

# Evangelism across Four Borders!



## EuroBalkan Outreach 2015

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, Luis Palau Associate Evangelist **Reid Saunders** once more teamed up with the European Office Mission Planning team, landing in Nice in the South of France with his director Brett Butcher, met by local Italian Mission Facilitator, Julian Pasarica to embark upon an outreach to Italy, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Skopje and Greece in a stay of two weeks to share the Glorious Gospel message to thousands of different people in the blessed model of the Affinity Events package.

Flying in to meet the team in **Florence**, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, was **Christina Jarvie**, from Spokane, Washington, America, a woman sold out for Jesus Christ and eagerly wanting to share the glorious good news that Jesus saves, in word and in beautiful song - although she doesn't know Italian, Christina had prepared Christian songs in Italian to share with the audiences, which were highly effective as a pre-evangelism tool.

Because of the beauty and affluence of the city, it has a massive tourist attraction as is one of the most diverse cities in Italy - the team were able to minister to Russians, Romanians, Italians, Roma people and also to the leadership of the Brazilian church in the city.

**Emanuel Ivan**, a young Baptist pastor with a big vision for the cosmopolitan city brought together three churches in wonderful harmony and purpose, and the two events were massively oversubscribed with all having a great time in a local centre city restaurant, and receiving a very clear message and Gospel invitation to which nearly 50% of the audience responded by praying to receive Jesus Christ into their lives. Results no doubt of *40 days of fasting* and faith in God to convert the lost, and cooperation with the Pentecostal Church.



Christina “wowed!” the audience, and Reid had brilliant messages, clearly explaining the gospel message, and this pattern was repeated all over Italy as the team travelled from almost the centre of the country, down through the beautiful province of Tuscany to the West Coast, taking in cities like Livorno and Via Regglo, and embracing the largest village in Europe, Cascina, eventually finding its way to “The Eternal City” of Rome for a first ever evangelistic Affinity Event in the city.

The indigenous evangelical churches in Italy are really evangelical only by name, and thus the strategy embraced to reach Italians was through the small, but highly evangelical Romanian churches that have been planted across the country, and getting the Romanians to invite their Italian friends, families, neighbours, school/college/work colleagues to the dinners.



Approximately 300 guests were brought to the events, and an excellent response rate of 50% was achieved for the Lord, meaning that for every two guests invited, one responded spiritually to Reid’s messages.

The churches were highly encouraged and this pioneer mission has opened doors for “bigger and better” missions in the future. Our man in Italy, Julian feels very strongly about committing time to make this a reality, and the LPA European office will work with him gladly and gratefully because he is a quality fellow.

**Tuesday 05 May** saw the team saying a sad farewell to the extraordinary Julian Pasarica, driver, interpreter, facilitator, liaison person and counsellor, as he dropped off the trusty hired team Fiat, and caught a connection to his home city of Turin, whilst the team flew on Bulgarian Airlines from Rome to the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia, to meet its team facilitator for Bulgaria and neighbouring Macedonia, **Jimmy Simon**, as well as new team members Richard and Ginger Hamlett, flying in from Athens



Jimmy had been delayed at the Bulgarian border, which meant the programme for three events in Macedonia was under threat, but with the help of a one hour time difference between Macedonia and Bulgaria, and with the very skilful “ low flying “ of Jimmy’s microbus, and the benefit of Jimmy being friends with all the custom’s officials that were on duty, the team arrived on time in **Berovo**, Macedonia, where Christina was to speak. Berovo is a small town and also the event starting time of 16.00 made it not possible that a large attendance could happen, but what was more important, a large percentage of the audience was convicted by the Holy Spirit as she spoke – and of course angels were rejoicing over this beautiful occurrence.



Hard on the heels of this hectic chase for souls, Reid spoke to a very relaxed and fairly large crowd of eighty seated outside the **Pechchevo** restaurant – problems with the sound system did not affect the call of the Lord and a good number of people decided in that relaxed pleasant environment next to the river, to let “ living water” flow into their souls. Off again in an organised “rush” the team drove with Jimmy to **Delcevo** and here Richard Hamlet shared the gospel with a crowd of people in excess of 100, doing well with his first opportunity in this form of preaching, learning from watching Reid who has done hundreds of meal event outreaches. The team drove 50 miles to the small city where Jimmy lives, Stip to overnight at the Hotel Izgrev where Richard and Ginger would do events the next day.



**Wednesday 06 May** saw the team split, with Reid, Brett and Christina carrying on their programme with Jimmy Simon facilitating and Brett Butcher directing the events in Macedonia and Bulgaria. South they went to **Prilep** on a day that was a public holiday and not many people were expected to arrive ( but did ! ) in this city where Reid had last year had a very good event. Then on to an event with an old friend of LPA, Goran Iliev in **Negotino** – good results at both



Meanwhile, back in **Stip**, John had introduced Richard and Ginger to **Angel Pavlov** and Angel compered the two events that were held in the team hotel, starting with a **Ladies Buffet** with Ginger speaking. The Ladies absolutely loved Ginger and she was very effective in reaching them for the Lord. Also in Stip, we were privileged to have a **first time ever Dinner for Blood Donors** “ Angel



is an amazingly innovative man of God and he has a ministry whereby he supervises blood donation and gets everybody together as an outreach – they get prizes for regularity, amount of blood etc. Richard and Angel

worked together like a hand and a glove, it was a joy to listen to him speak and the hear the words of God coming from his heart, changing the direction of people’s lives, and bringing them forgiveness, hope and joy.

