

CONNECT



TRANSFORM
EUROPE
NETWORK

April - June 2024

Magazine



GOD ON
THE

Margins

Partnership in The Gospel
Ukraine: Two Years On
Hope in Serbia
Serving People on The Margins

God on The Margins

This edition of Connect focuses on how God uses us and our partners to reach out to those on the margins, bringing hope. In Genesis 16:13, Hagar says to the LORD, "You are the God who sees me." God does not change. He sees the forgotten, marginalised, and despised and He reaches out to them.

You will read about partners who work with people with disabilities, orphans, refugees, the homeless and people who have experienced desperate poverty. But you will also read about addicts—past and present. Perhaps you think these people have brought their situations on themselves, but we ask you to consider the abundant grace of God. One of our partners shares his testimony of how God freed him from addiction.



Work with Ukrainian ladies at Beginning of Life, Moldova

Now Bera leads a thriving church involved in social action. There but for the grace of God we all go.

For us as a staff team, one of the reasons we feel so privileged to work with our partners is that they minister to us every day through the testimony of their dedicated service. They bring hope to the lost, marginalised, unseen and forgotten, for their sake and for God's glory. Their ministries often cause us to ask how we are serving

God and those on our doorstep.

So, as you read this edition of Connect, perhaps you will consider what God is calling you and your church to. Who is God asking you to see? Who is God asking you to serve?

Erratum

Please accept our apologies stating an incorrect email address on page 15 of January 2024's edition of Connect,

which related to student sponsorship.

The correct email to contact TEN Partners Officer, Ken Millwood is: ken.millwood@ten-uk.org.

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Welcome



On my church weekend away I was leading a session with the young people on Nehemiah. He was busy serving the king of Babylon when his daily life was interrupted by a report from his brother.

The report told a sorry story of a downtrodden remnant in a downtrodden city, Jerusalem. The walls, which in those times represented a place of business and provided security were still in ruins. Those who lived there were forgotten by most, struggling to survive, threatened by local busybodies like Sanballat and Tobiah who wanted to keep the people in their low estate. They didn't reckon on God getting involved. God had not forgotten this marginalised group. He invited Nehemiah into his plans to raise up this downtrodden people; the walls were rebuilt and there was revival.

God still remembers the marginalised. He is doing it through TEN's partners as you'll read in this issue of Connect. Refugees being served in Moldova and Ukraine, those with disabilities being loved into God's kingdom, the Roma sometimes scraping a living on the edge of town, coming to faith in Christ.

You, like Nehemiah, are invited to be part of the plan to rebuild marginalised lives in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, through your prayer and giving. Our Spring Appeal this year will raise funds for those forgotten by most but not by God. If you can support this appeal please respond via the enclosed form or online at www.tenspringappeal.org.

Thank you for standing with those who are not forgotten by God.

James Vaughton, CEO, TEN

P.S. Please check out the difference your support is making by reading our latest **Impact Report**. It is enclosed with this edition of Connect.

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Bring hope to those on the margins

www.tenspringappeal.org

Working With Those on The Margins

Dragan Manev, Resen Evangelical Church, North Macedonia

One of the biggest influences that we as believers have in our town is our work with disabled people. If our Lord Jesus served those on the margins of his own culture, we should also serve in our place and culture. In February this year, for the first time in Resen we had the biggest event for local people with disabilities and the surrounding area. The event was called *Night to Shine*. There was so much excitement about it.

People were astonished that somebody remembered these people on the margins. Many non-Christian people

from Resen, including atheists and Muslims, want to help and support this ministry. One couple with disabilities said to us: "If only we knew you before to work with you". They see the grace and love that we have for them.

Tefik Musoski, Bitola Roma Evangelical Church, North Macedonia

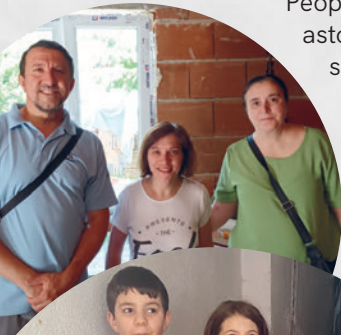
My wife, Anita and I have served among the Roma for more than twenty years and also more recently, we serve the deaf community. We are no strangers to life on the margins.

Many Roma can't access education, healthcare and other essential services due to not having legal documents. A lack of education hinders them from gaining stable employment to provide for themselves and their families.

Such issues are intensified for deaf people. There is little awareness and tolerance for disabled people.

Most schools do not have the resources to provide for deaf students and there are a limited number of special educational needs schools,

Top: Dragan and Biljana Manev with Gordana. Left: A family receive food in North Macedonia. Right: Night to Shine event in Resen.





especially in regional towns. Many among the deaf remain illiterate or have low literacy.

