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Conversation Starter!

"a great place to connect and co-operate to see more churches planted"



Arvid speaking

In the unassuming setting of Irthlingborough, UK, the Radstock Weekend in March drew people together in conversations with global implications.

At one end of the meeting room was a giant map showing Radstock's connected churches. At the other end, the low murmur of translation for Albanian- and Russian-speaking delegates could be heard. It all set the scene as church pastors, members and planters from Albania, Kosovo, UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Russia and Mongolia discussed how to help each other's churches take forward biblically-principled mission across the globe.

Over two days of timetabled and informal conversations, delegates added their connections to the map and shared their stories. "It was so valuable hearing what God was doing through church partnerships," commented Jonny Grant, pastor of Carrigaline Baptist Church, Ireland, "and to realise how possible it is!"

While some were from churches who have long been part of the Radstock network, others like Mark and Jackie McFadden of Grace Fellowship, Kentucky, USA, had come "to see if, and how, our church might fit into the Radstock family."

"It is a great place to connect and co-operate to see more



Global Connections: Damdin Bold (in national dress) Gregor Menga and Paul Williams

churches planted," said Arvid Gogaj, pastor of Disciples Church, Durres, Albania. "Others working to see the same aspirations fulfilled where they are made it a great crowd to be around!"

Conversation topics covered the range of churches' experience: from how to take the first steps in mission, to forging multi-national partnerships to work among un-reached people. "The Weekend was full of 'conversation starters,'" says Katy Jones Parry, Radstock's UK Co-ordinator. "Our prayer is that as people from churches all over the world keep talking, we'll build more and more strong connections for global mission."

Have you heard the one about the Englishman, the Russian and the Mongolian...?

It was no joke! For Pete Wilding, one moment at the Radstock Weekend epitomised the gloriously true story of God's kingdom in microcosm.

Even my room bore testament to the 'United Nations' theme: I shared with a Russian, a Mongolian, an Albanian and a fellow Englishman. One evening, I was privileged to pray with my Russian and Mongolian roommates – Sasha Popov and Bold Damdin – three children of God speaking to

our Father in our three native languages.

It was a very powerful moment, knowing that 'where two or three are gathered' in Jesus' name, he is there with us, and that only his cross explains three so unconnected individuals enjoying fellowship together.

All too often I am guilty of 'miniaturizing' God as the God of *my* life or *my* city. That shared prayer with my roommates, and the Weekend as a whole, were vital reminders that God isn't pocket-sized. He is the one who promises people "from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb". We should worship Him as such!

Care in the COMMUNITY

When Lena and Sergey Chernov approached their elders with the idea of a Babysitting (day-care) Centre, pastor Max Tikhonoff saw its potential to bless both the church and the local community.

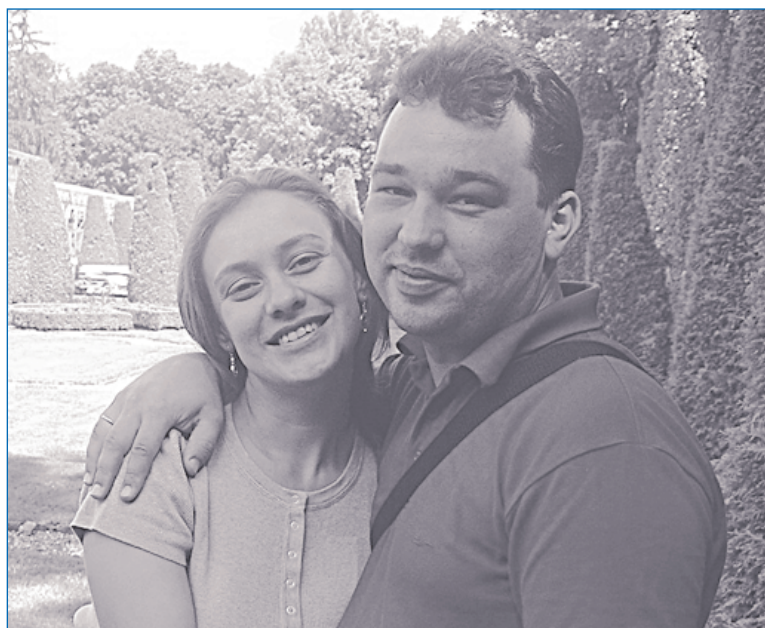
With a recent 'baby boom' in Ukraine, and the depressed economy, families in Kyiv are feeling the pressure. Many people are unemployed or on very low pay. In most families both parents are working – sometimes in two jobs – and day-care centres are over-subscribed and expensive. The divorce rate is around 50%.

