

# CONNECT



TRANSFORM  
EUROPE  
NETWORK

April - June 2026

*Magazine*

## HOPE SPRINGS

# *Eternal*

Hope Among Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Stepping Out Boldly in Serbia  
Spring Appeal: A New Chapter  
Little Acorns Grow in Montenegro

# Hope Springs Eternal

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

***“When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’”***  
**Luke 5:4**

*Hope Springs Eternal*, the theme of our issue, reminds us of a simple yet profound truth: hope is not merely a feeling that comes and goes, but a deliberate choice we make, even when circumstances are difficult. Especially then, perhaps.

In recent months, this truth has become deeply personal to me. With great anticipation and sincere desire, I sought to begin children’s classes—with a vision of sowing love, values and faith in the lives of the youngest among us. Yet the journey has not been an easy one. The response did not always meet expectations, nor were the results immediately evident. There were moments of disappointment, accompanied by a quiet, heartfelt question; ‘Is it worth trying again?’

Scripture reminds us that genuine faith does not retreat after the first setback. Peter had laboured throughout the night and caught nothing, yet at Christ’s command, he let down the nets once more. It was in that act of obedience that the miracle took place. With the same trust, I will once again ‘cast the nets’ next month—not because I am certain of the outcome, but because I believe that obedience and perseverance always bear fruit, even when that fruit is not immediately visible.

In this issue of *Connect Magazine*, you will encounter stories of perseverance, of hope born amid weariness and silence, and of

faith that calls us to take one more step forward.

We therefore invite you not to abandon the dreams God has placed upon your heart. Cast your nets once again. Dare to try anew. For whatever the circumstances, hope lives the longest.



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# Welcome



I have not long returned from time in Romania and Moldova. It was a fantastic trip. I had a great time with partners in southeast Romania and visited day care centres in southern Moldova. In Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, I spent time with the wonderfully creative Beginning of Life team. It was then on to Oradea for the final leg of the trip. Chris Beddoes, our Senior Finance and Operations Manager, joined me for precious time with Emanuel Hospice, CASA Grace and Emanuel University.

During the trip I met lots of committed leaders giving themselves sacrificially to God's call on their lives. I had the privilege of spending time with long-time pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church, Dr Paul Negrut, and new leader, Timi Cristian. As you will read on page 6, Timi is being trained for leadership at Rock of Ages prison ministry.

As a young pastor, Dr Paul Negrut was encouraged by Gary Cox, a previous CEO of TEN (Eurovangelism at that time), as well as many others. Support and encouragement given decades ago has seen the development and growth of new ministries and leaders which originated at Emanuel Baptist Church.

Isn't it amazing what happens when God brings the right people and His resources together? My hope is that in the decades ahead, leaders like Timi will be able to testify to God's faithfulness and that a trail of changed lives will testify to God's grace for years to come. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

James Vaughton, CEO, TEN

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# Hope in Hadžići

By Tomislav Dobutović, Pastor of Sarajevo Baptist Church, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Many refugees and migrants pass through Bosnia and Herzegovina on their way to western Europe, because across the border is Croatia, which is part of the EU and Schengen region. As much as they would like to arrive at their destination quickly, the reality is that many people stay here for weeks, months, even years.

Some people are believers; some of them have been persecuted. Others are looking for a better future, and on the journey, they find Christ. People arrive from many different countries such as Syria, Pakistan, Morocco and Cuba.

For over five years we dreamt of opening an outreach centre just a short distance from the refugee camps. Two years ago, the dream became reality. It would not have been possible without the partnerships and support of the coworkers God sent us. We have worked with organisations from the USA, the Netherlands and Germany. A Brazilian couple came and helped us and OM also got involved. All of them worship with us at the Kairos Centre, where our Baptist church is.



The Hope Centre is full of life. Refugees come to eat and drink together. We run ministries for men, women and children, such as sports, activities, crafts and art programmes. The highlight of the week is our Wednesday worship time in English, Farsi, Arabic, Spanish, French, Russian and other languages.

God has given us fruit. Some of the people have given their lives to Christ and been baptised. We even baptised persecuted believers who previously had to worship in hidden house churches in their home countries and were not able to be baptised there.

It is a huge blessing and there is so much joy in being a part of what God is doing and allowing us to do among the refugees and migrants who come to our Hope Centre.



Refugees enjoy coffee and fellowship after the service (top); The Hope team in Hadžići (left)

# Stepping Out Boldly to Share God's Love

By Faith Russell, Missionary in Serbia with Josiah Venture

About fifteen young people from Zimnica Winter Conference went onto the streets to show love to Novi Sad. They asked people "What is love?", "What's the greatest masterpiece?", and "What do you value?" They had conversations which sparked interest in God's love, His righteousness and how He has made people his masterpiece.