There are also barriers to spiritual life.

A deaf person struggles to participate in church as they can't understand the sermon unless someone signs for them. If they struggle to read, the Bible remains a mystery.

We serve the deaf community by building relationships with them and their families. We work to make an impact with families through literacy classes and sharing of the Scriptures. They need God's help to learn Macedonian sign language.

Please pray that our mighty God, who tore down the walls of Jericho, will also tear down these barriers so that many among the deaf can come to know Christ and live life to the full.

Dora Popa, Kingdom Kids (A CASA Grace programme), Oradea, Romania

For over 23 years, I have worked with orphans, children with disabilities and institutionalised children. Over those years, I witnessed how children in the orphanage, later in special homes, developed a survival instinct. Around other people, they cried, yelled, became aggressive and self-harmed. Even if they got basic needs, love was still missing. A child who is denied love, affection and sensory stimulation grows

Top: Tefik and Anita Musoski.

Right: Dora and a child at Kingdom Kids.

up to become an adult with emotional and mental health conditions.

Kingdom Kids works with orphans, abandoned children and poor families with children who have severe disabilities. These people have always been forgotten and marginalised by society, but they are not forgotten by God.

At Kingdom Kids, we are professional, but we are human first. We show love through therapeutic activities, to decrease the effects of institutionalisation and to improve quality of life and recovery. Working with the children involves care, patience, love, repeating the same thing many times and long hours, making a small amount of progress. In the long term, therapy is life-changing for these children. Many of them have become part of foster families, special kindergarten and school programmes.

Jesus said true faith is to visit the orphans and widows, the marginalised and the unloved, to love them practically. Love brings hope, so let's love those around us, seeing the beauty that God sees in all of us.



Bera's Story

By Dusan Beredi, Senior Pastor of Novi Sad Christian Fellowship, Serbia

I grew up in a family that didn't care about Christianity. My father, a disillusioned communist and staunch atheist, was an alcoholic during my early years. My mother had a strong aversion to Christianity because her grandmother imposed her faith on her. As a result, I believed Christianity was backward, outdated, and unnecessary.

But throughout my childhood, I experienced a significant sense of inadequacy. The constant feeling of not being worthy plagued me. Without encouragement, I began seeking validation through negative means, primarily through intense alcohol consumption.

Initially, it was fun, but later it became senseless. I drank to feel good, but I started losing all of that. I drank to escape depression but found myself sinking deeper. I wanted to quit drinking, but I couldn't.

One night when I was walking home drunk, I argued with God. I said,

"If you exist, show yourself, and I will believe in you."

Christmas was the following week. I called a friend to join him at the church service. As soon as I entered, something positive overwhelmed me—smiling people extended their hands, genuinely interested in me. I vividly remember Jan's smile when he introduced himself.

That night I went out with friends, determined not to drink anymore, declaring that I was now a believer. My determination lasted until they started drinking. They had a litre of some awful concoction, but I craved it. In despair, I started humming the words of church songs, uttered a few words from the "Our Father" prayer and "have mercy on me, O God." Instantly, I was free.

"If you exist, show yourself, and I will believe in you."

For seventeen years, I've had no inclination for anything alcoholic. I was healed in a place where I had been drunk hundreds of times. I discovered for myself that the story of Christ is true. God is alive!



Partnership in The Gospel

By Melanie Griffiths, Supporters & Churches Officer at TEN

What we really appreciate about all our supporters, volunteers, churches and partners is that we are in this together. It really is about partnership in the gospel.

Our church partnerships encourage both our partners and the church that supports them. Of our thirteen current church partnerships, most have faithfully supported their partner for seven years or more and developed a wonderful relationship.

One of our long-term supporters who has for many years wanted his church to support TEN, contacted us to say that the church he now attends want to focus on Europe and are considering a TEN partnership.



CASA Grace with people from Keynsham Elim Church

Could your church consider a partnership?

Some of our partners in Eastern Europe have recently seen their support from external sources, outside of TEN, come to an end. With the cost-of-living crisis impacting financial support here, **some UK partner churches would love other UK churches join with them to support a TEN partner.**

May I ask you to pray for God's timing and if your church could consider supporting TEN or a partner in the Balkans. For more information or to start the conversation, contact Melanie Griffiths at melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org. Thank you!

Is your church exploring new ways to get involved in world mission?

Listen to Episode 2 of Series 2, of the TEN Podcast: *How To Get Your Church Involved With Global Mission*, as Lucy Reid interviews Rachel Ross Russell from New Life Baptist Church, Northallerton. They discuss church partnerships and practical ways churches can get involved with world missions.



