

[omission]

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Reaching children worldwide™



TRIALS ARE PART OF MINISTRY

the wife of the pastor and several girls volunteered. Sometimes as many as 70 children came.

When Ivan and Katherina returned late the first day to the place where they were staying, the tribulations began. The sewage system was blocked and backwater filled the bathroom. While they were waiting for help, a hornet stung Katerina's arm. Finally at 11:30 pm they decided to sleep in a hotel. The next morning they went back to Mladovo for the programme. During a game a boy accidentally pushed Katerina hard on her stomach. Her

Continued on page 2

Every year Ivan and Katerina Stoitsevi, the leaders of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® in Bulgaria, choose an area for a project, which they call "Hope for the Children in Bulgaria". This year it was the region of Sliven. Together with all the CEF® staff and 7 volunteers they held 5-Day clubs in 19 different places. Ivan

and Katerina were responsible for the program in two villages. In the morning they started in Mladovo. Thirty children and some parents listened attentively. The leader of the church shared afterwards that through the programmes God has revealed to him the importance of working with children. In the evening they had meetings in Konyovo. In this village,

THROUGH MANY TRIBULATIONS WE MUST ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

ACTS 14:22B

Dear Friends,

When Paul was on his way back from his first mission trip, he briefly visited again some of the newly established churches and prepared the young believers to expect tribulations on their journey to heaven.

[A WORD FROM **GERD-WALTER BUSKIES** CEF EUROPEAN DIRECTOR]

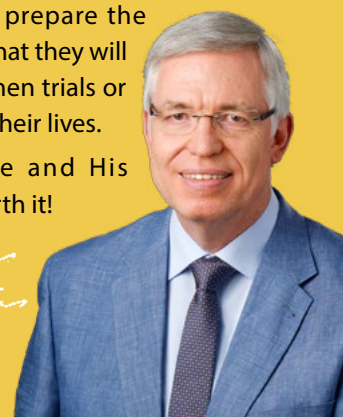
Similar to the 1st century believers who learned to expect sufferings for Christ's sake, Christians today in a number of European countries also know from their own experience that tribulations are part of the Christian life. Even in the so-called free world we observe increasing hostility against the Christian faith.

Paul was very wise to teach the new converts that here on earth we expect the cross and the crown awaits us only

in heaven; that here we suffer the thorns and later we will enjoy the roses. We have to become familiar with this truth and we have to prepare the children too, so that they will stand the test when trials or sufferings enter their lives.

Christ, His love and His Kingdom are worth it!

Gerd-Walter Buskies



TRIBULATION

Continued

pain gradually subsided. When they went to their place for lunch they saw a fire on the hill above the village. Not long afterwards a siren went off. They thought they must evacuate again. Katerina reached out to grab a pillow and a wood chip sank deep under her fingernail. They rushed to the hospital for help. The evening programme took

place as planned. But then at night the wind changed and brought smoke from the nearest fire. Ivan said: "We couldn't breathe. We drove to a place where it was better and started the third day in the car." After lunch, the pain in Katerina's abdomen intensified and they had to go to the hospital again—no serious injuries. They had the evening program with the children. When they got home, tired and dusty from playing

with the kids, there was no water in the village. Katerina shared: "For the next two days we had to 'bathe' with wet wipes."

Trials are a part of ministry. But at the end of that week the whole team had reached nearly a thousand children! And God opened the hearts of eight children to give their lives to Jesus. When the team gathered they gave praise to God for his mercy!

A LIFE CHANGED IN THE AZORES

In the Azores CEF has a local work led by Clara Barcelos. She shares from this year's camp ministry:

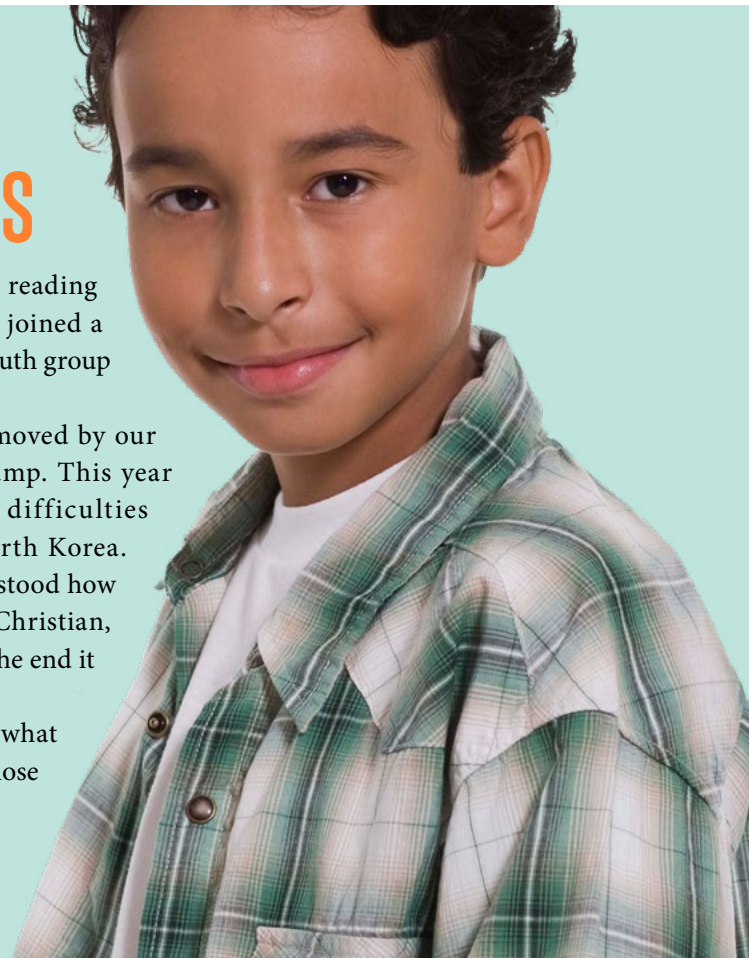
"At the beginning of our teen camp, we were told about one boy who was tough and might cause trouble. However, during the camp God spoke to him and he understood his need for Jesus and accepted Him as his Saviour.

After the camp I met him again and told him that I liked the "new boy" so much more. He had really changed and was more cheerful. He told me he was still following the camp schedule. He was getting up at the same time,

cleaning his room and reading the Bible. He had also joined a local church and the youth group of that church.

Other teens were moved by our missionary time at camp. This year we talked about the difficulties Christians face in North Korea. One of the boys understood how hard it can be to be a Christian, but concluded that in the end it is worth it.

We praise God for what He did in the lives of those teenagers."



IT WAS WORTH THE SUFFERING

In one of the villages in Belarus where our missionaries held evangelistic Christmas clubs for children, a regular *Good News Club*® was started. Some of the children even began to attend church in the neighboring city. When the principal of the secondary school found out, she convened a meeting of all the classes, called all the *Good News Club* children forward and told the whole assembly

that these children were visiting a sect. Then she scolded them.

At first it was hard for those children. But then the Lord intervened. The church pastor informed the Education Department. Soon, the director of the school had to convene a meeting of all the classes again. She had to call the same children forward and personally apologized to



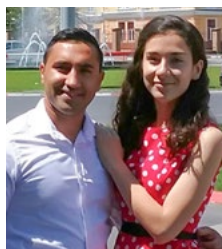
each child. She also said that there was nothing wrong with the club the children go to and also nothing wrong with the church they attend.

As a result even more children from that school began to attend the *Good News Club*. And even more important, already five children have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. It was worth the little suffering.

COMMITTED TO THE TASK

Students attending the 12-week Children's Ministry Leadership Course (CMLC) training come from many different backgrounds and circumstances. Each one feels God's call on their life to possibly work in children's ministry; some are already in active children's ministry. The course itself can be challenging but we hear in the student testimonies their commitment to following the Lord's call to take the gospel to the children.

Samir (29y) and his wife **Melani** (20) are from **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Samir accepted Christ when he was 18, Melani was 17. Samir grew up in an orphanage. He shares: "Until the age of 18 I lived in fear. I went to a mosque and celebrated Muslim holidays. One day my older brother invited me to a Christian camp. There, I met Christ and for the first time I felt love, peace and security. The Lord put on my heart to spread His love with those who are lost. He gave me a wife who has the same heart for Christ in working with children. It's not always easy to be a Christian in our country, but it's worth it. We are convinced that God wants to raise a new generation of believers who will serve and lead the church of tomorrow in our country. And in this we recognise the importance of evangelising and discipling children."



