

rapp^ort

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Partnerships and Possibilities

Working together can open up surprising new opportunities, as people from nine churches discovered at a consultation in London in April.

“Project-driven partnerships mean we can pool experience, resources and needs.”

Potential partners from nine UK churches



The aim was to share ideas between members of UK churches working with Kurds,” explained Jerry Fowler. Those ideas included principles and practice – from the biblical call to reach people through communities to hosting Kurdish parties! Jerry’s own ministry among Kurds in Oxford includes employing Kurds in his window-cleaning business and providing a library of books in Kurdish dialects. *“What’s obvious to some won’t be obvious to others,”* observed Jonny Woodrow of Loughborough East Evangelical Church (LEEC).

LEEC’s commitment to Kurds began through partnership when Jonny joined the Crowded House in Sheffield for a week and saw how they had built relationships with local Kurds. A Radstock consultation then helped LEEC think through their next step in mission. The local Kurdish restaurant seemed a good place to start. *“We have been to the owners’ flat and they have been to a church meal,”* explains Matthew Spriggs, who co-leads LEEC. *“We hope our friendship will open doors for the gospel.”*

The consultation in April produced ideas for further partnership both in existing projects and in new ventures such as language-learning and producing a bi-lingual gospel. As Jonny explains, *“project-driven partnerships mean we can pool experience, resources and needs.”*

There was a common desire to “bring church to the Kurds” – in the UK and, ultimately, in the countries where most Kurds live. Charlie Allison from Eastbourne voiced one major challenge: *“We keep looking for ways to lower the*



Jonny Woodrow

cultural hurdles to inclusion in church life.” The same is true of encouraging others’ involvement in this ministry. *“When members of the church family are prepared to join in a supper with Kurds or pointedly come over to say hello when a Kurd comes to our meetings, it’s a wonderful contribution to our collective witness.”*

This summer Charlie and members of the Crowded House will travel to northern Iraq to learn from Kurdish churches while Jerry and Joy Fowler visit Kurds in UK cities.

LEEC members also plan to learn more about reaching Kurds by spending time with the Crowded House. *“In the long term we want to be planting churches in partnership with churches,”* says Matthew. *“We hope this will teach us both to be sacrificial with our resources, and more of the wonderful gospel that saves all nations.”*

connect! Please pray for:

- ★ The visit to northern Iraq (13th July – 13th August) – especially with the difficult security situation
- ★ Partnerships between Kurdish and UK churches to reach Kurds

Could your church share resources to reach Kurds locally and globally? Contact Katy Jones Parry kjp@radstock.org to explore the possibilities of partnership!

The privilege of **PARTNERSHIP**



Mark McFadden of Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, Kentucky, USA, reports on the shared benefits of a new partnership – and the hope of more to come.

“As soon as we arrived in Albania, we were struck by the love and generosity of our brothers and sisters,” recalls Mark who, with his wife Jackie, was part of a 13-strong team on their church’s first mission trip to Lushnje, Albania.

God had already been preparing their way. “After hearing about the trip and praying, my sense was that we should go,” remembers Mark. “A few weeks later we were asked to go to the Radstock conference. There we quickly developed a bond with three Albanian pastors: it was clear we were going on the right trip!”

Grace Fellowship sends three or four short-term mission trips each year. At the initiative of their missions pastor, the church is exploring areas of the world where they can work with local believers towards church planting and biblical counselling outreaches. “We understand that church planting is part of the biblical mandate of the great commission,” explains Mark, “and we’ve also seen



“In God’s gracious sovereignty... our team were privileged to take part”



Team discussions

the need for local churches to be equipped in using the word of God to change lives.”

In Lushnje the team provided English classes for a kindergarten ministry, marriage and parenting seminars, and outreaches to teenagers. At one meeting six ladies professed faith. “This was primarily due to the long-term efforts of those in the kindergarten ministry. With believers involved in people’s everyday lives, God was working in the hearts of the mothers. In his gracious sovereignty, the women on our team were privileged to take part.”

That same evening, men from the Grace Fellowship team and the Lushnje church met at a local café to consider how they could pool their resources. “We discussed how our churches could work together to plant churches and offer biblical counselling in the area. We really believe this was the start of a fruitful and ongoing partnership!”

Having a global **IMPACT**

How do British 11 to 15-year-olds cross the language barrier to build links with young people in Russia? ‘iMPACT’ – the youth group at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Romford, UK – have found creative ways to communicate cross-culturally.