"I encourage a church to get involved with global missions. When you see God at work in the bigger picture it encourages your faith."

Rachel Ross Russell, New Life Baptist Church, Northallerton

The TEN Podcast is available on Spotify, Amazon Music and Audible.

Ukraine: Two Years On

Two years on since the escalation of the Russo-Ukraine war in 2022, TEN partners continue to serve those displaced and traumatised by war and TEN continues to support with funds where possible. With the war grinding on we want to share what our partners continue to do.

In Chisinau, Moldova, Beginning of Life has been committed in its mission to serve those affected by war-induced crises. Over the past two years, the therapy team, consisting of four professionals and five dedicated volunteers, has provided essential emotional and moral support to over 450 Ukrainian refugees, helping them settle into a new country and children into schools. Another part of the team delivered humanitarian aid and provided transportation, assisting over 4,500 Ukrainian refugees with the most basic needs.

Meanwhile in Sofia, Bulgaria, Didi Openova reports from Sofia Baptist Church, that Bulgarian lessons

continue. Classes run twice a week and start with a meal together. The classes are very practical and include themes from ordinary life to help refugees integrate into Bulgarian life.

In Svistov, Bulgaria, Anatoli Yankov tells us that over the last couple of years through God's amazing provision they bought groceries and covered rent for those who had escaped the war. Many of the refugees now have jobs or have moved on from Svistov.

In Romania, Pastor Beni Micle has built a link with pastors in southern Ukraine. A few months ago, he was at the refugee centre in the basement of a church bringing humanitarian aid and sharing the gospel with those staying there. Your support has meant they were able to buy four pigs and wood for the winter months.



Photos: Beginning of Life work with refugee children; a Ukrainian lady shows off her traditional garland at Beginning of Life; humanitarian aid sent from Romania to southern Ukraine.

TEN continues to support those affected by the crisis caused by the war. If you want to support our Crisis Fund you can send a gift with our giving slip or donate online at:

ten-uk.org/crisis-fund

Prayer Diary

Prayer requests from Eastern Europe and the Balkans

April – June 2024

ten-uk.org/daily-prayer

April

Danny & Vera Kuranji, Serbia



1 Pray for blessings to come from the talks we did in Montenegro. We shared about a number of subjects on the theme of personal evangelism.

2 We are grateful for the amazing opportunities we've had to visit, spend time and encourage those we led to the Lord many years ago. Those people are serving Him today!

3 Pray for wisdom and guidance for this stage of our lives as we desire to invest in people God brings our way, by counselling them through our experiences.

4 Our lives have been and continue to be about evangelism. Pray for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

Dusan & Mira Beredi, Serbia



5 Today and tomorrow, there is a big conference in Sarajevo about working with addicts. I, Bera, will lead one of the workshops so pray for me but pray particularly that the conference is a blessing that encourages and empowers those who attend.

6 Pray for the Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre, for the spiritual growth of the guys who are being treated and freedom from heroin.

7 Pray for the finances for the rehab centre. Our goal is to finance 85% of the costs ourselves. Ask God to give us wisdom, lead us in good stewardship and for the income of our removals business to sustain this ministry.

Valeriu Munteanu, Moldova



8 Please remember us as we try to be good witnesses to our communities and our families. We want to share our testimonies with those God has placed before us.

9 It is often difficult to preach the gospel in our Orthodox context. Please pray that God would enlighten and guide us in this matter.

10 Ask God to encourage and guide us by His Holy Spirit in our purpose, vision and action.

11 Pray for peace and sanctification.

Dario Kapin, Bosnia and Herzegovina



12 We need a very big breakthrough with our personal financial situation. Please remember our family as we try to steward our finances and ask God for provision.

13 Pray for our outreaches in Zenica and Derventa. We hope to start outreach in Sarajevo too, so pray that the Lord will make a way for effective outreach there.

14 Please ask God to bless our bee ministry. It provides income for the church, employment and allows us to share the gospel with other beekeepers.

Transform Europe Network, UK & Europe



15 Pray for safe travels for all the delegates and staff as they travel to Bulgaria for our TEN International Partner Conference this week.

16 The theme of our conference is 'Refresh', so pray for all the delegates to be refreshed during the event. Pray for all the speakers as God guides them in what they share.

17 Today, we will discuss how to raise up the next generation of leaders. Ask God to guide us in our conversations and that our time together will be constructive.

18 Today at the conference we will focus on refreshing our vision. Pray for us all to be led by the Holy Spirit

19 Pray for all the delegates to have time to reflect on what God has said to them at our International Partner Conference.

