

# Operation "50 years in 5" - Accelerating church planting in Croatia & Bosnia

*The Vision:* Enable keen local churches to plant churches in clusters in their regions

*The Task:* i) Seek out keen visionary churches and develop partnership  
ii) Envision and recruit numerous missionaries from revival countries

*Timeframe:* Radically urgent! 2012 must be the ominous year for missionary arrivals.



## First Brazilian missionaries arrive! Operation "50 in 5" is underway!



Viviane and Carla

Eduardo

Many thanks to you for your prayers! It was August 2010 since ECM European field director Ron Anderson asked "could you use 12 Brazilian missionaries" to help speed up the church-planting process and now, precisely April 20th 2012 the first missionaries will be arriving.

Everyone is excited that they are arriving in Varaždin, northern Croatia, and local believers have already found accomodation.

Pray for their safe arrival, their language learning and their cultural adaptation. Pray also for their finances that God would royally provide all their needs over the next 2 years.

## Balkan Conference Oct 2011



It was so wonderful to have 11 Brazilians, 6 Ukrainians, 100 Croatians plus small groups from Slovenia and Bosnia together to plan, pray and learn about what we believe and hope that God will do in these coming years



Arrival at the Airport... from Brazil, Ukraine, Belgium and England

## The Round Table



It was the first time we had all been together and so for 3 hours we asked questions and learned how Brazilians, Ukrainians and Balkans can work together.

## Prayer for the Balkans



It was as well a time for prayer. We spent time to pray for Bosnia, Croatia and Slovenia, as well as the sending sections in Brazil and Ukraine. It was great to hear the different languages and to feel the collective burden for the lost throughout the Balkans.

Please join us around God's throne and bring the 22 millions of the former Yugoslavian republics before the Lord. Pray that God's people in these countries will be encouraged and rise up to the missionary challenge. Pray together with the Ukrainian and Brazilian churches for an outpouring from God.

## Ukraine— preparing to send key missionaries for key ministries

As we visited Ukraine in March 2012 we saw that our partners in the Balkan Project had been heavily at work preparing to send missionaries to the Balkans in key ministries. Here is a just glimpse of what we experienced...



### Whisked of to Bizivka by our BEE friends

Kent Anderson (ECM GB) and I were driven 200km by Viktor and immediately the next morning met with 15 of the key BEE directors for the area. These were “mobile bible school teachers”, themselves pastors, churchplanters indeed area overseers of many churches and they had committed the next 4 hours to listen to the vision plans and see how they could best join in and help.

Their ideas surpassed even our expectations! Not only had they found interested churchplanters to come to the Balkans—initially to Croatia—but they had also come up with a new dynamic to our vision plans! We had envisioned two approaches to encourage the Balkan churches and help them in their churchplanting efforts: Firstly to send missionaries in teams to start clusters of new churches around existing churches. Secondly to hold encouragement envisioning conferences with key speakers from Brazil and Ukraine alongside ECM's Johan Lukasse. They now say that they are planning to send their Bible trainers for two months at a time holding numerous 3 day seminars with the goal to train Balkan LAY CHRISTIANS, mobilizing them to evangelism and discipleship! The hairs are rising on my arms as I write! They have a 4 year plan.

Pray for Ruslan. Ruslan, his wife and 13 year old son have served 5 years in Kazakstan, having successfully planted a church and are seriously contemplating serving in Croatia.

### Kiev—Baptist Union leaders and Key training Pastor Nikolay



We were welcomed by Igor, overseer for Baptist Missions and as we were discussing plans Pastor Nikolay suddenly astounded us all. He announced that he and his wife had decided

to come to the Balkans as missionaries for the next 2 years! “Wow Factor” 10 out of 10! The day before we had visited his church in Kiev. It has grown from 80 to 250 in Nikolay's 10 years, planting 4 new daughter churches and we visited one of 2 “granddaughter” churches in Fastov, where some 60 attended!

Stephen Bell, ECM Balkan Co-ordinator



ECM & BEE leaders



Stephen Ruslan



Churchplant Fastov



Nikolay in Kiev church

Want to see the perspective of the whole project? Click on fast link!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YF49v25tiqE&feature=youtu.be>