Vladimir is from **Ukraine**. He accepted the Lord at the age of 17. "From the very beginning the Lord put a Bible verse on my heart 'Go.... and preach the Gospel'. When I started to share my faith with my school friends, they rejected me. My girlfriend left. Nevertheless, my desire to tell others



about Christ increased. I decided to go to a village to have regular meetings with children. I thought I could hitch-hike to the village, like I knew Americans do. But that did not really work in our area—each time I would only be taken part of the distance and then I still had to walk about 7 km from the main road to the village. I knew though that this is what the Lord wanted me to do. For one and a half years I went to this village. There was only one time that I didn't find a ride and returned home. But on that day the children couldn't come to our meeting. Now I attended the CMLC in Ukraine

to learn more about reaching children with the Gospel."

Attending the 12-week CMLC requires a heart ready to sacrifice for God's call. Students make this sacrifice of their time and finances in order to be equipped for reaching children across Europe with the gospel. It touches the heart to listen to their testimonies.

▼ The summer CMLC in Romania with 18 students from 11 countries.

▼ The autumn CMLC in the Ukraine with 16 students from 3 countries finishes shortly before Christmas.





"...UNLESS THEY ARE SENT?"

Romans 10:15

Romans 10:14 is a well-known verse. We know that "they" cannot believe unless someone goes and our hearts cry out, "Lord, send forth labourers into your harvest field!" And yet how often our eyes skip over verse 15, "And how can they preach, **unless they are sent?**" Senders? Is the need great for senders, too? I believe it is.

Let's continue to pray, "Send forth labourers", "Save souls" and as we pray, let's include "senders". "Oh Lord, what do you want me to do so that your

faithful servants, those who have answered the call, can stay in their field of service?"

In CEF we have a special project called **SPAN** (SPonsor A National) in which we attempt to send and keep faithful workers on the harvest field.

We also have the opportunity to partner directly with individuals. When you partner with one national missionary, you are able to get to know them better, receive prayer requests and be directly involved in **sending**.

We need labourers, but we also need senders. Join us today in fulfilling the Great Commission!

Contact me for more information on partnering with individual CEF national missionaries (iulian.mangalagiu@cefeurope.org).

Iulian Mangalagiu



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide

[onmission]

onmission is distributed three times a year free-of-charge by the European Headquarters of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*®.

Please designate your gifts "European Headquarters", quoting any specific project for which you wish your gifts to be used. Your gifts may be sent to any of the addresses mentioned. Thank you!

Bank transfer information:

UBS AG, 8098 Zurich, Switzerland
Account: **CEF Europe (Kilchzimmer)**
IBAN: CH97 0024 5245 9257 2141 C
BIC Nr. UBSWCHZH80A
or Post Office Account: 46-4843-2

Excess funds given for projects will be applied to those still lacking, unless the donor wishes otherwise.

Our Address:

CEF European Office,
Lischmatt 2, 4616 Kappel, Switzerland
Tel.: + 41 62 387 30 10
Email: info@cefeurope.org
Website: www.cefeurope.com

USA: CEF, PO Box 348, Warrenton, Missouri 63383

Canada: CEF, PO Box 165, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2G9

Ireland: CEF, 199 Templemore Avenue, Belfast BT5 4FR

Britain: CEF, PO Box 9281, Poole, Dorset. BH14 4FS

onmission is available by e-mail as a PDF. To receive it electronically, send an e-mail to onmission@cefeurope.org, along with your full name and address in the message text. We save your personal details on a secure data base so we can send you our newsletters. You can unsubscribe any time through one of our contact possibilities listed above. For more information please see the Privacy Policy on our website.

Editorial/layout: Gerd-Walter Buskies, Brent Hautle, Tim & Sue Shirey.

KILCHZIMMER HAS BEEN SOLD!

Thank you very much for praying so faithfully for the sale of Kilchzimmer. Almost exactly one year after the thanksgiving service, Kilchzimmer has been sold. We tried hard to sell it to a Christian organisation. A number of Christians have looked at Kilchzimmer, but in the end they didn't find it suitable for their needs. The new owner buys real estate and uses it for different purposes. Let's continue to pray that Kilchzimmer will serve a good, if not a Christian purpose in the end.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to have Kilchzimmer for this long time. We look back on a history of many blessings and our hearts would have loved to keep it. But we also saw that for the last 20 years the number of European staff and CMLC students was decreasing at Kilchzimmer, but increasing all over Europe. The Lord had already started to write a new chapter in our history before the old one was closed. Looking back, it was a very smooth transition from one chapter to the other.

We are now looking forward to what the Lord has for us in the future. In the next two years we look for guidance particularly in where we should establish a new European Headquarters—still here in Switzerland or in a different country. Until then we have rented an office. Please note our new address on the left!