Ruslan Telpiz, Moldova



20 This month, we hope to run our Emanuel Christian mobile clinic in Tigancă, a village where we do outreach. The mobile unit will provide medical services to poor people. Pray with us that everything goes well, the people's needs are met and that there are no obstacles to carrying out this ministry. Pray that we will all experience blessings.

Dragan & Biljana Manev, North Macedonia



21 We praise God that He provided our minibus which we have furnished into a mobile library and coffee bar. It is a great tool for evangelism. We hope to tour across North Macedonia, sharing New Testaments, books and tracts. Please pray for our team and our work.

Fetija Halili, Albania



22 Pray for all the pastors in Albania to be reawakened in their relationships with each other and their service for God.

23 We want to see more people step forward for full-time service in God's work. Ask God to provide workers and for those people to faithfully respond to His call.

24 Please pray for young people who feel there is no future for them in Albania. Ask God to challenge them to stay, to be disciplined and to serve the Church in Albania.

25 Pray for our two churches – in Tirana and Bathore – to grow in faith and unity with each other.

26 Some of the people we serve are very sick or terminally ill. Please pray for them and our service to them.

Katerina Koleva, North Macedonia



27 We will perform an Easter play in public with a team of students. The goal is to share the real meaning of Easter with students and young people. Please pray God will bless our outreach.

28 We are having a two-day mission event. I will give two evangelistic talks on manifestation. Please pray that I can reach my audiences with the truth and hope of the gospel.

29 Student Evangelical Association of Macedonia (SEAM) staff and students will lead professional orientation for high school students. Pray that God would equip us to bless the students.

30 Please pray for our SEAM small groups.

May

Anita Dimitrievska, North Macedonia



1 Pray for divine guidance and wisdom; ask God to provide new ideas and strategies to effectively reach and engage more young people in our mission. Pray for salvation.

2 We seek God's blessing and guidance for our upcoming Easter event. Pray God will touch the hearts of newcomers and draw them closer to Him through the Easter message and our activities.

3 Pray for people in Ohrid to open their hearts to the Good News of Jesus Christ. We want them to be receptive to the message of love and salvation.

Emil & Vesna Puzdrelievi, North Macedonia



4 Tomorrow is Easter Day in North Macedonia. During Easter, we hope to share the gospel through public outreach in Struga, singing Easter songs and giving out gift bags containing New Testaments and tracts. Pray we can reach people with the Good News this Easter.

Dusan & Mira Beredi, Serbia



5 Today is Easter Sunday! Please pray for our activities - many are aimed at those we have built good relationships with. Ask God to lead many to salvation and to join in with the life of Novi Sad Christian Fellowship.

Evangelical Church of Macedonia, North Macedonia



6 Pray for our Easter evangelism events. It is such a wonderful opportunity to share the message of Jesus to everyone.

7 Throughout April, May and June we have welcomed short-term mission groups to support us in the mission field. Please pray for each team - the harvest is big!

8 Today we are having parliamentary and presidential elections. Pray with us that God chooses leaders who will honour God in their service.

9 We have a mission to plant a hundred churches in North Macedonia. Ask God to bless this work among Macedonians, Roma, Albanians and other communities here.

Vasile Grigorita, Moldova



10 Thank you for your support in prayer. We can feel their power and effects. May God bless you!

11 We hope that throughout May and particularly during Easter, we have opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with our community.

12 Pray with us as we prepare for children and youth camps in Brinza next month.

Evangelism in Action, Spain



13 We celebrate the faithfulness of the Lord for fifty years of Pinos Reales, our Christian Camp Centre in Madrid.

14 We are so grateful for new and young leaders who are developing new camps.

15 After a recent meeting with the mayor of Vélez-Málaga, we pray for protection for our March for Jesus event which will happen with the support of all the churches.

16 Despite living in a society that is so secular, we have found that evangelism through social outreach continues to be the most effective. Pray that we can continue to lead people to Christ.

17 Psalm 34 speaks of the LORD of salvation. We cry out to God for pioneer workers to sow the gospel in our multicultural and sinful Spain.

Jovica & Savka Bacvanski,
Serbia



18 We ask for more leaders for our church. Please pray for me to have wisdom to recognise the right people who will share the yoke of ministry with me and pray they will grow in the Lord.

19 Please pray for our prayer meetings. We want to encourage people to become prayer warriors who pray at home as well as in church and in small groups with each other. Pray our church family will intercede for the people of Novi Sad.

20 We ask for blessings for our women's meetings. May the Lord inspire all the women to pray for their husbands, children and neighbours and may they experience the Lord in a new way.

