

# rapport

THE NEWSLETTER OF RADSTOCK MINISTRIES • MARCH/APRIL 2007

## To the ends of the earth!

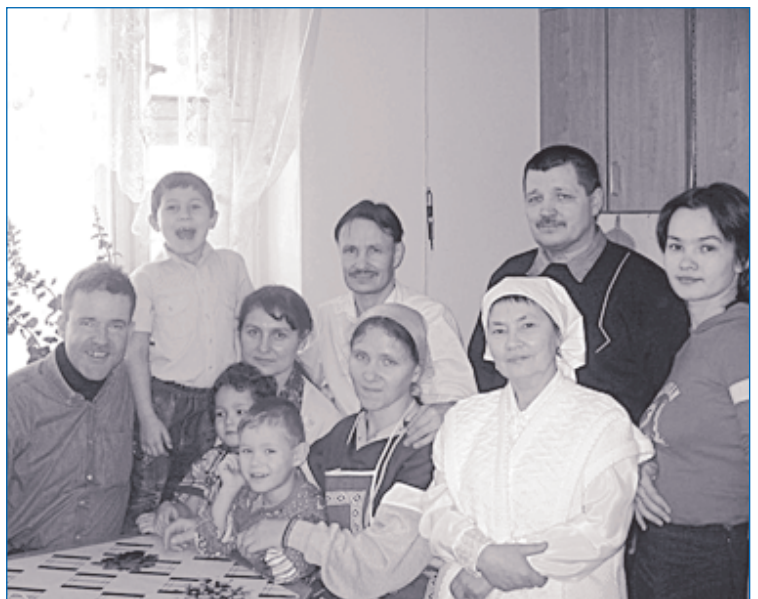
*Picture a remote land whose thinly-spread human inhabitants represent many races; where many lack the full Bible in their mother tongue; where shamans hold sway. Here, where things look least promising, mission networks are seeding new churches.*



Sasha and Lera: hoping to start a new church.

*"It's a great reminder of God's love and power at work – to the very ends of the earth!"*

These words could have been used of 19th century missionary endeavours in the global south. But this is 21st century mission in the Khanty-Mansiysk region of north western Siberia. One month ago, Paul Williams – Radstock's Russia Team leader – was part of a mission team working in this austere, yet beautiful, corner of the world. Members of churches from Khanty-Mansiysk and elsewhere in Russia joined forces to strengthen existing church plants and take the gospel into un-churched areas.



Six-nation mission team

*"It was extremely challenging but blessed," says Paul of their time spent with fledgling churches, new converts and pioneer church planters. The challenges included jeep breakdown, petrol theft, and temperatures as low as -40°C! The cold, however, was an answered prayer, assures Paul: "If it had been warmer, lakes and rivers might not have been frozen enough to drive on – leaving some areas inaccessible!"*

Their frozen routes took the team 2,800 miles overland in two weeks, and brought them into contact with small church groups in need of established leadership, communities awaiting church plants, and nine largely-unreached people groups.

The ethnic variety particularly struck Paul. Among the team and churches visited were Khanty, Mansi, Nenets, Mari, Komi, Zyryan, Tatar, Russian, Ukrainian and, of course, one Englishman! *"It's a dream of mine that churches and mission teams might represent something of God's work in uniting people from every tribe and language and people and nation through the cross of Christ."*

Paul glimpsed that dream becoming reality not only among January's six-nation mission team, but even within one family of believers. Sasha (a Khanty) and his wife Lera (a Zyryan) and their family are looking to start a church in the north of the region.

Looking back on his journey, Paul feels privileged to have encountered new believers and those caring for them, local mission pioneers, and something of the steep challenges they all face. *"It's a great reminder of God's love and power at work – to the very ends of the earth!"*

### Please pray for:

- ★ One or two new jeeps for missionaries to cover the huge distances involved
- ★ New local church planters like Sasha and Lera (left)
- ★ People to join a summer camp in the far north-west of the region

*If you and your church would like to get connected with churches and church planting teams in Siberia, contact Paul at [paul@radstock.org](mailto:paul@radstock.org) or on (+44)1279 427357.*

# Beyond the... 'END OF THE WORLD'

**In a new occasional feature, Rapport focuses on one church and its connections in the Radstock network. This month, Disciples Church in Durres, Albania, provides a snapshot of churches with mission in their 'DNA.'**

*"Church planting is a priority – both locally and beyond Albania's borders"*

**R**udi did the maths. If the world was going to end in the year 2000, as her Orthodox friends claimed, she would only be 27. *"It was too young to die!"* recalls Rudi, *"I needed to hear more about Jesus. My friends said they would be safe because of him."*

Like the rest of Albania, Rudi had heard nothing of Christianity under communism. Churches had been pulled down and people kept any religious allegiance a secret. But when the country opened up, Rudi became one of the first believers, and an early member of Disciples Church.