Families make up the majority of Solomensky Presbyterian Reformed Church (SPRC)'s local mission field. The Chernovs' idea is to serve these families and reach out to them. The centre would be explicitly Christian, and parents would have to agree to their children being taught from the Bible while at the centre. They aim to have around 20 children aged 2-5 and to charge just enough to support the facility and salaries.

That would make it the cheapest centre in Kyiv while also providing jobs for six members of the church. With so many unemployed, this is not insignificant. "As a pastor I care about all sides of people's lives and try to use any opportunity to create or find good jobs for church members," explains Max. "When the job and ministry are the same – it is a real blessing."

The elders hope that some families who have contact with the babysitting centre will also make use of the church's Families Counseling Centre, led by Alex and Lena Travnikov. "We believe this new ministry would be a great addition to the Counseling centre and pray it will bring new families to Christ through our church," says Max.

Lena and Alex Travnikov lead the church's Families Counseling Centre



Lena and Daniel Chernov (above);
Sergey Chernov (right).



"We believe it is a good project, particularly as it does not require constant financial support," he goes on. "Sergey and Lena have business and teaching experience and the desire to bless the church and our community." Their prayer is that other churches will join with them to make the most of this opportunity for mission to Kyiv families.

"we pray this ministry will bring new families to Christ through our church"

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Could you and your church make this connection for mission to families?

The up-front cost of the project is \$12,000 (£6,000) to pay for the initial rent and equipment. The centre is then expected to fund itself.

For further information, including business plan and contact with SPRC, contact Kara Callaghan karacallaghan@radstock.org or Katy Jones Parry kjp@radstock.org. To donate to the project, contact either Radstock office.

Amazing Grace!

Grace Church in Kyiv, Ukraine is aptly named. This growing church, where the majority are new converts, includes a number of former drug-addicts and alcoholics with wonderful testimonies of God's grace and mercy to them. They are now extending that same grace to boys who live on the streets of Kyiv, brought into the church family by Pavel and Vika Naumenko.

When Anthony Adams visited Kyiv in March he saw answers to long-term prayers that local churches would be increasingly involved in the work among street kids. "Grace Church have welcomed the boys with open arms. With converted addicts in the church family, they are not fazed by the boys – many of whom struggle with substance abuse."

It is hard to say just how many children are living on the streets of Ukraine, but estimates suggest 50,000 in the country as a whole, with 12,000 in the city of Kyiv alone. The Naumenkos' ministry, one of many in Kyiv, seeks to reach out to the children with Christ's love and good news.

Pavel and others in Grace Church work together to find the documents necessary for the boys to get jobs and lead 'normal' lives. 'Where is your birth certificate?' can be a difficult question to answer when your parents are no longer alive, or take no interest in you.

Meanwhile, other members of the church have begun regular bible studies with some of the older boys. On Friday evenings, they share a clear bible message with a group of teenagers and ask questions to get the boys thinking.

Thanks to generous help from supporters, the Naumenkos have now managed to buy a small apartment, which Anthony visited while with Pavel. "The living space and beds for all three of them are in one room, which is not ideal," says Anthony, "but with property costs rising at a ridiculous rate for years it was all they could get. Pavel and Vika are very grateful for people's generosity to make it possible to have a place of their own."