21 Pray for our young people. We hope to start a youth meeting soon. Young people need fellowship, and we want to meet their needs.

22 Pray with us for God's financial provision for our current meetings space. We are not yet able to cover the cost of the rent, but we really need to continue to use the space we are renting.

Ami Stavrou, Bulgaria



23 We thank God for a successful Easter season and the opportunities He gave us to serve one another!

24 We pray for the preparation of our 'Kid's Day' on 1st June, where we will host a Lego event at our Sunday School. This will be an opportunity to invite friends and classmates of the children who come to Sunday School, who do not normally come themselves.

25 We pray that our 'Bumps & Babies' group will thrive during the summer, and we will be able to support new mothers and babies. We currently have two expectant mothers within the church, and many with young children.

26 We are starting a very busy season where our worship and media teams will be spread between conferences, youth camps, regular services and more. Pray for God to grow our teams; we particularly need sound engineers and video editors.

Rock of Ages, Romania



27 Please pray for blessings to come from the special programmes we led during Easter, which in Romania is held on 5th May.

28 Please pray that as we work with the inmates, we will be able to provide the personal items they need.

29 Ask God to guide us as we develop programmes to share the gospel in the prisons we work in.

30 We need wisdom, finances, and strength. We will host at least five family reunions and we really want the families to hear about God and have a fruitful time together.

31 Pray for the volunteers in each team to be able to continue their work and experience God's blessings as they serve Him so faithfully.

Vjeko & Josipa Mrsic, Croatia



1 Pray for our Outback weekend camp which we are hosting this month for parents and children. Ask God to bless this time with us and these families.

2 Good News Church Split will enjoy a church day out at Camp Fokus, together with Living Hope Church, also from Split who have asked for local churches to have fellowship together. Please pray that God will advance His kingdom through us.

Srdjan & Ruth Vorotovic, Montenegro



3 We thank God that in partnership with Operation Christmas Child and supported by Podgorica Evangelical Church, we distributed Christmas shoeboxes in Tivat despite opposition. Pray for the children and their families who received gifts and heard the gospel.

4 We need a permanent space with God's Name on it to worship at and host other outreach events. Pray that God provides for us. It is so hard to find somewhere, and people are very sceptical of who we are.

5 Pray for Tanja and her family to look to the Lord as their shepherd and for Tanja's spiritual growth.

6 We thank God that three teenage sisters (Natalija, Anastasija and Stefanija) have started coming to our meetings again. Please pray for teenagers in Kotor, that the word that is sown in their lives transforms them to be obedient to God and live in truth.

7 Pray that the Lord will break every stronghold in the hearts and minds of the people of Kotor, so they can know the glory of Christ.

Vance & Tanja Golomeovi, Serbia



8 Pray that we will be granted permission to renovate the prayer house in Pozarevac.

9 Ask God to provide a youth leader for Pozarevac Evangelical Church.

10 Pray for our children's work. We would love to see women who have children bring them to church and not leave them at home.

11 Some people who were baptised have lost the desire to serve God. Please pray that God will cause them to remember their covenant with Him and return to church.

12 Please pray for the city of Pozarevac and for the surrounding cities where we have mission churches. Pray for the development of new leaders and student small groups.

Emanuel Hospice, Romania

13 Pray for our paediatric doctor, Dr Daniela Dic, to pass the exam to graduate in palliative care following a two-year course.

14 Pray for children with life-threatening diseases and for their families, who are cared for by the paediatric department. Pray that their pain and symptoms are alleviated and that they will feel a real sense of God's presence and love for them as they endure illness.

15 Pray for wisdom and guidance for Executive Director, Marinela Rotariu and her husband, Dan. Pray especially for the building of the new hospice centre to progress well.

16 Pray for emotional, spiritual, physical, material, and financial resources for all the hospice staff, to continue their mission of caring holistically and spiritually for terminally ill patients.

Youth First Concern,
Kosovo



17 Please pray for good things to come out of the media training we organised during April and May.

18 We are hosting our Superwoman camp this summer. Please ask God to bless our best efforts and those that come to the camp.

19 Pray for our youth camp to be such a blessing for everyone who comes to it. Ask that God will encourage the young people to accept the Good News and want to share it.

20 Ask that God provides for all our needs and equips all of us at Youth First Concern to be effective in our ministry.

21 We are preparing to start a new Superwoman club at a local church. Please pray for all our Superwoman clubs.

CASA Grace, Romania



22 During this month 14-15-year-olds will take their final exams. Pray for each young person to be encouraged to work hard and gain good results. Pray that we can helpfully guide them as they decide on the best schools to continue their education.

