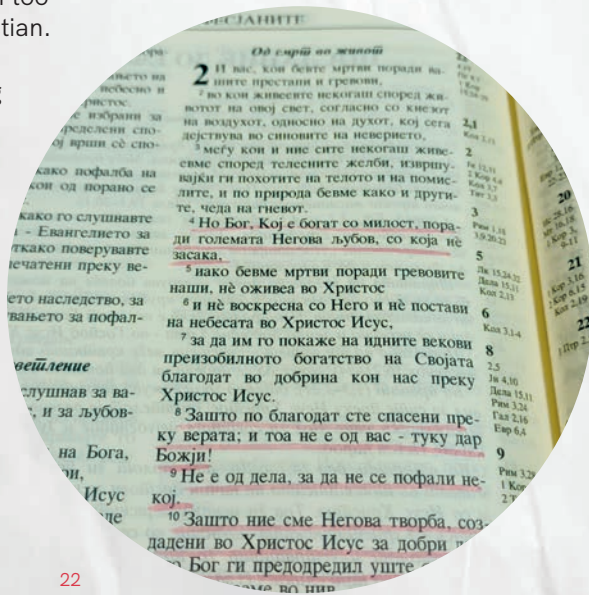
Easter holds a special meaning for me, as it was the day that I truly opened my heart to the message of Christ. Watching the film *Jesus of Nazareth*, I felt a stirring in my heart that led me to seek out the truth about Jesus and to make changes in my life. Through His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection, I was saved by His grace twenty-five years ago.

Since that day, Easter has remained a special day for me. It is a reminder that through Christ's resurrection, I too have been given new life as a Christian. I am called to live out my faith by following His example and carrying out good works for His glory.

May we all be reminded of the message of Ephesians. Through Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, we have been given new life in Him and we have been created in Christ for good works that glorify God. Let us use the time leading up to Easter as a time to reflect on our purpose, and to renew our commitment to carrying out good works for God's glory.

'Through Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, we have been given new life in Him'

And always for us at Ohrid Evangelical Church, we will have a special event this Easter to share the Good News that Jesus is risen! He is alive! I will also invite people to my home to have fellowship with them, rejoice and glorify God.



## Harvest in Romania

Thanks to your donations towards Harvest for the Hungry last year, we have been able to support Pastor Gavril Covaci's agricultural project in Gurbediu, Romania.

The grant bought the main crop seed, soil additives and local labour. As finances were received in good time, the harvest was more abundant than expected. Forty families in the village of Tarcea were given 95kg of potatoes and 25kg of onions for the winter. Andrew Saxton of Life to Romania reported earlier in the year, 'Gavril continues to see people accepting Christ and coming forward for baptism across churches in response to the gospel and underpinned by their personal experienced of answered prayers, including the relief of hunger.'

*A man carries a sack of potatoes in Tarcea*



## Christmas Shoeboxes Bring Joy

Each year, Keynsham Elim Church which is partnered with CASA Grace in Oradea, Romania, encourages local churches and organisations to support CASA Grace's Christmas shoebox appeal.

The appeal provides poor families, from the youngest to the oldest, shoeboxes full of gifts that may be the only presents they receive at Christmas. For the volunteering aspect of his Duke of Edinburgh award, Will Vaughton promoted, collected and delivered shoeboxes to Keynsham Elim Church. Thank you so much, Will. A dedicated team from Keynsham Elim visited Monika Mahr and her brilliant team at CASA Grace to distribute Christmas shoeboxes this December. Well done to everybody for the hope and joy you have brought!

*Will and Zac Vaughton at Keynsham Elim with shoeboxes*



## Have Your Say

Have you enjoyed what you've read in this edition of Connect? Or do you have a suggestion?

Would you like to hear more about a particular aspect of our work or

learn more about a particular country? What has inspired you? We would love to encourage you to write in or email us with your thoughts and suggestions. Send us your thoughts, either by letter or email Naomi at: [naomi.greenwood@ten-uk.org](mailto:naomi.greenwood@ten-uk.org)







To feel warm  
is wonderful, but  
there are those in  
Eastern Europe and the  
Balkans who don't have  
enough to heat their  
homes or buy clothes  
suitable for winter.  
**Will you help?**



**Donations to TEN's WinterHelp appeal** enable our partners to buy fuel, winter clothes and other provisions 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](http://www.winterhelp.org)** to find out more and 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)



Visit  
**[ten-uk.org/shop](http://ten-uk.org/shop)**  
to purchase an  
Essential Gift