One group got to pray for some young people, and generally, people were open to talking about God. Sometimes it was challenging to move conversations from broad concepts like love or the divine to sharing the love of Christ. Many conversations were challenging to untangle; hurt was shrouded in philosophy. Many people wanted to share something that was important to them, but they weren't open to hearing our message. The young Christians were persistent in prayer, and they stepped out boldly in love for the strangers they met. Pray that God would use this faithfulness to transform the hearts of the people of Novi Sad.



Faith Russell shares the message in Novi Sad; Sharing the message of peace



David Velkovski; invitations and vouchers for the students

# Mission Day Brings Worth in Skopje

By David Velkovski of Student Evangelical Association of Macedonia, North Macedonia

Just before Christmas, Student Evangelical Association of Macedonia (SEAM) held a mission day at the University of Skopje and during lunchtime, one of our trustees gave a talk at a café at the Philosophy campus. Svetlana Jovana, who was once a SEAM student, then a staff worker and now a board member, spoke to the students about human worth.

In allowing us to hold our event there, the café provided us with meal vouchers which we gave out to 100 students. We are so grateful for what was an amazing opportunity to serve the students and reach many new people. Working with the café has opened the door to work with them in the future so that we can be more present at the campus. Please join us in prayer as we consider how to keep engaging the university with the gospel message.



# Spring Appeal: A New Chapter in Romania

By James Vaughton, Chief Executive Officer at TEN

Our partners have told us about the need to raise new leaders, so TEN has set out support their vision. Over the last few years, we have supported ten new leaders and the training of many potential new leaders, with your help.

We want to build on this, so we continue to fundraise through our Spring Appeal in order to make this possible. We are currently meeting potential new leaders. Our Spring Appeal has raised over £27,000 and we are asking you to help us hit our target of £60,000. Although some way off our goal, we know just how important raising new leaders is and so are persisting in pursuit of it. Here is Timi Cristian's story:

Timi's life has always been closely connected to **Rock of Ages Romania**. Born as the ministry launched, he witnessed his parents, Mircea and Ronela, dedicate themselves to bringing hope to people in prison. Their unwavering dedication planted seeds of compassion and service in his life.

A marketing and theology graduate, Timi wrestled with questions about his calling. After much prayer, Timi recognised that his struggles were preparing him to serve those often overlooked by society. Now Timi is preparing to step into full-time leadership at Rock of Ages, leaving a secure job at Amazon. With support from Mircea and Ronela, he

is already leading projects, expanding the ministry's digital presence, and engaging younger volunteers. This transition builds on thirty-one years of work, aiming to carry the ministry forward into a new season.

Amidst this change, Timi and his wife Sabina welcomed their first child, Levi, in February—a time of great excitement and transition. Please pray for Timi, Sabina, Levi, and Mircea and Ronela.

To support leaders like Timi, consider donating to our Spring Appeal at [tenspringappeal.org](https://tenspringappeal.org).

Thank you for reading this and for your help.



Timi Cristian; James Vaughton, Mircea and Ronela Cristian and Ken Millwood at the Supporter Conference

# Confidence and Care amid Concerns in Bulgaria

By Anatoli Yankov, Christ's Evangelical Church, Svištov, Bulgaria

**On New Year's Day, Bulgaria officially replaced the lev with the euro as its national currency, becoming the 21st member of the Eurozone.**

This marks a key stage in the country's economic integration into the European Union and is expected to bring more stable costs for businesses and easier financial transactions with European partners. However, public reactions have been mixed. There is some scepticism about the new currency, concerns about rising living costs and the loss of control over economic policies.

Last December, the government resigned following mass protests and widespread social dissatisfaction related to economic policies and attempts to pass a controversial state budget. Bulgaria continues to experience profound political instability. After a series of parliamentary crises and repeated failures to establish a lasting government, the country is preparing for new snap parliamentary elections, likely this spring. This will be the eighth parliamentary election in just a few years.

This economic and political uncertainty inevitably affects

the Church in Bulgaria, and here in Svištov. There is a sense of hesitation and anxiety, especially among older believers. The transition from the lev to the euro has placed many people in a difficult position—how to allocate limited financial resources, plan daily expenses, and approach giving to the church. For many, this is not merely a financial change but an emotional and psychological challenge, connected to fears of impoverishment, confusion about the value of money, and uncertainty about the future.

In such times, we are reminded that our trust is not in economic systems or currencies, but in the Lord, who remains the same 'yesterday, today, and forever.' The Church must walk alongside its people with patience, wisdom, and a pastoral heart, helping each person find peace, stability, and confidence in God's care, regardless of the instability in Bulgaria.