23 Pray for our team. We desire to show God's love to each child, young person, and parent we have been building relationships with, as they go through tough times. May each family be empowered by the practical love of God.

24 Ask God to help each woman who attends our tailoring course to learn all the techniques and tips. Pray that the skills the women learn will enable them to earn a living for themselves and their loved ones.

25 CASA Grace Camp will take place next month. Please pray with us for each young person to be able to attend the camp by God's grace and ask that their hearts are ready to receive the gift of salvation.

26 May we as a team find the best solutions for those God has brought us close to. Pray that each person draws closer to God.

Tomislav & Lidija Dobutovic,
Bosnia and Herzegovina



27 This summer, we are leading an intensive English course. Pray that this course will prove helpful and will be a blessing to the students.

28 Ask God to bless our church camp for families.

29 Pray for God's grace in Sarajevo. Pray particularly for the work of the new migrant centre.

Robert & Krasi Salamanov,
North Macedonia



30 Over the past three months, we have held evangelistic events in the library. Pray these events will lead people to Christ. At one event, two well-known football players joined us and one shared about how his faith in God has helped him to succeed as a sportsperson.

Do you enjoy what we share in Connect?



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

Wellsprings Hope

By Ken Millwood, Partners Officer at TEN

The cost-of-living crisis has hit everyone hard over the past few years. Even more so in Eastern Europe where there is minimal state support.

In autumn 2022 the TEN Trustees designated £24,000 for hardship grants to assist our partners through this critical period. Grants were sent to twenty-seven individuals and eight partner organisations.

We appreciate it is difficult for partners to carry out ministry when they are struggling to pay bills, afford fuel and support their own family. In spring 2023 we ran the Wellspring Appeal to raise additional funds so TEN could continue to sustain partners. We are extremely grateful to you for allowing us to continue responding to partner needs as we hear about them. In the past year, Wellspring grants have been sent directly to partners in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and elsewhere.

In Serbia...

"The hardship grant was for organisational support. The beginning of the year is always a difficult period... Your financial assistance helped us get through this period."

In Bulgaria...

"Increase in diesel, increase in car repairs, in the winter we have much more electricity and gas costs. Food prices rise every month, the prices of winter clothes and shoes for the family are higher than in summer."



Spring APPEAL

Jesus said that he came to proclaim good news to the poor, to free captives, to restore the sight of the blind, and to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18-19). Our Spring Appeal this year is to support marginalised people our partners work with.

You can help by sending a gift marked 'Spring Appeal' and completing the tear-out giving slip in this magazine or giving online at tenspringappeal.org. Your donation will help sustain people on the margins such as Roma, people with disabilities, refugees, addicts, vulnerable women, the homeless and those who have been or are part of the prison system.

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:

Spring Appeal** 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.

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Lucy's Roundup

By Lucy Reid, Mission Engagement Worker at TEN

Momentum is building in North Macedonia.

Recently, I met with TEN partners, Emil and Vesna Puzdrelievi over Zoom. Emil and Vesna lead an evangelical church in Struga, North Macedonia. They shared how spiritually, it feels like something is bubbling up in their town and about to spill over. They are anticipating a move of God. It is their heart's desire to see a breakthrough in their region and more people come to know Jesus.

In Acts 16:9, we read about Paul receiving what is referred to as 'the Macedonian call':

...And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

In my experience, it is not until I go to another nation, perhaps even one I am not really familiar with, that when I arrive, I find God bubble up in me a love for that nation I never realised I could have. Short-term trips such as our TENteams trips provide the opportunity to step out in faith and lay down those things in your life that are precious to you. They are also a means to receive in ways you could never have imagined.

This year we are planning a TENteam trip to Struga, during 17-24 September.

It is an opportunity for you to join us as we work practically with Emil and Vesna and get involved with what God is doing in North Macedonia. We would love for you to come and join us! If you are looking to step out in faith and get involved with things like street and relational evangelism as well as helping to lead and disciple with men's and women's bible studies then get in touch with us!


To find out more and apply, contact us at tenteams@ten-uk.org.



Vesna and Emil Puzdrelievi; Christmas outreach in Struga

Hope in Serbia

By Naomi Greenwood,
Communications &
Operations Officer at TEN

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey sweater, is smiling and holding a white cloth. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a room.

As Zoltan Vegel, who leads the International Protestant Church of Sombor with his wife Tanja drove us to Sombor, a small but beautiful city a few miles from the Croatian and Hungarian borders, he explained that in Serbia, you cannot just tell people about Jesus or invite them to a church event.



