



Pieter & Nora Kalkman International Ministries

*Life-changing missions in Europe through partnerships
with European Baptist Federation*



March 2008 Newsnotes -- 5000 Miles and 12 Countries

Dear Friends,

“Traveling on the left or the right side of the road?” was one of the questions raised by a team from Southern California when we met with them early January. They were planning to meet and be missionaries in Central and Eastern Europe in March. After some conversations, travel advices, and prayer we decided to welcome and guide this team ourselves. In this way, we anticipated to shoot several arrows in one shot.

First of all it would be a tremendous help to the logistics of this team, for mission awareness, encouraging missionaries, and ministering as a team. But also, it would enable us to share about the Baptist situation, and work in Europe, as well as help us to keep in touch with our network of partners through Europe. Together with some other errands, Pieter ended up traveling in all Central European countries, and all Balkan Countries (including all former Yugoslavian states).

Let faith reign over fear:

We were scheduled to be and work with a church in Serbia for one day on this trip. Just a couple of weeks before we took off, the American Embassy in Belgrade was burned. This happened in anger of the U.S. unconditional support for Kosovo moving to separation from Serbia, as the originally Serbian population had to a far extend been replaced by ethnically Albanian population. There were website warnings from the state department, U.S. embassy staff was relocated, and a mission group from Sofia to Budapest was sent to take the 24 hr Romanian pothole road, instead of the 6 hr Serbia freeway crossing.

While praying and assessing the situation, with our partners, and common sense, we also received advice from a volunteer that just went to Serbia while it happened. The CA-team prayed and decided to let fear not reign over faith, and stay with the original plan. It turned out one of the best ministry times for the team, which had physicians lecturing on marriage counsel and health, which triggered serious response. It was the only location where everyone stood in the homes of members of the church, which added to experiencing the richness of the manifold make up of our being one family in Christ.

Greetings and Blessings,
Pieter & Nora Kalkman