*Desi and Anatoli Yankovi;  
Bulgarian and European Union Flags*



# Breaking Tough Ground in Albania

Ardit and Ranja Alisufi, who are graduates of the International School of Theology & Leadership in Tirana, planted a church in Përrenjas. Ilir and Donika Qelemeni, who are due to graduate soon, planted a church in Cërrik. Our partner, Erion Çuni, commissioned both couples to plant the churches and oversees both plants. Here, Ardit and Ilir share about the spiritual climate where they are.

## Ardit Alisufi

Përrenjas was established in the early sixties, with people arriving from the surrounding villages. When communism ended and the country became open and free to worship, people chose Islam, because many Middle Eastern missionaries came and invested in buildings, businesses and also colleges for Islamic instruction.

We have tried to do a lot of public and social events to make ourselves known to the people. What has been a blessing is that we have a few men who come to church and we hope and pray they will grow to be a testimony for the city. Our heart is to reach the youth as we see signs of radicalisation. There is still time and we hope and pray God will use this church to change our community.

*Ardit delivers Christmas shoeboxes with young people; Ardit leads a church service*

## Ilir Qelemeni

Our work is hard. Muslims here are very different from other Muslims in Albania, as their faith doesn't come from the county's Islamic traditions. They are the converts of Middle Eastern missionaries, as our town was built during communism and had no previous Islamic legacy.

The people are strongly indoctrinated and also financially connected to the Islamic community. Our hopes and efforts go towards the work with young people as they are more open to the gospel. We teach them through Sunday School, children's camps, sports activities and social care. We know our journey is long, so we need your prayers and support to reach this generation for Christ.

*Ilir with a church group at the church in Cërrik; a children's Christmas party in Cërrik*



# Prayer Diary

## Prayer requests from Eastern Europe and the Balkans

April – June 2026

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

### April

#### Beginning of Life, Moldova



**1** Praise God for Urban Teens—we currently serve 140 teenagers. Each Sunday we run our age-based clubs and every Tuesday we hold afterschool, holistic development courses. We are grateful for growth, committed leaders and strong relationships among the teenagers.

**2** Please pray for our Easter programme, that the teenagers will hear the truth of the gospel, open their hearts and encounter Christ personally.

**3** We thank God for His provision, protection, and for the opportunity to walk alongside teenagers during such an important season of their lives.

**4** We are currently planning our graduation celebrations. The younger children will move up to the older teaching groups, and the older teenagers will begin serving the younger ones as volunteers. Please pray for wisdom and servant hearts as they step into their new roles.

**5** Throughout June, we will have day programmes for the different age groups. Please pray for safety, meaningful engagement, and that these programmes will encourage growth and belonging, and will be a positive influence.

#### Student Evangelical Association of Macedonia, North Macedonia



**6** SEAM students have organised our Easter music concert, which includes a short evangelistic talk. Pray for God to bless this time of witness and praise, and ask that people receive Christ.

**7** We are thankful for the opportunity to do Christmas outreach last December. We made contact with new students. Ask God to bring new students to our meetings, especially those who are seeking and in need of Him.

**8** We give thanks for new student volunteers this semester. One of them is Sanja, who is studying music and has a heart for God and the gospel.

**9** In June, we will have a group of students join us from the USA. We are organising a football tournament for students based at the University of Skopje. Please pray for everything that we are planning to do together.

**10** Pray for Katerina Koleva, our General Secretary, who has had it on her heart for some time to reach out to international students and form a group. Ask that God will connect us with international students, that we can make them feel at home and that we can reach them with the gospel.

**Ruslan & Larisa**  
Telpiz, Moldova

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**11** Please pray for transformed hearts in response to our Easter outreach event.

**12** We are so grateful for the seven people who got baptised last year. Praise God!

**13** We have had extremely cold weather in Moldova this winter, so thank God for providing the coal we needed to heat the church building.

**14** On 15th May, we will celebrate National Family Day, so we are planning a meeting with families from the local community. Pray that God would bring people from the community so they can learn more about Him.

**15** On 1st June, we are celebrating Children's Day. Most of the local children will come to this celebration. Pray for us as we prepare and that we would host them well.

**Dragan and Biljana Manevi,**  
North Macedonia

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**16** We are currently distributing Christian tracts in the west of the country, where the majority of people are Albanian. We will be sharing the Good News there until Monday. Pray for our outreach as we cover many villages.

**17** Pray for our Bible bike ministry throughout spring.

**18** Following our *Night to Shine* event in February, we plan to visit people with disabilities and their families so we can continue to share God's love with them. Please pray for our follow up to bring God's hope.

