



FAITH PARTNERSHIP

changing the spiritual climate in eastern Europe

Autumn 2009

Dear friends, I trust you are well. I know some of you have been going through tough times lately, so I pray you will know God's peace and strength in the days ahead. The last couple of months have been difficult for me too, and incredibly busy, leading up to an epic 16-day trip to Spain and Ukraine. It's good to be back home again after my travels, and I've since enjoyed a much needed break from work. So, take a few moments to relax and read on. I trust you will be blessed and encouraged!

PRAYER UPDATES ...

Thank you for your prayers regarding our new office premises. We finally moved into **Grovelands** (right) in late October. There are still a few 'snags' to be resolved with the owners, but my colleagues seem to be settling in well and adapting to the open-plan environment. (I've been on holiday since the move - 9th Nov will be my first day!)

The NLI phone number is +44 (0)2476 643415. I'll let you know if I have an ext. Our new address is - *Grovelands House, Ground South, Longford Road, Coventry, CV7 9NE*

Another prayer request was for a 3rd trainer/sponsor for the October **Crimea ALTC**. Again, an answer to prayer. We secured both trainer and sponsorship. The latter came from one of our awesome UK partner churches and the trainers were... me and Greg! PTO for the full story.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers. Please continue to pray for us in the lead up to Christmas. We still have some groundwork to do for the Crimea CP project (staff training and project administration) as well as planning future ministry initiatives in 2010.

SPAIN - EUROSUMMIT 2009 (5th-8th October)

EuroSummit is NLI's biennial conference: this year held just outside Madrid. Our theme was '**Connect-Contribute-Change**'. We utilised aspects of the theme each day to highlight areas of ministry NLI is engaged in, to share our future dreams, to pray and of course to challenge delegates to get involved.

This ES felt very different to the 2 previous ones I've been to. We certainly stepped it up a gear! For a start we had more delegates than ever before. As well as NLI staff and ministry partners, we invited leaders and business people specifically to build relationships and share vision with them - to challenge them to 'connect' with NLI and Europe, to 'contribute' to the vision and help us 'change' the face of Europe.

For me, the most powerful moment of ES came when Thomas Spiridigliozzi (NLI Canada) vividly demonstrated what it means to 'contribute' by 'parading' all the Canadians at ES who are currently partnering with NLI (below). There must've been 30+ people, including many of our new partners in Crimea. Incredible! It would be great to see as many Brits up there in future years!

This year also saw a couple of new elements for ES. Firstly, we piloted a couple of modules from the DNA course and secondly, delegates were sent on a 'field trip' into nearby Alcala to help them understand challenges faced by church planters in Europe. On the whole both elements seemed to work well and provided valuable feedback for us, although we did manage to lose one group in Alcala!

All-in-all we had an excellent conference. I believe the connections and relationships made will prove very fruitful as NLI develops new ministry initiatives across Europe. The next ES will coincide with NLI's 20th anniversary, so we're planning something very special to celebrate. But there's a lot to be done before 2011!



TRAVELS IN CRIMEA

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CRIMEA - EXPO (9th-13th October)

From ES it was straight to Crimea for the EXPO trip. I've been planning this for a few months now, so it was great to finally meet the team of leaders from Canadian churches partnering with NLI in Crimea. What a great bunch! (Top) We toured Crimea, met some of the church planters, heard their vision and prayed with them (2nd/3rd). On Sunday we split into 3 smaller groups so we could get to more church services. Between us we covered 7. It was great for the pastors to connect with the church planters, and extremely beneficial for them to begin to understand how STM teams will work in this culture. Some of the locations are quite remote, so we're going to have to get creative when it comes to accommodating teams next year.

It was an EXPO trip that first 'connected' me to NLI in 2003, so I'm well aware of the impact they have. But one thing that never fails to amaze me is how you can meet a bunch of people for the first time and within a few days you're all great friends. Mind you, we did have 5 pretty intense days together. Our time together was short, but we accomplished our goal - to see these pastors fall in love with Crimea (the place and people), to catch the vision and begin to engage as partners in ministry with NLI in Crimea over the coming years.

CRIMEA - ADVANCED LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE (13th-16th October)

Held in Yevpatoria, I reckon this ALTC was the best so far. We had 75 delegates hungry for the word of God, and 2 great trainers ready to deliver (Jeff Brunton and Antonio Nasser). Jeff also brought his lovely wife Trish, something I really appreciated as I'm usually well outnumbered by the blokes! We hosted a session for the ladies which was very well received. Trish shared her testimony and I spoke about Abigail ('character under pressure'). Trish also brought some gifts to 'pamper' the ladies - all 32 of them!! (4th photo) This was the first time we've done something just for the ladies, but hopefully it won't be the last.

A few weeks prior to the conference Greg and I met with Jeff to discuss the 'trainer' situation. Looking at the 2 remaining module subjects we felt we could cover them between us, so Greg took 'balancing ministry and family' and I took 'problem solving'. This was ideal as it meant I could pilot some more of the DNA curriculum on 'solutions-oriented' leadership. We were a little unsure how the guys would respond to a woman delivering the training, but we needn't have been - the session went really well and demonstrated the quality of this DNA module.

We also used our time in Crimea and Ukraine to navigate some staffing issues, explore new ministry opportunities and build relationships. We plan to bring Sergei (Director) and Alex (Admin/STM teams) to our UK office later this month for training/orientation.

Towards the end of my trip I was able to have a couple of days relaxing with Masha, my friend in Sevastopol. We had great weather in Spain and Ukraine, and made the most of this with a rather strenuous hike up Mangup Kale (a Crimean mountain). I think the photo (right) says it all! I was so relieved to make it down the other side!

Sorry the photos are a bit small on this newsletter. If you want to see some larger ones then visit my Facebook pages or Website and click on the photos tab. There are loads to trawl through!

IN CLOSING...

Hope you've enjoyed catching up on all the news. Just one event for your diaries before the end of the year. I'll be up in **Burnley** over the w/e **Friday 27th to Sunday 29th November**, and am preaching at New Life CC, Colne on the Sunday morning (29th).

Your prayers are powerful and effective (James 5:16) so please continue to pray for me, for Greg and the other NLI staff as we seek to advance the Kingdom of God in Europe. Please also pray for my brother Paul and his family. They are going through a tough battle at the moment and would appreciate your prayers. Finally, a huge 'thank you' for partnering with me - for praying and supporting me with such immense generosity - be blessed and be a blessing. *JUDITH*

