

# rappo<sup>rt</sup>

THE NEWSLETTER OF RADSTOCK MINISTRIES • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

## Mission: not so impossible!



*“Libyan PhD students, Kurdish refugees, the Big Issue seller and local Muslim school teachers meeting Jesus and His people: it felt like a taste of Revelation 7!”*



*“SitC is a ‘glocal’ event: The emphasis is local mission, but the reach is global!”*

**Steve McAlpine reports on local church mission in Sheffield, UK, with global support and potential.**

**“H**appy,” said Theresa when I asked her how she felt about life. She thought for a moment before correcting herself. *“Happy-ish. Yeah, happy-ish. That’s why I’m looking at Christianity.”*

Theresa and her partner Bob were enjoying coffee, dessert and good music at Jazz@215, the café run by The Crowded House (TCH) as part of its annual mission week, *Summer in the City (SitC)*.

For ten days in July this network of 5 congregations in Sheffield, UK simply scales up their practice in line with their mantra of ‘mission through community’. This was no one-off event that left everyone scratching their heads afterwards, but a distillation of TCH’s week-in, week-out strategies.

The café is a good example. This monthly TCH activity ran instead on six consecutive nights. People didn’t need to be convinced; many like Theresa and Bob had actually come a few months earlier and really enjoyed it.

Similarly, my household congregation have been playing music at local pubs and gigs for some time. For *SitC* we simply increased our involvement, played at local festivals, busked on the streets, and organised ‘The Junkyard Band’ – a children’s activity turning junk into musical instruments.

It was breathtakingly simple. The number of gospel opportunities it engendered was astonishing, with conversation springing naturally from our activities. Every congregation reported similar results. By simply tapping into their existing mission strategies, ‘Jesus talk’ just flowed.

*SitC* is a ‘glocal’ event: The emphasis is local mission, but the reach is global. Team members came from as far as Australia and the US. What they saw was replicable



mission. Sheffield residents represented an array of nationalities. What they found was a universal welcome.

We’re returning to Australia soon to church plant in 2008 and mission the *SitC* way is a ‘no-brainer’: cheap to run, easy to replicate and focused on lasting relationships. The question is – does it work?

As I looked around that candle-lit jazz café I could only conclude that it does. Libyan PhD students, Polish childcare workers, Kurdish refugees, Chinese asylum seekers, the Big Issue seller and local Muslim school teachers were meeting Jesus and His people: it felt like a taste of Revelation 7!

And what of “happy-ish” Theresa? We’ll be seeing her this Wednesday night. She asked me how we did church. When I described sixteen people who eat, share communion, read the Bible, sing and pray, she had only one question: “Can I come this week?” I thought about it for a millisecond.

Mission accomplished.

*'All over the world, this gospel is bearing fruit and growing...'*

**This issue of rapport brings you some 'snapshots' of where that is happening through local churches in Radstock's global network – and ways you and your church can connect to be part of it too!**



*"With God and Many Strong Hands" is the motto of Children in Crisis Africa (CiCA), a Zambian ministry in partnership with Lordsway Ministries, Mufulira, The King's Church, Addlestone, and Radstock Ministries UK. Erica Lugg, of CiCA and Lordsway Ministries, sees the fruit of this collaboration.*

## Many strong hands – No empty hands!

**"T**here are many times when we haven't had money to give but we have been able to help with something," enthuses Erica. CiCA has joined with Lordsway's mercy ministry to stockpile basic commodities like maize flour (the staple diet) dry fish, sugar, beans and baby milk so that there is always something to give.

A small room in the building used for church services has also been renovated as a CiCA office, open three mornings each week. There is a constant flow of people, but with an expanded team, they are all assisted quickly and efficiently.

While some families from townships in Mufulira and beyond benefit from occasional support like this, others rely on regular sponsorship – with a little money going a disproportionately long way.

Chansa and her sister (pictured above) love receiving their gift parcels. Their mother, Petronella, has struggled to care for them and her twins. She was living day to day begging food from neighbours and often being evicted from accommodation because they could not afford the rent of approx £8 (\$16 /€12) per month. Thanks to a sponsor, their situation has been revolutionised. They are now settled and loving their new life.

*"I thank God because I can't remember the last time anyone was sent away empty-handed"*



her family is currently on leave back in the UK. *"I honestly have to say that I find it a real privilege. Our vision is that no-one in genuine need who comes to us for help should be turned away. I thank God because I can't remember the last time anyone was sent away empty-handed."*



Erica Lugg



CiCA continues to look for new sponsors for their ever-increasing waiting list and the needs are many. *"Most of the children waiting to be sponsored are being cared for by elderly relatives too old to benefit from our grants for small businesses, or sick themselves,"* explains Erica.

*"Many people ask me whether I find the work of CiCA depressing as I face such suffering every day,"* says Erica, who with

**connect!**

CiCA exists to empower local churches to meet the needs of children in crisis in their communities.

For further news and pictures of the ministry, see the new website:

[www.ciczambia.org](http://www.ciczambia.org)

For you and your church to get connected with CiCA, contact the Radstock UK office or use the enclosed 'connect!' form.

# Steps of Faith

Overcoming obstacles, the Church Planters Training School in Gjilan, Kosovo, has reached the last phase of its first programme. As reported in May's *rapport*, the school has been established by Church Planters Mission (CPM), a group of Albanian churches and pastors, to train and form teams to plant churches in un-reached parts of Kosovo. "We have had a high quality of teaching," comments Geni Begu of the School, "with themes including *The Kingdom of God, Cross-Cultural Ministry, Understanding Islam and Living by Faith.*"

With a focus on developing the character of the church planter, learning has continued far beyond the classroom. "Community living has proved to be the best environment for character growth," Geni observes. And that is true as much for the teachers as the students, since trainers' families are key members of that community.