**19** We have been supporting a young Roma couple who might potentially lead a new house church in Kičevo. Kičevo currently has no evangelical church. Ask God to guide us.

**20** Please pray for the sports camp for young people in our region which we will run for a few days in late June.

**Slavko Hadžić,** Bosnia  
and Herzegovina

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**21** This month, we facilitated training for evangelism and had evangelistic events in Skopje, North Macedonia. Pray that God would bring about much fruit from our work.

**22** Next month, we will lead training in Sarajevo, on reaching people of different faiths. Ask God to help us as we prepare and for people to be well equipped for outreach.

**23** Pray for the regional men's conference, *My Brother's Keeper*, which will be held in Croatia at the start of June.

**Robert & Krasi Salamanovi,**  
North Macedonia

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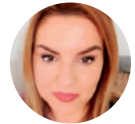
**24** This month, we are hosting a team from Sweden. While they are here, we will carry out street evangelism together. We will also organise Swedish evenings and have fellowship at our church. Pray for us to bring blessings to each other and the people of Radoviš.

**25** Pray for the residents of a nursing home that we will visit to run a Bible programme.

**26** Ask God to transform the hearts of the hearts of the local miners who have heard the gospel so that they are rooted in Him.

**Anita Dimitrievska,**  
North Macedonia

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**27** Following on from the distribution of Christmas shoeboxes, we invited the children to a creative workshop, but only a few came. As we continue with our invitations, pray that the numbers will grow. I patiently await the day when many young hearts will love God.

**28** Pray with us for the women who come to our women's meetings. We meet once a month. May God bless them, help them grow spiritually so they can become strong and help to advance His kingdom.

**29** Even though Ohrid is a hard place with a proud Orthodox heritage, we believe there are those who are sincerely seeking the Lord. Let us pray that God will work in the hearts of people He is calling and fill them with a living faith, love and a desire to bring in the harvest.

**30** Let's continue to pray for the people who attend our art evenings, that the seed planted in their hearts would bear fruit and that they would receive salvation. In June, we will have another exhibition of their artwork. May God continue to lead and bless them.

## May

### Fetiji Halili, Albania



**1** Please pray for all those who are serving in our churches in Tirana, Bathore and in our Roma community. Ask God to strengthen them, give them wisdom and pray that He will bring more people to volunteer and support our ministries.

**2** Pray for the children and teenagers who come to our churches, that they would grow in faith and take their place as the future of our ministries.

**3** Ask God to give us more new believers who accept Christ and are ready to be His disciples.

**4** Please pray for those in our churches who are sick. We long to see them healed.

**5** Ask God to provide for us financially so that we can cover our rent in Tirana, Bathore and our new Roma ministry.

### Evangelism in Action, Spain



**6** Praise God for the Christian couple from Nicaragua who are serving in the kitchen and helping us with maintenance at Pinos Reales Camp Centre.

**7** We urgently need a full-time director for our Pinos Reales retreat and camp centre. Please pray that God will provide a person who will lead us well and faithfully.

**8** Pray for the training of a group of volunteers who will serve the Lord in their local churches and at Pinos Reales.

### Arben Bedulla, Albania



**9** We thank God that He made it possible to have a church located in Zvezdë, a majority Muslim village. Pray for God's word to be preached faithfully there.

**10** Ask God to break down barriers and bring more men to the church in Zvezdë. Currently, we only have women in ministry there, and because of the Muslim culture, the local men find it difficult to come to church and listen to the women.

**11** Pray for leaders for our children's ministry and pray for our teenagers' meetings. We want to see our young people develop a heart for Jesus as they come to church.

**12** Pray for God to sustain the church in Korçë financially. Many people are unemployed and struggle to support the work of the church. Ask God to provide them with employment to support themselves and the church.

### Srdjan & Ruth Vrotović, Montenegro



**13** Our landlady has recently provided us with a new contract to stay in the apartment. Give thanks to the Lord for His mercy, that He touched the hearts of our landlady and her son, so we can continue to serve Him in this place.

**14** Give thanks that early this year, we distributed Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes to children in Kotor, Tivat and Herceg Novi. The children were open and were actively engaged with the story of the Saviour's birth and the greatest gift God has given us.

**15** Pray for our discipleship programme, *The Incredible Journey*, which follows on from the distribution of Christmas shoeboxes. We want to see the children get to know Jesus as their Saviour and follow Him daily.

**16** Please ask God to provide all the financial resources needed so that children from Kotor can attend camp next month.

**17** Pray for the spiritual growth of the people in our Kotor home group, and that God provides a good space for them to meet as a church.

