



I have just returned from visiting Bosnia, Bulgaria and Romania and in a few weeks will be going to Poland. So there is just time in between to send you the latest news. I only write when there is something to say and often the news is simply an update on situations and people mentioned in the past. Occasionally there is something totally new and exciting that needs to be heard (and supported) - this time it's a mixture of both.

One of the reasons I have the best job in the world (in my opinion) is seeing dreams fulfilled. I was sitting with Petru, Romanian pastor a few weeks ago and he said to me, 'Can I share my dream with you?' I wondered what he was going to say as he produced his notebook and Bible.

'Recently a Christian family moved into a nearby village and asked me to visit and start a church in their home. Now we have 7 families and growing. The room is too small and we need a proper church building. My dream is to have a building large enough for it to be a Bible School as well as a church. There is a huge need to train young men to become leaders, preachers, evangelists and counsellors. Not all can go to university or theological colleges, some need practical training to work in the villages. I want to share my knowledge and experience while I am still active (he is about 67 I think!) and we need somewhere to meet for weekend teaching and a room for a library so the students can borrow books and study in peace and quiet'.



Petru outside the 'church'



Petru with his grandsons

11 years ago EPIC bought the first of many houses in Romania to be turned into a village church. Today it is bursting at the seams and many people have come to faith in Jesus Christ helped by the fact there was somewhere to meet. There have been many others since then. Now here is another opportunity to help. Petru has been a faithful pastor over many decades, and I have often written about him and his ministry in the villages. He has no funds of his own which is why he has turned to us. If he could buy a plot of land he has friends who could design and build exactly what he needs.

Generally in Eastern Europe, Christians do not feel comfortable, and visitors are reluctant to come to a service in a home. However as soon as there is a neutral venue people relax and are willing to accept invitations. I visited these three churches in Bosnia and Romania and they are all separate, 'dedicated' meeting places.



church meets on the top floor



church meets in Hotel room



church has entire ground floor

The building below is a new church in the town of Blagoevgrad in the SW of Bulgaria. The congregation have already spent 8 years building it and there's still a long way to go. When it is completed there will be a kindergarten and a Bible School. It is the latest church to be linked with one in England and already there is talk of a visit this summer.



We all know the account of Moses striking the rock on Mount Horeb and water came flowing out for the people to drink (Ex.17). Right now there is a real practical need for drinking water from a well that has run dry. It is required by the end of July so that a children and teens camp in a beautiful area of Bulgaria can go ahead. A drilling engineer has given only a 15% chance of finding water in the existing well, so a new one may have to be sourced and that would be expensive. Ivan and his wife Dani don't know what to do as they are desperate for the young people to have a holiday in a Christian setting. Please pray for guidance for them.



Ivan and Dani at the camp



Now what have greenhouses to do with EPIC? This greenhouse is the next stage of the farm project which got off to a disastrous start with crops being stolen from the fields where they were planted. Sometimes a new direction has to be sought and two greenhouses were available at just the right time to plant vegetables in a more secure area near the church. Very soon people will be eager to buy tomatoes, peppers, onions, water melons etc. and the profits will be

There are many other things that have happened so far this year but no space here to write about them Without your support (both financial and prayer) none of the above could have taken place. YOU are needed in order for EPIC to grow and expand into new areas of ministry in Eastern Europe.

PRAISE GOD FOR

The success of exchange visits with more to come this summer

PRAY FOR

Children going to Christian camps during the summer

More English churches to consider partnerships

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