The team have also had many opportunities to share the gospel with families and individuals in Kosovo. In July, Geni had the privilege of baptising a man who had invited the team to do evangelism in his town. "Since his baptism, this man has been persecuted by his brother, an Imam, and his extended family – please pray for him!"

As the first school programme comes to an end, the CPM team are keen to discover where God will lead them next.

"We came here to Kosovo with the intention to train other Albanians for church planting in the Muslim world. Now we are sensing God leading us to commit ourselves to church planting here," explains Geni. This vision is stretching them beyond their borders – in every sense – but they know their loyalty is to the God of all the earth!



connect!

You and your church can partner with Albanian church planters:

Pray for Geni and the CPM team, "that whenever we open our mouths, words may be given us so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel"

Pray for clear leading from God for the team's next steps in training and/or church planting

Contact Brian Jose ([brian@radstock.org](mailto:brian@radstock.org)), Balkans Network Developer, to join or start church-planting partnerships to reach Balkan people for Christ

*"We came to Kosovo... to train Albanians for church planting in the Muslim world. Now we are sensing God leading us to church planting here"*

## New life in desert places

The Gobi Desert is far from barren when it comes to churches connecting for mission. Radstock's network has gained 23 church plants, overseen by Pastor Natsagdorj of the South Gobi province, with the potential for more to follow! "These churches have much to offer – and hope to learn from other churches committed to mission, too," explains Radstock Network Developer Paul Williams.

Paul knows first-hand what the Mongolian churches bring to the network, having spent time with Natsagdorj's own church. "As well as their church-planting expertise and commitment, I'm convinced that many churches in the west will be encouraged and challenged by these believers' joy in the Lord."



Meanwhile, plans are already underway for members of St Mary's Church, Harlow, to lead a Micro-Enterprise Development (MED) seminar series for at least 40 Mongolian church planters and members next year. "MED opens up many opportunities for evangelism and church planting along the Gobi trade routes," explains Paul. "This is a great partnership of one church's resources with other churches' needs."



connect!

You and your church could partner resources and needs with church planters in Mongolia!

- ★ Join short-term teams and trips to forge mission connections
- ★ Build mission partnerships with flourishing but isolated churches
- ★ Help to provide gers (desert tents) for churches – £600/\$1200/€900
- ★ Pray for further church plants to reach the people of the Gobi Desert

To connect for mission with Mongolian churches, contact Paul Williams [paul@radstock.org](mailto:paul@radstock.org) or use the 'connect!' form.

# round up



Woodlands' 2006 Kosovo team

## BUILDING FOR MISSION

An all-age team from Woodlands Evangelical Church, Derby, UK will be building up their Kosovan mission partnership this October. Around 20 Woodlands members will be joining Rruga e Paqes church in Peje to help with youth and children's work and building projects.

*"It's great to be going to Kosovo for a third year to develop our relationship with the church there,"* explains Anthony Adams, a Woodlands pastor and Radstock Network Developer. *"It's always at least as beneficial for us as for the church we're going out to support."*

Woodlands teams have also benefited from the experience of other churches' teams hosted by Brad and Abi Byrd, missionaries from Christ Church Harpenden, UK, currently based with Rruga e Paqes church. *"The trip in October is a return journey for some of us, but we're still learning!"* observes Anthony. *"The Byrds and others in Peje have been invaluable in helping us to bring a team – and perhaps in turn our experience will be useful to other churches. We also want to keep talking with Rruga e Paqes church about how we might continue to partner with them in mission."*

*"We want to keep talking with Rruga e Paqes church... to partner with them in mission"*



## MISSION – BY THE BOOK

Radstock's commitment to local churches at the heart of global mission has a new 'voice' in *'Total Church'*, recently published in the UK, and due out soon in the US. Billed as 'a radical reshaping around gospel and community', the book sets out the biblical case for *"the centrality of the gospel word and the gospel community... not only on our doorstep but to the ends of the earth."*



As the World Mission chapter puts it: *"At the heart of God's plan to bless the nations are the people of God... By the word she proclaims and the corporate life she lives, men and women throughout the world are commanded to repent and invited to live. The gospel word and the gospel community are both indispensable to*

*mission, because that has always been God's strategy."* (p.101)

That the book's message echoes the ethos of the Radstock network should come as no surprise. Its authors are former *rapport* editor, Tim Chester, and Radstock's founder and chairman, Steve Timmis.

*"Radstock's network of churches grew from the same convictions and passions that lie behind 'Total Church,'"* explains Steve. *"My prayer is that both might bear fruit as our churches grasp their privilege and responsibility for mission that starts in our hearts and doesn't stop until the ends of the earth!"*



*'Total Church'* (published by IVP) is available via Radstock UK. Contact Katy Jones Parry ([kjp@radstock.org](mailto:kjp@radstock.org) / 020 7834 1598) for yours and your church's copies! (£8 each + p&p)

**RADSTOCK**  
churches connected for global mission

RADSTOCK MINISTRIES SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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: 202.468.4571  
mail: [usa.office@radstock.org](mailto:usa.office@radstock.org)  
web: [www.radstock.org](http://www.radstock.org)