**Vance & Tanja Golomeovi,**  
Serbia



**18** Following our Christmas evangelistic outreach, it would be wonderful to see more children being brought to church and more regularly. Ask God to provide a youth worker to encourage our ministry with young people.

**19** Please pray that God would reignite a passion to be discipled in the hearts of brothers and sisters who received baptism but now stay at home to watch the services online, instead of being present at church.

**20** Ask God to provide all the finances, permits and workers we need to complete our building development project at the church in Požarevac. Our prayer house is a key part of this construction.

**21** Please remember our family in your prayers, especially our children, Ana, Stefan and Andrej.

**Ico & Jagoda Matulić,** Croatia



**22** We plan to reach new people in Korčula through street evangelism this month and next. Please ask God to open hearts so we can have fruitful, transformational conversations with people.

**23** Pray for us to raise the funds needed so we can either purchase or construct a suitable building for the Evangelical Church of Korčula. Ask God to provide partners in this particular goal.

**24** We continue to host our *Living Free* seminar at our coffee house, and we are expanding the network of support groups in Split. Please pray for us as we seek to reach people with life-controlling problems and addictions.

**25** We want to open branches of Teen Challenge Croatia in other parts of the country. Currently, we are exploring opportunities in Karlovac and Osijek. Pray that God will guide us to the right places and opportunities.

**26** Please pray for us as we organise our annual conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Every year, about two hundred former addicts from across the Balkans come together. We need the speakers, funds and guidance from God.

**Dušan & Mirjana Beredi,**  
Serbia



**27** Spring is a season when temptations are strongest for people struggling with addiction. Pray that God will protect those at our Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre from temptation and strengthen them to persevere on their journey towards freedom.

**28** We will launch a new business producing garden planters, and spring is when we expect the most growth. Our rehabilitation programme is free of charge, so we need to pay our costs through enterprise. Please pray that we become fully self-sustainable.

**29** This weekend, the Protestant Christian Fellowship will hold its general assembly. We are a young movement; this is our third year. Pray for God's blessing over our time together with churches from Novi Sad, Sombor, Kragujevac, Temerin, Čačak, and other cities.

**30** Please pray for the homeless people we serve through *Hand for a Friend*. Many of them are able to find seasonal work in construction or agriculture during the spring. Pray that God protects our friends from exploitation by those who offer them work.

**31** Next month, we will host a family camp. This will be a valuable opportunity for church members to grow closer to one another and to strengthen relationships within their families. Please pray for God's blessing on this time together.

## June

### Robert & Krasi Salamanovi, North Macedonia



**1** Please pray for our prison ministry and that we can distribute more Bibles to people in the prisons.

**2** Ask God to transform the hearts of the miners who have heard the gospel. We long to see them rooted in Him.

**3** Pray for God to protect and guide us, and our son, David.

### Ami Oprenova-Stavrou, Bulgaria



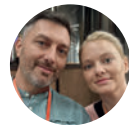
**4** We give thanks and glory to God for our Teens Club, which is our newest ministry. Currently, twenty-five teenagers attend monthly and share food, play games and most importantly, study the gospel.

**5** We pray for the right vision for how we should run our handbells choirs. We have musicians of different ages and abilities, so we need wisdom.

**6** We are so grateful for the new volunteers for our Worship and Sounds teams. Pray with us for the next stage of training and spiritual growth. We also rejoice with some of the people in our Worship team who have celebrated the births of their babies.

**7** Our Media & Design team is extremely small right now, but we need people to help with our designs and information slides. The need to promote events and media outreach grows each month. Please pray with us for committed and passionate volunteers for this team.

### Boris & Urša Curčić, Montenegro



**8** We would love to see many more chairs in our church filled with people, especially Montenegrins, who are hungry and thirsty for the word of God.

**9** Please pray for our brother, Moses, who is a refugee from Cameroon. His recent application to remain in the country was denied, so we are appealing the decision. Moses has served in our church for a year now and has been a great blessing to us.

**10** Pray for unity and fellowship among the different Christian denominations in Montenegro.

**11** Praise God that we were able to carry out plumbing works to rectify an issue with our water supply.

**12** Give thanks to God for a couple who are currently helping us at church. They are full-hearted Christians.

### Ivan Petrov, North Macedonia



**13** Please pray for a team of young Germans who will join us in Štip for one week to share the gospel.

**14** Praise God that we were able to distribute 120 Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes to children last Christmas.