Rather than the end of the world, 2000 saw Rudi's marriage to Arvid Gogaj, a believer from Shkoder in the north of Albania. Soon after, they were invited to join the leadership team of Disciples Church – of which Arvid is now the pastor.

It's a church which owes a lot to those who came as missionaries to Albania. *"We know mission is part of the church's biblical mandate, and it's been built into our church's life from the start,"* says Arvid. This means church planting is a priority – both locally and beyond Albania's borders.

That commitment has seen Arvid himself teach church planters in Cambodia – as reported in *Rapport* last November. *"It reminded me of the church here coming out of communism – there's so much potential."* And the benefit was felt back in Durres, too.



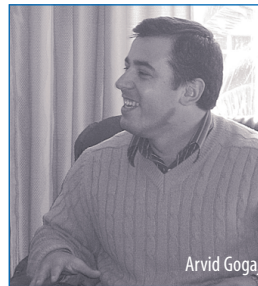
Rudi and Daniel

*"The trips were crucial,"* says Arvid, *"in moving us beyond the 'receiver' mentality."*

Disciples Church certainly has a lot to give. *"We are privileged to have many people interested in mission. It's a great work of God."* Partnerships with other churches –

including through Radstock – are also significant, particularly as they work out a calling among Albanians in Macedonia (*see opposite below*).

Reflecting on the challenges and opportunities they face, Arvid knows their local ministry in the place Rudi calls 'sweet Durres' is vital too. *"We must be a brighter light in the place where God has put us!"*



Arvid Gogaj

## With the eyes of faith

Seen through the wrong eyes, it could have looked disappointing. Inside the small church building in Sukth, the seven visiting foreigners had almost doubled the numbers.

Through the right eyes, however, the sight was one of joy and encouragement. Members of UK and US Radstock churches were in Albania to deepen mission relationships and witness first-hand the local commitment to growing new churches. One British guest wished that everyone back home could visit the church in Sukth, planted last year from Disciples Church, Durres. *"With*

*just eight people,"* she said, *"you have all you need to be a church!"*

The believers in this small village outside Durres explained why they too are positive. *"Even the few of us who are here, are here for the glory of God,"* said Besi, a young leader in the church family. He came to faith through the witness of his mother – herself one of the first in the village to be converted through years of visits by foreign missionaries and members of the Durres church.

There are highs and lows, of course, many of which would be shared with far bigger churches. But the members of this young church plant know the reason to be truly encouraged: *"God is working, and he will keep working!"*



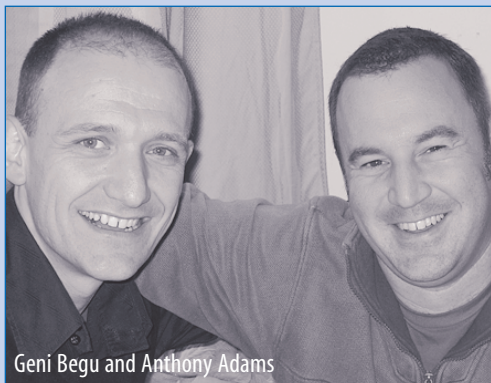
Besi and his Mother – part of the church family in Sukth

## Mission in the blood

*Anthony Adams is a pastor at Woodlands Evangelical Church, Derby, UK. He now spends a portion of that time helping to develop the Radstock network. Here he reflects on how he, perhaps, has the most to gain.*

Imagine never meeting anyone from another country. Imagine being told that you were the happiest and richest people on earth – and believing it. I had not realised how utterly closed Albania was before the 1990's.

Meeting Albanian church leaders in January, I heard many incredible stories. Geni told me of the depression that came on the country as the veil of Communism's deceit finally fell. "I hated Albania and wanted to leave," he recalled. But out of the disillusionment, new hope came as people learned of Christ. Geni believed the gospel the first time he heard it.