Pavel in the new flat



Above: Anthony Adams with Pavel Naumenko and boys from the street kids project



Left: Grace church members hold Bible studies with street kids

"It's a great example of the blending of gifts in a church," says Anthony. "Pavel's relationships and practical experience with the boys are now complemented by others helping him or providing strong bible teaching."

With Solomensky Presbyterian Reformed Church offering additional support and accountability, the blending of gifts extends even further. "The potential represented by churches connecting for mission to street kids is very encouraging," observed Anthony. "God is at work in Kyiv!"

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Pavel and Vika are planning a summer camp for the boys. "This has been a highlight for so many of the boys in the past," comments Rachel Shaw who spent three years in Kyiv helping Pavel and Vika. As well as bible studies, the camp will include lots of sports and outdoor activities, for the kids to have fun and grow to trust the leaders. Pavel is looking into booking a venue, but is aiming for camp to run for two weeks in late July / early August.

Rachel will be helping to co-ordinate volunteers and support for the camp in the UK and US, as prayers, supplies, people and money will be in great demand!

If you and your church would like to know more about camp – to pray, give or go – please contact Rachel rachel@radstock.org or either Radstock office.



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Geni Begu

"We believe the time has come to call, train and send Albanian believers"

HEARING THE CALL IN KOSOVO

A group of pastors and churches from Albania have formed the 'Church Planters Mission' (CPM), whose aim is to mobilise Albanian church planters for global mission. "Our vision is to see an Albanian missionary movement that will take the gospel and plant churches in un-reached nations," says Geni Begu of the CPM. "We believe the time has come to call, train and send Albanian believers."

Geni himself has moved, with his family, from Albania as part of a team launching a Church Planters Training School in Gjilan, Kosovo. The school's four-month programme includes three months' teaching from experienced missionaries and pastors, and one month's practical outreach in a Muslim country.

"The focus will be to develop the character of the church planter and prepare him or her for this ministry," explains Gregor Menga of CPM. "Our goal is to see one or more teams trained to go and plant churches in un-reached areas of Kosovo."

With just one student registered at the start of April, there remained much uncertainty for the team, but their commitment is to respond to Jesus' commission to make disciples of all nations. Recognising the tremendous potential for a church-planting movement springing out from Albania into the Muslim world, Geni acknowledges that the task is great. "But the first step is our obedience. This is a ground-breaking initiative and the obstacles are not few, but God is the Lord of the harvest!"



Gregor Menga

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Please pray for the Church Planters Training School:

- for faith, courage and determination for Geni, Gregor and Memli of CPM
- for those called to come to hear the voice of the good Shepherd and obey
- for the Lord of the harvest to use the school to send church planters into un-reached nations.

MINISTRY – ON THE MOVE!

Leaders from Lordsway Ministries in Mufulira, Zambia, really are actively involved in local ministry. One particularly exciting area of growth is in Kankoyo - one of Mufulira's poorest townships. "We had a huge response to an evangelism week," recounts Nick Lugg of Lordsway Ministries, "and hope to plant a church congregation there. At a recent meeting there were 69 people – in a house the size of an average English hallway!"

"Visitation is the foundation of pastoral care and evangelism here. . ."

Steadily growing numbers here, and in regions two to three hours from the town centre, brings its own challenges. "Visitation is the foundation of pastoral care and evangelism here," explains Nick. "The problem is the workload – especially the travelling. One leader works a nightshift in town, then spends many of his daylight hours walking house to house to visit members."

Nick and Erica Lugg of Lordsway Ministries



Because of this, the church is aiming to raise funds to buy bicycles (£65 / \$130 each). "We have groups covering 13 large areas of the town," says Nick, "but at the moment any number of bikes will revolutionise the ministry!"

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Could you and your church help get ministry on the move?

To connect with the Lordsway Ministries bike appeal, please contact Ruth Bellerby in the Radstock UK office or Kara Callaghan in the Radstock USA office.

RADSTOCK
churches connected for global mission

RADSTOCK MINISTRIES MAY/JUNE 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:

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