**15** Pray for the Carry the Love branch of YWAM, who will come to lead a worship event.

**16** Praise God for the food packages we were able to distribute to families in need.

**17** We are expecting guest speakers from the USA and Slovakia to join us. Pray for their travel, ministry and impact.

**Dario Kapin,**  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**18** Ask God to bless our outreaches this year.

**19** Please pray for our new bee season, and for our building development of the land where we have our apiary.

**20** Ask that God would provide for our personal finances.

**Valeriu & Angela Munteanu,**  
Moldova



**21** May the Lord be praised because the people in our village are more open to listen to Christmas carols about Jesus Christ's birth. It wasn't like this before.

**22** Pray that those who open their doors will listen to the gospel and want to have a Bible.

**23** Please ask God to provide us with a leader for our children and teenagers' ministries.

## The Hope of Prayer

In March, James Vaughton and Chris Beddoes went out to visit partners in Moldova and Romania. Prayer was a key part of their trip:



"The importance of prayer was brought home to me as I had the privilege of praying with a patient of Emanuel Hospice and two families supported by CASA Grace. God hears and He is a faithful God." Chris Beddoes

"I was reminded of the power of prayer. For years, Gotești Baptist Church in Moldova had few young adults. Many leave for economic reasons. Pastor Ruslan Telpiz has prayed for years that this might change. Encouragingly, there is now a committed group of young men serving God in the church alongside Ruslan. Praise God!" James Vaughton

**24** Please pray for a space where we can hold our meetings for young people.

**25** We are planning to have summer camps, God willing. Please pray for us as we make plans and try to organise things.

**Youth For Christ Kosova,**  
Kosovo



**26** Pray for the young people we serve, that they would come to know Jesus as Lord and receive Him into their hearts.

**27** Pray for Alban and Albana Krasniqi, as they lead YFCK, that they will have discernment and that God will protect them.

**28** Ask God to provide protection, endurance and unity for our team and volunteers, and all our families.

**29** Pray that God will provide us with continued finances to fully sustain and grow this ministry.

**30** Please pray for Youth For Christ Kosova for the year ahead. Ask God to increase the number of youth and Superwoman clubs.

# A Hope of Much Fruit

By Allan Spencer, Chair of TEN Trustees

Fruit is important. It not only gives pleasure but also provides nutrition. And fruit is important to God. We read in John 15, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last...."*

Although being fruitful could be something grand like planting a church or leading a hundred souls to Christ, this isn't what most of us are good at. No, being fruitful to God is simply being readily available and obedient to His voice. That's exactly what our partners do so well! Be assured that

**God will only ever task anyone to do what He knows they are capable of. God knows best!**

Three years ago, Lorenz Jorgensen stepped up to become our Chair of Trustees. Lorenz has led TEN through some

wonderfully productive, touching but also challenging times—a bit like life really! His leadership, vision, hope and heart to serve has been of the highest calibre. For us, it was a real honour and an immense assurance to have him at the helm. And although Lorenz probably didn't expect it

when he took on this role, he bore fruit abundantly! Now, as Lorenz steps down from the Board it is with sadness but deep gratitude that we wish him God's rich blessing in the next fruitful chapter of his life.

As we continue with our mandate to serve and support our Partners, could you also be fruitful and serve God as a member of our Board? Not sure? A bit hesitant maybe? Even if you've never done anything like this before we can and will support you. As the new Chair, I'd be delighted to hear from you. Go on, why not be fruitful. Take a first bite!



# 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.

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

# Thank You for Giving

By Ken Millwood, Partners Manager & Lucy Reid, Mission Engagement Officer at TEN

From all of us at TEN, we want to thank you for your generosity. Your support over this last financial year has made a real impact and here are some incredible stories to show it.

Because of you we have been able to help partners in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia with funding towards replacement cars, an essential ministry tool in the Balkans. You have also helped children and teenagers attend summer camps in Bulgaria and Montenegro.

Ruth Vorotović in Montenegro reported, 'After one of our activities at camp, I placed a flower on a tree. One of the girls was watching. Then I told her, "See, a beautiful flower growing from the tree." She told me it reminded her of what her father had told her about grafting. I took the opportunity to explain to her how we Gentile believers have been grafted into God's family.'

Furthermore, WellSpring grants were used to help a partner with increased rent costs after needing to

move to a new apartment, and two partners with essential home repairs.

Jovica and Savka Bačvanski moved back to their home city of Novi Sad, Serbia two years ago to plant a church. Their house was not habitable, so they ended up paying rent to stay somewhere else. Can you imagine not being able to live in your own home because it is not waterproof? Your support helped fund essential roof repairs, so they now live in their own safe, dry and warm home.

On behalf of our partners thank you for all your faithful financial support during the past year. **These are just some examples of the transformation your gifts have brought.** We are incredibly thankful and believe there is still more fruit to come from your kindness.