Keen to connect with other youth groups – both locally and further afield – the group have recorded a video diary of Russian greetings, and a dramatic summary of what they do, to introduce themselves to the young people of the Café Church in Udmurtia. “Once the editing is done, it will be sent to them with our warmest greetings in the name of Jesus,” explains Marcus Giddy, Youth and Children’s Minister.

The idea of linking the youth groups came about after the Good Shepherd Church were introduced to the work in



Members of iMPACT youth group

Udmurtia by Paul Williams, Radstock’s Russia Networks Developer. Marcus saw that a connection could add a global dimension for iMPACT as they constantly explore how the gospel can impact their lives on many levels.

“It’s exciting when the members of iMPACT realise that there are other young people who believe in the same Jesus as they do – the Jesus who transcends boundaries, cultures and even countries. We hope this common ground will mean we can build lasting relationships.”

The God of Surprises

Much to their own surprise, Jonathan and Clare David are launching into 'retirement' by moving to Peje, Kosovo, to teach English and serve the local church.

Three years ago, the Davids' future plans were retirement in 2012 and enjoying their grandchildren. But God had other plans. In early 2005 their church in Harpenden, UK, asked for volunteers to join a summer team going to Peje. Jonathan and Clare signed up. *"After that visit, we both felt that God wanted us to move there. What was not so clear was why!"*

"I mainly saw myself as part of the 'back-up' team at church," explains Jonathan, who retired in April.

"But with the encouragement of others, we began to think we should stop assuming that we were too old to be useful."

Both have been involved in youth work and hope to work with children in Peje, but also know that teaching English would open doors so have just finished a course in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

After a month in Peje this summer, they plan to move in September for at least three years. Even their preparations have thrown up surprises. *"Since we decided to move, so*



Jonathan and Clare David

many things have fallen into place," observes Jonathan. One former boss now runs a company providing English teaching in the Balkans. Jonathan also has a small role in a consultancy contract in Kosovo, and there seem to be opportunities for Clare to use her art degree.

"We are not used to such strong leading from God. Our experience has usually been looking back and seeing how he was in control. However, we feel very drawn to the people and believe that the children, the future of the country, are very open to the gospel."

There is nothing special about our family

Brad and Abi Byrd and their family – also sent from Christ Church Harpenden, UK, to Peje, Kosovo – are increasingly aware that their ministry is one of partnership.

Abi helps to run Charis Cottage, a day-care centre for vulnerable children, which is a ministry of the local church, Rruga e Paqes. The Byrds' children have become friends with children who attend Charis Cottage. Together they often



Kara Callaghan and the Byrd family

visit the children's homes, and as a family delivered presents to the kids on Christmas Day.

First Baptist Church in Newton, New Jersey (USA) is one of several churches supporting the work God is doing in Kosovo through prayer, gifts, encouragement and visits. *"There is nothing special about our family,"* said Abi, speaking there earlier this year. *"God has called us to serve him living in Kosovo for this season. He is calling you to serve him here in New Jersey. We each have to be faithful to his call, wherever we are."*

Kara Callaghan, Radstock's US Coordinator, joined the Byrds on their visit to New Jersey. *"All of us, in all of our churches, are called to be a light in our communities, and to have a global impact by linking arms with others."*

"God has called us to serve him wherever we are – and to have a global impact by linking arms with others"



You and your church could have a global impact by 'linking arms' with churches around the world!

To connect with any of these ministries – or build new partnerships – through the Radstock network, contact

Katy Jones Parry: kjp@radstock.org or

Kara Callaghan: karacallaghan@radstock.org

THE RADSTOCK NETWORK

Greater than the sum of our parts!



Paul Williams and a Siberian mission team

The Radstock network saw ongoing activity and growth in 2006, not least in Russia and the Balkans.

New connections with a church-planting network were initiated in Siberia, and momentum grew towards a multi-national church-planting project in Macedonia – helped by a grant from the Jerusalem Trust to support long-term church planting plans by and among Balkan churches.

Elsewhere, steps were taken to develop mission connections in Western Europe, and to establish more relationships with UK churches. Decisions by both Paul Williams (Russian Networks Developer) and Anthony Adams (Trustee) to increase their availability to develop the Radstock network are expected to prove fruitful in seeing more churches play their part in global mission.