Serbia is overwhelmingly Orthodox which is inextricably linked to Serbian identity. To visit an evangelical church is often considered a serious betrayal. But, Zoli, explained, if you ask people who God is, many find it hard to say, some even claim he is a “kind of energy”.

Sharing the gospel needs a much more relational, time-consuming approach. The church uses ‘pre-evangelism’ to break through. For example, they might invite people to a photography event. At the end, the photographer might say that they love capturing God’s creation. It’s a seed sown.

Tanja teaches about prophetic ministry and encourages people to use the gifts God has given them. Zoli wants to see each church member become disciples who recognise the mission field on their doorstep.

In Novi Sad, I met up with my colleague Ken Millwood and Jovica and Savka Bacvanski, who planted Christ Gospel Church, Podgorica in Montenegro and after twenty-four years returned to their home city to start Christ Gospel

Church, Novi Sad. We visited the new church space. They were just over a week away from opening the doors for the first service, hoping people would come. A week later, Jovica sent us a message which read, ‘They just kept coming.’

The next day, Ken and I met with Nesa and Vesna Radeka, who both

lead different ministries. Nesa showed us around Nexusplay—Nexus Church’s soft play centre that TEN provided a loan and grant to get started. The income supports the ministry of the church and is paving the way for more sustainable ventures. Nesa showed us the booking sheets and they were full up.

Vesna was delightful and very patient. I asked her many questions about the ministry at A Place for Me which is a centre for women considering abortion, those who have undergone the procedure or women who have decided to keep their baby but need practical and emotional support.

Vesna and her team are skilled, dedicated and compassionate pro-life advocates, caring for their clients and the wider family, regardless of the decision made. Later, we visited the site of the new maternity home, which is still under construction, but will soon be a place of sanctuary for mothers with newborns.

We met Boris Pavlov, who became a Christian soon after Nesa gave him a food parcel funded by Harvest for the Hungry. Boris started two house groups and has continued discipling those communities, encouraging them to establish other house groups.

To visit an evangelical church is often considered a serious betrayal.



Left: Erika Sabljov distributes shoes at Hand For a Friend (Credit Rogić Vladimir). Left (inset): Zoltan and Tanja Vegeľ. Above: Jovica and Savka Bacvanski. Top-right: Nesa and Vesna Radeka with Ken Millwood and Boris Pavlov

Boris doesn't speak English so Nesa translated. He brimmed with excitement. When our meeting ended, Boris embraced me and said in perfect English, "My sister, my sister in Christ!"

When we visited Dusan Beredi at Novi Sad Christian Fellowship, the church was hosting its monthly *Hand For a Friend* project, which was started by two church members, Branko and Antonia who felt the church should do much more to support the homeless community. We met two ladies who embraced us and said, "Thank you so much! We couldn't do this without you!" I was so touched but I really felt that the support we show to our friends is because you have supported us, especially through projects like Harvest for the Hungry and WinterHelp. That day, the church gave out shoes that had been funded through WinterHelp. I looked at the bags of waterproof winter shoes. Each pair had a size and a person's name on them. This ministry is also supported by the local community. People were getting haircuts from a local lady. Church members were

sorting through bags of donated clothes and blankets. Branko was cooking a large pot of goulash.

At Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre, we met Danny and Vera Kuranji and had a meal together with the men there. We sat with Danny and Vera and about fifteen who were going through the programme and a few others. Each person shared their story. One man broke my heart: "I was the favourite. I grew up in a good home. I had everything and drugs took it all." Vera told us that sometimes men leave the centre during the night. But some make it through the course, and some find Christ.

Back in the 1990s, when everybody who could leave Serbia did, Danny and Vera returned from Canada, because of God's call to bring hope. Gary Cox, then Director of Eurovangelism (TEN), promised to help them. The rehab centre and Novi Sad Christian Fellowship are just part of that legacy. On the Sunday morning, as Ken and I talked with Danny and Vera in their home about their future plans, Vera exclaimed that Christian Fellowship started in the same living room we were sitting in.

On Sunday evening, we worshipped at Novi Sad Christian Fellowship, which was packed. I met Antonia. I saw the men from the rehabilitation centre sitting on the front row, members of the church I'd spoken to at *Hand For a Friend*, Jovica, Savka, Danny and Vera. I met Mira who is married to Bera. Reflecting back and experiencing the present, I am filled with hope. Even as Bera drove us to the airport the next day, Tomas, who is involved in church planting and training leaders was talking of future plans.

Naomi speaking with a homeless man at Hand For a Friend and a homeless man receives a shave and haircut. (Credit Rogić Vladimir).