Geni Begu and Anthony Adams

Fifteen years later, those dramatic changes are making for an exciting future. Far from getting comfortable, many Albanian churches are thinking about new works beyond their borders, as well as starting more churches in their own towns and villages. Geni himself is one of a team setting up a mission training school in Kosovo.

Churches in Albania have much to teach the rest of us. With none more than 15 years old, mission is still in the blood, and their enthusiasm and commitment to the cause of Christ is infectious. It's the spirit of the book of Acts: 'where next?' One Albanian church leader said that what he loves about the end of Acts was that it doesn't end! And that's right. Acts 28 is not the end of the story. Thank God for great opportunities to connect with Albanian churches in these 'Acts 29' days!

*If you and your church would like to connect with Albanian churches for mission, contact Radstock's Balkans Co-ordinator, Brian Jose, at [brian@radstock.org](mailto:brian@radstock.org)*

# round up



The old CiCA vehicle!



Sunday Mpolingoba and his family

## A NEW RECRUIT, A NEW VEHICLE... AND NEW HOPES

Children in Crisis Africa (CiCA) has seen some exciting developments, despite a difficult year for the church family in Mufulira, Zambia.

A new recruit – Pastor Derek Chomba – will help with the general work of CiCA which now covers six towns across the Zambian copperbelt. There is also a brand new vehicle on the way, thanks to a kind donor.

*“Transport is vital here, more so as the ministry grows,” says Erica Lugg, “but we had come to a dead end. God is so faithful to His work!”*

CiCA’s work remains in conjunction with the newly-formed church, Lordsway Ministries, though it is now an independent trust. It currently sponsors a total of 72 children, like Sunday (pictured left), and another ten have successfully passed through the system. *“Every sponsorship or donation makes a difference,”* observes Erica. *“For the cost of a curry in England, many children here get access to some education!”*

For more information about CiCA, contact Adele Emberton at The Kings Church, Addlestone (missadele@dsl.pipex.com) or Ruth Bellerby in the Radstock UK office.

## STREET KIDS, LOCAL CHURCHES... AND HIGH HOPES

Meanwhile, in Kyiv, there are high hopes to connect more local churches with the vital ministry among street children. As part of his new role developing church connections across Radstock’s network, Anthony Adams plans to visit Kyiv later this month. *“We believe that partnerships with more churches in Kyiv itself would be a great blessing to the kids,”* he says.

Anthony will meet with local pastors and spend time with Pavel and Vika Naumenko, who provide practical and spiritual care for many street kids. *“At the moment we are planning Bible studies for the kids with the church’s participation,”* says Pavel. *“We are also hoping to run another summer camp, which is very special for many of them.”*



Kyiv street kids summer camp 2005

## CAUGHT IN OUR WEB!

Many of us spend Christmas with a few extra people around. In December, four members of Radstock churches spent part of the holiday with 22,000 others – at the Urbana student missions convention in St Louis, Missouri.

Kara Callaghan, Radstock’s USA Co-ordinator and a delegate at Urbana 06, was delighted Radstock could be a part of the event designed to ‘envison and equip generations of students to take the gospel to other campuses, cities, cultures and countries.’

*“There was a real ‘meeting of minds’ between the Bible teaching from Ephesians and Radstock’s vision to see churches live out their privilege and responsibility for mission. Even more encouraging was talking with delegates passionate to play their part in that.”*

Using the concept of being a network, or ‘web’, of churches, the spider-web Radstock booth certainly stood out. *“We caught a lot of people’s attention with a non-corporate look,”* laughs Kara. *“What kept their attention was Radstock’s commitment to relationships between local churches – and ways to serve Christ from Mongolia to Ireland!”*



### ⏪ Please pray for:

- ★ God’s love to be made known to street kids in Kyiv
- ★ Fruitful relationships between Pavel and Vika and local churches
- ★ People and resources to make summer camp possible

*If you would like to hear more about the work in Kyiv, or be involved in this year’s summer camp, please contact Rachel Shaw at [rachelshawski@hotmail.com](mailto:rachelshawski@hotmail.com) or either Radstock office.*

**RADSTOCK**  
churches connected for global mission

RADSTOCK MINISTRIES MARCH/APRIL 2007 **rapport**

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](mailto:info@radstock.org)  
web: [www.radstock.org](http://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](mailto:usa.office@radstock.org)  
web: [www.radstock.org](http://www.radstock.org)