Anthony has already helped to increase contact with Pavel Naumenko, who leads the Children in Crisis work in Kyiv, Ukraine. The CiC Kyiv project continued to feel the lack of a co-ordinator in 2006, and so is expected to benefit from Rachel Shaw taking up a voluntary role. Having lived in Kyiv for three years, Rachel's language skills, and knowledge of the Naumenkos and their work, will be a great asset.

The Co-ordination Team established a pattern of holding management meetings in the context of mission consultations for local churches. The first two of these – held in Carrigaline, Ireland and Loughborough, UK – were appreciated by the churches and helped to establish or build their connection with the Radstock network.

A number of positive contacts were made at the Urbana missions conference in the USA, where Radstock was represented by four members of the Co-ordination Team. Urbana attendance had also been a catalyst in prompting some UK churches to create a one-year mission training and experience scheme to be available to students and graduates.

General giving in the UK did not increase as much as had been hoped so some of the 2005 reserve funds were used to meet expenses in 2006. The trustees therefore highlighted the need to increase general giving and to raise awareness of the shared costs integral to working as a network.

In the USA, there is currently no undesignated giving. Profile-raising is therefore a particular priority for 2007 in order to recruit churches who will share the privileges and responsibilities of being part of the Radstock network.

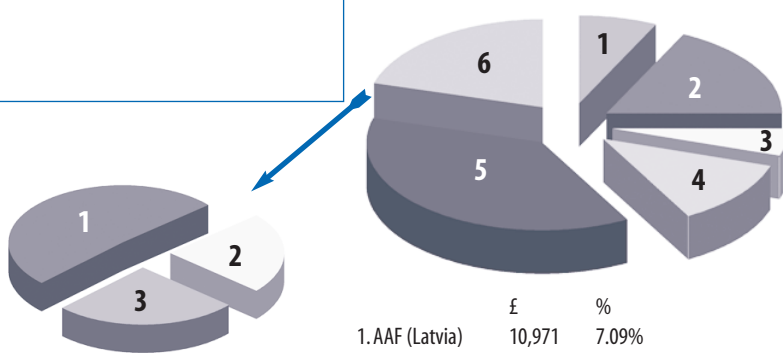
connect!

You – and your church – can help to realise Radstock's vision of a network of churches working together for global mission!

To connect with the shared opportunities, needs and costs of our growing network, please return the enclosed form, visit www.radstock.org, or contact either Radstock office.

ANNUAL REPORT FIGURES 2006 (UK)

expenditure 2006

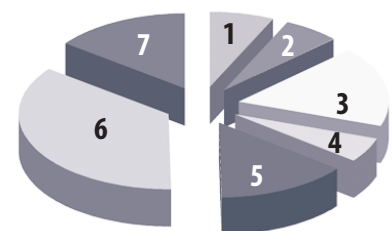


*Administrative/Network development

	£
1. Personnel	16,360
2. Rapport	8,384
3. Other Network Costs	7,251
Total	31,995

	£	%
1. AAF (Latvia)	10,971	7.09%
2. CiCA	27,807	17.97%
3. CiCU	7,812	5.05%
4. Tatarstan	18,300	11.82%
5. Other designated expenditure	57,878	37.40%
6. Admin/network development*	31,995	20.67%
Total Expenditure	154,763	100.00%

income 2006



	£	%
1. AAF (Latvia)	10,900	6.90%
2. Balkans Church Planting	9,500	6.02%
3. CiCA	27,309	17.30%
4. CiCU	8,567	5.42%
5. Tatarstan	22,266	14.11%
6. Other Designated Giving	55,883	35.40%
7. General Fund (inc. Admin Fee)	23,445	14.85%
Total Income	157,870	100.00%

NB Income and Expenditure figures do not appear to match. This is because not all transactions are finalised at year-end.

RADSTOCK
churches connected for global mission

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Radstock's vision is to see local churches taking up the privilege and responsibility of mission for themselves. Radstock, which takes its name from Lord Radstock, the nineteenth century pioneer missionary to Russia, offers expertise and networking in church-based mission.

We have specialist consultants in children in crisis, church planting, drug rehabilitation, mentoring church leaders, and micro-enterprise development. If you would like regular news of Radstock, or would like to discover how we can help your church take the next step in mission, then contact:

Radstock UK

2a Argyle Street, Mexborough,
South Yorkshire S64 9BW, UK
tel: 01709 582345
mail: info@radstock.org
web: www.radstock.org
Registered Charity 326 879

Radstock USA

PO Box 5491
Washington DC 20016, USA
tel: (202) 338 3348
mail: usa.office@radstock.org
web: www.radstock.org