

connect!

...for global mission with Radstock

Complete each section, tear off the form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

Yes!

I'm sending...

- A cheque/check (payable to Radstock Ministries)
A CAF/Stewardship voucher (UK only)

for...

£ / \$ / € (select currency & fill in amount)

to support...

- Arvid and Rudina Gogaj
The community centre in Macedonia
Radstock USA General Fund
Sending Rapport to churches worldwide
Building the network - please use as needed
Other (please specify):

Please turn over

round up

More done - more to do!

Radstock Annual Report 2008

India, the United States and Zambia were key areas of growth across Radstock's network of churches in 2008, with further promising developments made with Cuban, Honduran and Hungarian churches.

Brad Byrd's first year as Director of Radstock USA has borne fruit in a growing profile with churches. A small number are now solidly identified with Radstock, but US income remains a critical issue.

Lordsway Ministries in Mufilira, Zambia, continues to plant churches and develop their Children in Crisis Africa work under the leadership of Nick and Erica Lugg. With close contact in 2009, we are actively exploring expansion into Zimbabwe through this link.

In the autumn, Anthony Adams of our Network Development Team visited Uttar Pradesh, India, with two other UK church leaders. Richard Burningham spent six weeks teaching church planters, while Keith Mersh launched our India Well Project - an opportunity for churches to sponsor wells in conjunction with ongoing

church-planting projects. These fruitful links had been forged at our 2008 Annual Conference.

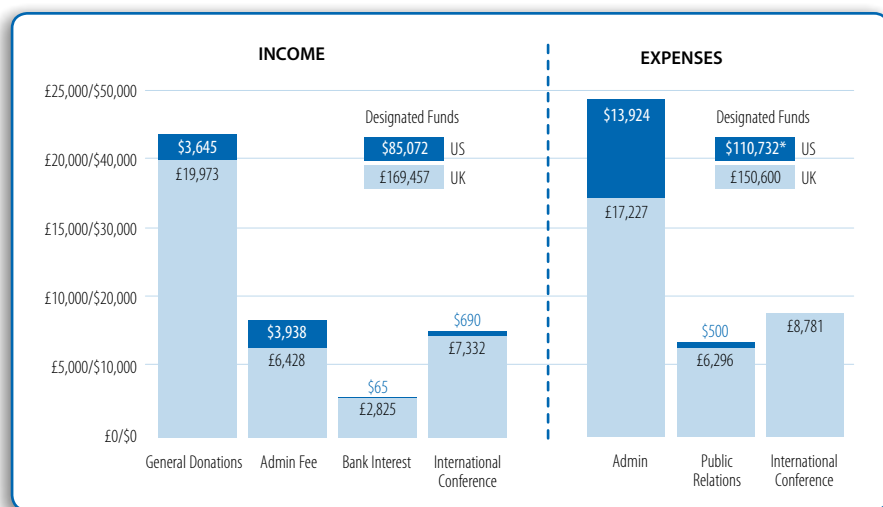
St Mary's Church, Old Harlow, UK, has decided to send Paul Williams, our Eurasia Network Developer and their former Associate Minister, to re-locate to Mongolia for at least one year. Based in Ulaanbaatar, Paul will be involved in equipping church planters and fostering micro-enterprise links. He will also travel to Russia regularly to foster the Radstock network in Siberia and the Urals.

We need to see more churches take on the burden for Russia: one of the world's last, large un-reached mission fields. Paul plans to explore the possibility of Mongolian churches connecting for mission in these parts. Paul also continued to develop links with church-planting efforts among the 750,000 Russian speakers in London, UK.

In Ukraine, our Children in Crisis work was formally brought to a close as Pavel Naumenko took well-advised and indefinite leave. Our key relationships continue to grow through involvement with Solomensky Reformed Presbyterian and Grace Baptist churches in Kyiv, with opportunities for partnership in the areas of drug rehabilitation, family ministries and church planting.

The website development continues with on-line giving in place and a more responsive system of adding new information, including a blog section.

The end of Steve Timmis' service on the Board marked a major event in Radstock's development. Steve brought his own brand of vision, creativity, energy and originality to Radstock and his contribution during 13 years in office is highly valued. Ross Campbell has ably stepped into the breach and the trustees welcomed the appointment of Andy Upton of Knighton Evangelical Church, Leicester, UK. It will be important to strengthen US Board representation.