*A flower placed on a tree; a car for ministry; Jovica and Savka's roof before and after repairs*

# Hope Springs Eternal at Nexus Church

By Nenad Radeka, Nexus Church, Novi Sad, Serbia

Hope often grows quietly, through faithful presence, consistent service, and meaningful relationships. At Nexus Church, this has become increasingly visible through the ministry of Nexusplay and Nexus Café.

Nexusplay—our soft play centre—is a safe, joyful, and welcoming space for families with young children. What began as a practical response to a real community need has grown into a place of trust and belonging. Parents return week after week, children form friendships, and adults find space to breathe, talk, and be heard. Many of these families would never normally attend a church service. Over time, natural and honest conversations about life and faith have emerged.

In 2024, Nexus Café was opened as a natural extension of this relational approach. The café has quickly become a community hub where people slow down, connect, and feel seen. We are deeply thankful to God for the many new relationships formed there, with young couples, students and parents already connected through Nexusplay. Faith is not pushed but it is present. People often

encounter the heart of the gospel long before they hear its words.

Nexusplay and Nexus Café play an important role in sustaining Nexus Church financially, but even more significantly, they have become living expressions of the church throughout the week.

Last month, we hosted the first gathering of a series called *Business, Work, Faith*, to bring together people connected through Nexus Café and Nexusplay. The central theme of these evenings is relationships—with God and with others—explored through the lenses of business, work, and faith.

As we look ahead, we give thanks to God for open doors, softened hearts, and the steady growth of hope in Novi Sad. We are learning that when the church chooses to love patiently, serve faithfully, and walk alongside people where they are, hope truly does spring eternal.



# Little Acorns Grow in Mojdež



By Srdjan Vorotović, Word of God Evangelical Church, Kotor, Montenegro

It was Brother Ljubo who introduced us to the Roma community in Mojdež, in the neighbouring municipality of Herceg Novi. Ljubo is from a Roma background, born in Serbia. He has been a born-again believer for over 25 years. Ljubo has a souvenir shop in Herceg Novi's old town, and that is how he got to know the people of Mojdež.

Our service began at the beginning of last year when we had the Christmas shoebox programme. Several months ago, the main contact person in the community told Ljubo that we were welcome to have Bible lessons with the children, so our service continued.

This year, we had our shoebox program again. Though the turnout was a bit discouraging, God encouraged us when the lesson started. The atmosphere immediately changed and it was as if there were fifty children. The children who attended could still remember the lessons from the previous shoebox distribution, and from the Bible lessons that we had with them. God reminded and encouraged us that His work among these children was not being done in vain.

We are quite limited in our work with these children, because we hold the clubs outdoors, depending on the weather. Also, there are no chairs

or tables where the children can have some games or crafts. They have to stand. The table that we once used had been broken by our next visit. Please pray with us for our ministry among the six families that make up this community; that the children will continue to learn, and for the adults to have a desire to hear more about Jesus Christ.



*Srdjan and Ruth Vorotović; The children play a game; Srdjan tells the children a story*

# More Church Partnerships

By Lucy Reid, Mission Engagement Officer at TEN

**I am reminded of Psalm 68:6: God sets the lonely in families. I have seen how God has fulfilled this in my own life and it is what partnership and what being the body of Christ is all about.**

There was one conversation I remember having with one of our partners about hosting teams and how it encouraged them because it meant they had fellowship with like-minded believers. In the Balkans, a lot of partners are in the minority in their own community, and the gift of friendship is really powerful.

In our January *Connect Magazine*, we introduced three of our partners who are in need of partnership and here are another two:



**Ami Oprenova-  
Stavrou, Bulgaria**

Although Ami grew up in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, she was born in Bristol. She is the worship director at First Baptist Church, leading the worship team, training musicians, and directing handbell choirs that share the gospel throughout the community. Her ministry has helped introduce new worship songs across evangelical churches in Bulgaria, drawing people closer to God. Married to Chris with two young boys, Ami is passionate about using music to build God's kingdom in Bulgaria. She has also recently started a youth ministry at her church.



**Anita  
Dimitrievska,  
North Macedonia**

In June 2024, Anita became the Senior Pastor of Ohrid Evangelical Church, where she also leads a women's ministry and a youth ministry called Royal Rangers. Anita's heart is to build friendships and to seize opportunities to serve local people. Anita has been actively involved in church ministry for twenty years, which includes work with YWAM (Youth With A Mission).

If you are interested in finding out more about Anita and Ami or want to explore a partnership, contact me at [lucy.reid@ten-uk.org](mailto:lucy.reid@ten-uk.org).