Ordinary People

By Danny & Vera Kuranji, Serbia

On 15th December last year, I was sitting in the front row of Christian Fellowship in Novi Sad as we celebrated fifteen years of Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre. Tears streamed, not of sadness but the amazing awareness of what God has done over the years.

I was humbled as I looked behind me and memories of God's miracles, like electricity, flooded my heart. Where would all these people sitting around us be if our hearts were not broken for the needy, lost, misplaced, poor, sick, addicted and spiritually lost? Fifteen years ago, God stirred our hearts to step into the unknown and we witnessed many miracles.

Because of so many changed lives, our ministry spread to other cities, gave birth to other organisations that continued caring for the marginalised and all with the same message of hope—living hope in Christ who cares for orphans, the unborn, people suffering from depression, the misplaced, poor and terminally ill. We are still amazed and humbled by the fact that He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

The Lord is leading us into a new phase of service. We have enjoyed time with many leaders, pastors, pastor's wives and we have the desire to encourage and support in ways God is leading us to. We feel so privileged when we consider how God has used us already in the lives

of so many that serve in different fields and locations. The ripple effect of each life changed is unstoppable.

May our hearts never stop feeling broken by what breaks Christ's. We want to invest our time and resources in people. We know we will leap for joy when we witness God's salvation of many more.

Where would all these people sitting around us be if our hearts were not broken for the needy, lost, misplaced, poor, sick, addicted and spiritually lost?



Anyone Can Do Fundraising



Charlie Du Puy

I enjoy the mountains and taking part in Trek Musala, to summit the highest peak in the Balkans instantly appealed.

The mountains were stunning, and I'm thrilled to have used something I'm passionate about to fundraise for TEN. The most amazing part of the trip was trekking with TEN partners from Bulgaria, Serbia and North Macedonia. Their stories were inspiring and it was a privilege to pray with them at the summit.

David Pryke

Back in 2020, TEN encouraged supporters to fundraise for Harvest for the Hungry. I decided to do a 100-mile sponsored bike ride. Except my bike was broken and unfixable. At my local bike shop, I discovered all the news bikes had sold at the start of the pandemic. "Well," said the salesman, "there's one second-hand bike left." I tried it out and it was perfect, better than my old bike!

Over September I completed the 100 miles in good weather and my sponsors paid up. Maybe God is trying to tell me something.

Gillian Daniel

I love the idea of completing a challenge and raising money at the same time.

Walking is my kind of thing. Joining the Walk the Balkans challenge was fun. I enjoyed finding new paths locally and exploring places on holiday. I congratulate everyone who took part and encourage anyone thinking of fundraising to do a walking challenge, big or small.



Carol Partridge

Last year I organised three garage sales which raised a good amount of money. But it's not only about the money; it's the wonderful connections I make with friends and neighbours. Fundraising can be fun! People are very generous and the sales raise awareness of what TEN does. I encourage you to try it. Maybe start small with a coffee morning, at home or in your church.

Maybe it will bring people closer to God.



If you would like to fundraise for TEN, contact Melanie Griffiths.
melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org
Thank you!

International Partner Conference

We are getting ready for our 2024 International Partner Conference and have invited almost 120 delegates.

We are delighted that our hosts will be First Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, where we held our conference last time in 2017. The conference theme is *Refresh* and we are expecting partners from all ten countries in the Balkans and Eastern Europe to attend.

We will livestream the first session in the morning and the evening events from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th April. You can access these sessions via TEN's Facebook and YouTube channels (both @transformeuropenetwork). In our next edition of Connect Magazine, look out for our full story on our International Partner Conference. We are so excited and cannot wait for what God will do among us.



Thank You For Giving

A big thank you to everyone who has given through the magazine or however God has prompted you to support TEN's work financially, over the last year.

We are not always able to thank everyone individually for every donation, but please know that every gift is hugely appreciated. It makes such a difference to our partners in Eastern Europe and the Balkans to know that you are supporting them in prayer and giving.

We are especially grateful for your support in the face of the cost-of-

living crisis in the UK as well as in Europe. Some of our partners have seen their support from external sources outside of TEN come to an end. They are hugely appreciative when we are able to help them in hard times.

Your support and your prayers are really making a difference. Thank you so much! May God richly bless you.

Melanie Griffiths, Supporters & Churches Officer at TEN



THIS YEAR, WE WANT TO BRING
HOPE TO THOSE ON THE MARGINS.
YOU CAN HELP!

Spring APPEAL

Jesus said: **“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”**

Donations to our Spring Appeal will support partner ministries with those who are often forgotten or unseen. People with disabilities, Roma communities, refugees, the homeless, addicts and vulnerable women.

Even among great need,
we have great hope.



Find out more
and make a donation
at tenspringappeal.org