Where income and expenditure figures do not appear to match, this is because not all transactions are finalised at year-end. \* Spending includes reserve assets from 2007

RADSTOCK churches connected for global mission

Radstock is a global network of churches connected for mission. Our vision is to see mission-driven churches equipped and planted. To this end, churches in the Radstock network work together to: Develop Partnerships, Create Opportunities

multi-church partnerships Coach Churches Provide Expertise For more information and to get connected for global mission, contact:

Radstock UK 2a Argyle Street, Mexborough, South Yorkshire S64 9BW, UK

Radstock USA PO Box 5188 Wheaton IL, 60189-5188

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Shared Vision

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'As many churches as pharmacies: a community of light in every neighbourhood.' That was the vision born out of a meeting with a French church planter in Marseille back in 2007. And it's a vision The Crowded House (TCH) 215 Network have been passionate about pursuing ever since—in partnership with churches already working in the city.

But what does it look like, trying to build cross-cultural partnerships for church planting with churches different from your own? Christopher de la Hoyde ('Del') of TCH reflects on some of the hallmarks of their international partnership and the opportunities it is opening up.

It's long-term.

Building trust, overcoming cultural prejudices, working through and despite ecclesiological differences, developing a united vision—all of these are things that the Holy Spirit loves to work in his people through the power of the uniting gospel. But we've realised that we've got to be in it for the long haul if we want to see real, lasting partnerships built and fruitful networks of churches planted.

It's messy.

Difficult situations in one of our partner churches have meant that plans for church planting have been set back. At first we were tempted to see this as thwarting plans for the gospel in the city. But the opportunity to meet with and encourage elders of churches on a trip last month convinced me that sharing not only in each other's joys but also in each

other's sorrows and difficulties—in the messy parts of gospel ministry—is the way that real gospel partnerships are built.

It's beautiful.

From 29th June - 12th July, people from churches in France, USA, North Africa, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland will be getting together to take the gospel out into three neighbourhoods of Marseille, helping French churches there to build relationships, serve their city and share the good news of Jesus Christ with their neighbours and friends. What better picture of the glorious, reconciling gospel for all nations could there be?

connect!

You and your church can be a part of this glorious gospel picture!

- Pray for the teams in Marseille from 29th June - 12th July
Join a Vision Trip alongside the July mission teams for a taste of mission partnerships

To find out more, contact: deligola@hotmail.com or kjp@radstock.org



Church leaders Lonnie Smith, Christopher de la Hoyde and Michel Lacombe

RADSTOCK churches connected for global mission

# Hearing *the call*

*This summer, two families are taking the next step in their churches' global mission partnership, moving to Macedonia as the core of a new church-planting team. Last year, the Diomedede family of Stopsley Baptist Church (SBC) left Luton, UK, and joined Disciples Church, Durres in Albania, to learn Albanian language and culture, and build the team for Macedonia with Disciples Church pastor, Arvid Gogaj and his wife, Rudina. Here, Arvid and the Diomededes update us on the story so far and what lies ahead...*

**Rapport:** How did the plan come about in the first place?

**A:** As a church we are very committed to missions, and our heart is to see ourselves involved in expanding God's Kingdom, especially in the Balkan region where there are at least 4 million Muslims. We decided on Macedonia because there are 700,000 Muslim ethnic Albanians living there but only 10-20 known evangelical believers among them and no church.

**R:** How would you say the Lord led you to the decision to go yourselves?

**A:** From when the Lord saved me I felt that some day I would be involved in church planting. It has taken 16 years and God has particularly worked in my life as I've pastored Disciples Church in Durres. As a church we felt called by God and after prayer and fasting, our church decided to release us as a family for church planting in Macedonia.

The biggest reason to be involved in this is the number of Muslims 5 hours by car from where we live, who speak our language and yet so few believers. And we have God's command to go to the ends of the earth and be His witnesses and make disciples.

**Diomededes:** SBC has been partnering for many years with Disciples Church. We personally knew nothing about Macedonia, but while praying for God to raise up long-term workers from our church, Sarah felt very strongly that God was calling us. There was no writing on the wall, just Holy Spirit prompting, followed by us taking small steps, and God confirming in big ways! We were especially motivated by the need: only around 20 evangelical believers among the 700,000 Albanians in Macedonia.