# Thirty Years of Enduring Christian Partnership



By Roumen Ivanov, Founder of Mission Possible Bulgaria, Bulgaria

In 1996, Eurovangelism—known today as TEN—supported the distribution of the Alpha Course among churches and Christian organisations in Eastern Europe.

**These communities were emerging from decades of atheistic communist rule and were experiencing a profound spiritual hunger, coupled with hope for freedom and renewal.**

Representing Mission Possible, I met the Director of Eurovangelism, Gary Cox—a man of deep faith, noble character and dedication to Christ. Our organisations quickly discovered a shared calling to strengthen and support local churches.

Together, we have translated and published all Alpha Course books and materials and organised over fifteen Alpha training conferences across Bulgaria, which has contributed significantly to the establishment and growth of Alpha here.

Supported by Eurovangelism and Global Action, Mission Possible organised and hosted the national evangelical *Hope for the Balkans* conferences over four consecutive years. These gatherings brought together all Protestant and Evangelical denominations in the country.

Eurovangelism further supported us financially and materially during

the reconstruction of the Christian Conference Centre in Dobromirka. The work teams they sent were far more than short-term helpers—they became close friends and trusted partners in the work of the gospel.

To this day, we have experienced brotherly support in vocational training programmes for the unemployed, and in sustaining soup kitchens during the winter months for children from large, socially vulnerable Roma families in Rozino, Slatina, Pevtsite and Ihtiman.

Honest and gracious dialogue, prayer, spiritual encouragement, and noble purpose have most deeply shaped our relationship with TEN. These values have built a lasting friendship and mutual trust—one that transcends cultural differences, traditions, languages, and geographical distance. It is a living witness to the power of Christian unity expressed through faithful service.



Top: Gary Cox (centre), Roumen Ivanov (left) with the Mission Possible Bulgaria team;  
Bottom: The Mission Possible Bulgaria team today

# TENteams

By Lucy Reid, Mission Engagement Officer at TEN

Would you like to send or be part of a team?

If you belong to a church, a Christian community or fellowship who wants to explore opportunities for service in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, get in touch with us!

We are passionate about being partner-led. Every year, we contact our partners to ask if they would like a team to visit and support them, and if they do, what they would like help with. Currently, there are opportunities in Serbia and Montenegro. You can get involved with:

- > evangelism
- > prayer and intercession
- > teaching English
- > practical tasks
- > serving people who are homeless

Please prayerfully consider sending a team. If it is new to you and your church, do not be daunted, as we will help with facilitating and planning your trip. To explore these opportunities, contact me at [lucy.reid@ten-uk.org](mailto:lucy.reid@ten-uk.org).

I can't wait to hear from you!



## Impact Report Incoming

In the next few weeks, landing on your doormat or in your inbox will be our latest Impact Report.

This report will provide both data and stories to tell you just how your support, interest and prayers make a difference in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. We will share news about the team, how we are doing against our strategic objectives and what our partners say of the impact you and TEN make to them. Keep a lookout!

# God Gives Us All We Need

By Ami Oprenova-Stavrou, First Baptist Church of Sofia, Bulgaria

I send you warm greetings from Sofia, Bulgaria, and write with joy and hope as we enter spring, trusting in the blessings the Lord has prepared for us.

About a year ago, I returned from volunteering at a youth camp with Rasho and Lilly from our church. Seeing them serve the young people with such passion and joy deeply encouraged me. The following Sunday, as I prepared to lead worship, I noticed a group of teenagers sitting together in the balcony. In that moment, I felt God clearly say, "This is the future of the church. They need care and encouragement. What are you going to do about it?" I felt overwhelmed and replied, "Lord, I can't possibly take anything else on." But the call remained.

Soon after, Rasho and Lilly shared that God had said the same thing to them. After six months of prayer and planning, we began a monthly club for young people aged 11-15. At our first meeting, seventeen teenagers attended; last month, there were twenty-five. God has provided volunteers, resources, and support to keep growing. The young people and their parents have shared what a blessing and support this ministry is for them. When God gives a clear vision and we faithfully follow it, He provides everything needed to fulfil that calling.

Christian hope is not wishful thinking. It is rooted in God's faithfulness and His promises.

We were never promised an easy life, but we were promised a living hope in Christ. When we surrender to Him, He carries us through every challenge and gives far more than we could imagine. 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13.



Rasho (top), Ami (left) and Lilly (right) at the Teens Club

# Sow into God's kingdom through our Spring Appeal

## Give to our Spring Appeal.

Donations to our Spring Appeal will support the training and equipping of new Christian leaders in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, growing the strength of the Church there and continuing God's story.

Read the next chapter on page 6.



[tenspringappeal.org](https://tenspringappeal.org)



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