### Thursday 07 May

On this day, jimmy took his team of Reid, Brett and Christina to Bulgaria, but on the way there was a stopover in **Makedonska**, Macedonia for a late lunch, a nice little event with a very big response rate, and then on through Bulgarian customs to the lovely city of **Blagoevgrad**. Amazing to hear of how the council closed down the other churches tent outreach, and that the rain was threatening the event in the Park restaurant, yet there were more than 100 people attending and a magnificent-for-Bulgaria response rate – very good Pastor is Anatol Cernii, and looking forward to working with him again sometime.



Richard, Ginger and John travelled with Angel to **Veles** for an early lunch, not far from Stip, attendance being a little disappointing, but this did not perturb Richard who is a true professional, and he shared about the kingdom in this restaurant beside the Veles River, reminding one of the Lord Jesus talking about his father’s kingdom as he walked and talked beside the waters of Galilee and the River Jordan. Then the team drove 110 kms to **Delcevo** where Reid did an event with Jimmy’s Delcevo church – Angel too has a church in this town of 12,000 people, and the event was very good



**Friday 08 May** saw Jimmy driving his team from Blagoevgrad to Sofia to meet and work with the blessed Vladimir Vladimirov and his team doing two great events in the Bankya Palace Restaurant with a group of **Disabled People** and a **Couples Dinner** – the responses at each were 60% and the team were received wonderfully, and we knew that the follow up was going to be done well – in fact, John Grant received an email to say that following on these two events, one of the churches were themselves doing an affinity event with the groups and with elderly people....it was so worthwhile travelling long distances and crossing borders for the hundred or so souls that were saved !

John had travelled with Richard and Ginger to the Capital Skopje on the previous night and had convened a meeting with the Skopje Executive to discuss the situation in the city. **Everywhere there were crowds in the streets, tens of thousands protesting vigorously against the Government, whole streets were closed, and the situation was extremely volatile Adding to the political instability, eight police officers and 14 ethnic Albanian fighters were killed in clashes in the city of Kumanovo, just a few miles away.** .....it had to be decided whether to cancel the events, and the local **pastors decided to trust the Lord, accept lesser numbers if that was to be, but to carry on in faith and prayer – what a joy it was to be associated with Soldiers of the Cross like this !** A few days before, our planned event in Kumanovo which was scheduled for the exact same night of the clashes, was cancelled because the locals had not been aware of it until too late and had something else planned for that night ! We have an adopted saying from a former CEO that “ *God knows what he is doing !*”



So John introduced Richard to **Goran Dojcinovski**, one of the most remarkable men we work with anywhere – he had planned to organise seven events himself, funding each one with a contribution of 15% with a total projected attendance of 700 people.....something a par with the scale of the events that the several churches in Skopje had planned ! What a joy then as Richard and Ginger arrived at the lovely downtown Restaurant Ragusa and found one hundred people waiting for them for a **Ragusa Lunch**. Their day was even more enhanced by an **Albanian Supper** in the Royal Skopje Ship Restaurant, hosted by Romanian Pastor, Nick Tanasescu **with seventy people**. Albanian speaking Macedonians are Muslim and want nothing to do with Christianity



Prior to the Albanian supper, the team were driven by Skopje City General Co-ordinator Nik Galevski to the Shutka district of the city which is totally Gypsy and huge in its extent and a rather disappointing attendance took place, but a few days later, many arrived for a second **Gypsy dinner** and overall something like 150 people heard a very simple and clear Gospel presentation from Richard, bringing many to repentance in Christ.

Yet one event was planned for the Hamlet's and this was a **Medical Dinner** well run by Nada Andreev, leading pastor's wife with great message, good interaction by Richard and Ginger and good results – praise God for souls !

**Saturday 09 May** - Christina travelled with John to do a **Children's Event** and was able to lead the children in prayer – she was very good with them, and how exciting to know that those who prayed with her will have a full life of walking with the Lord, unlike many others who come to Christ late in years ! Later in the day Jimmy Simons arranged to fetch Richard, Ginger & Christina from Skopje to do a lunch event in **Veles**, where Jimmy also has an outreach. – Jimmy's son Adams supplied the interpretation for the team in a lovely event next to the Veles river



Richard's day ended with a joyful and fruitful **Families Dinner** organised by LPA's National Coordinator in 2004, **Sasha Vuletic**, pictured here with Richard when Richard preached in his new church plant the next day



Reid meanwhile was in full flow in the **Ragusa Restaurant** with Goran Dojcinovski and Brett, as he spoke at a **Breakfast** with 70 people in the morning, a **lunch** with a hundred people, and a **supper** with eighty which would have been double this size had the riots not been happening in the very same vicinity of the restaurant - **Goran printed and handed out 15,000 invitations on the street at his own cost** - what an amazing commitment to the Gospel, and we thank the Lord that through his vision, faith and diligence, despite the unrest and chaos on the streets, nearly 200 souls were brought into the kingdom of Christ !

Reid teamed up with Zivko Barbutoir at the Hotel Porta in an outlying new suburb of Skopje to do a **Youth Event** with Christina, and so ended a busy Kingdom day with eight events in and out of the city.



**Sunday 10 May**

Richard ( outstanding message of challenge to serve God using Gideon as a role model ) and Brett spoke in the leading church on Skopje, and also in the new church plant of Sasha Vuletic, bringing great blessing to this small but growing church and encouragement to its pastor.

Christina and Reid got off to an early start, doing the Lord's bidding on the Lord's day, back in the Ragusa Restaurant with Goran and blessing the folks off the streets in Skopje with the Good News of the Gospel - between them they did three events in the day and finally met up with the rest of the team at the London Restaurant for a team debriefing and rejoicing that :

The Gospel had been heard by 2500 people, 1550 of which were guests of the believers from churches spread across three countries so that almost 800 people had indicated they had prayed a sinner's prayer of repentance and had given their lives to Jesus Christ ! **AND THERE WAS STILL GREECE TO COME**