**R:** What impressions do you have of where you will be going?

**A:** It is a great place and a very hospitable people, who have been very warm to all the teams we



The Diomedede Family: Sarah and Arvid with Anna, Samuel and Jonah

have sent there. It seems the national identity is very closely tied to their religion: shops and businesses close at the Friday call of prayer in the mosques, and it is difficult for people to think of an Albanian not being Muslim.

**R:** What challenges are you most aware of for the coming weeks and months? What are you praying for particularly?

**D:** We obviously have practicalities to arrange, such as housing and schooling. It has been wonderful to have the support of the Christian community here and we are aware that we will be much more isolated spiritually. We are especially praying that our children would adjust well to a new home, schools and friends, and for God to build us into a strong, unified team with Arvid and Rudi.

For our sending churches, I think the challenge is to keep the vision and the work alive in their hearts and prayers, despite the distance. This kind of work takes time but we need their continued support, even and especially when the fruit seems slow in coming.

**A:** Right now, we know that we are moving in July but we don't have a house or enough regular support yet. Some of the challenges will be to

adapt to different traditions and a more male-dominated culture.

For at least two years I will return to Durres for a week every month to be a part of the church, elders' meetings and visiting families. We are praying that in the midst of all the great things that God is doing in Albania and Macedonia, He will be glorified and that He will give us wisdom, grace and strength to face the unknowns which He has in store for us.

**R:** What part do the two churches play now you're involved in this church-planting team?

**D:** SBC is our official sending church and most of our financial support comes from there. We have a support group based at SBC, who pray for us regularly, and the church as a whole is kept up to date with our news and prayer requests. We've really enjoyed getting involved with Disciples Church over the last 15 months, and know that the church is fully supportive of the vision for Macedonia. We feel privileged to be a part of their team, and know they will be praying for us all as we go out.

**R:** What differences has it made that this is a multi-national church-planting partnership?

**A:** Each one brings a flavour of what God has done in our lives. The hard thing is that besides adapting to our new church-planting situation, we have to adapt also to the cultures we bring with us. This is worth it because it is a small picture of what it will look like in heaven where multitudes from every tribe, nation and tongue will be praising the Lamb on the throne.

**D:** As a team, we're from three different nations (Damian is originally from Argentina) and our different backgrounds enable us to challenge one another's thinking and gain from each other's experience. Of course, there is room for misunderstandings, so good communication



Arvid and a Macedonian family

is vital. The exciting part is that we are all working towards the same goal, dependent on the same source, Jesus, and this unites us more than anything else.

**R:** How can other churches and individuals be involved in this venture?

**D:** We are always on the look-out for new team members. We also need prayer, and can send newsletters to anyone who wants to keep well informed. As we prepare to set up a community centre in the town, we are also in need of financial support for initial outlays such as furniture and equipment and for running costs.

**R:** What would you say to people who would think, 'I could never do that'?

**A:** You are right! But with God we can do EVERYTHING!

**D:** If God calls you to do something you can *always* do it. The key is to be open, willing and obedient. We never imagined we would be where we are today, but step by step God has guided and provided.

**R:** What are your hopes and dreams for the next year – and the next 10 years?

**A:** To have a community centre which will serve different age groups, and through relationships to have 5-10 church-family home groups which would express God's love and passion for them and the Lord in a uniquely Albanian/Macedonian way.

**D:** We hope to have made some significant friendships, built trust, and out of this trust, been able to share the gospel. Beyond that, we dream of a new Christian community, active and growing within the town, with local people in leadership. We don't know where we'll be in 10 years time, but wherever we are, our prayer is that the church in Macedonia has grown and matured and is continuing to reach out to the lost.

## connect!

Is God calling you or your church to play your part in Macedonia?

Use the response slip to:

- sign up for prayer updates for the Gogaj and Diomedede families
- give a one-off gift towards a vehicle for Arvid or setting up the community centre
- commit to give regularly to support Arvid's family or running costs of the community centre
- consider sending short-term teams or long-term workers to this needy mission field

## connect!

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Complete each section, tear off the form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

*Yes!*

**Please tell me more about...**

(tick/check any that apply)

- Vision Trips to Marseille in July
  - Prayer updates for the Gogaj and Diomedede families
  - Short- and/or long-term opportunities in Macedonia
  - A guest speaker or mission consultation for my church
  - Receiving rapport by e-mail
  - How I can donate regularly and/or tax efficiently
- (please turn over for options to donate)

**Here are my details:**

Name.....

Full address.....

.....

Tel.....

E-mail.....

*Please turn over*