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NAB 2015 Central Europe and Balkan Report



(Note: In this Report, you will find links so you can read more in-depth about each subject and see pictures by going to Ron and Jeannie Seck's website justaseck.wordpress.com. Click on "Happenings" and read the blog that is referenced.)

“SENT” was the central theme at this year’s NAB Triennial in Sacramento, California.



INTRODUCTION:

‘SENT’ is the new three-year focus of the North American Baptist Conference. It was introduced at this summer’s Triennial in Sacramento, California. Jeannie and Ron Seck had the rich privilege and blessing to attend and participate in this Sacramento gathering that centered on the idea that we all, as God’s chosen people, are sent by Him to Reach the Next Nation, Equip the Next Generation and Impact the Next Community for Jesus Christ. (justaseck.wordpress.com “Ron and Jeannie Take Jozsef and Zita Csuha to the NAB Triennial.”)

During the conference 5 individuals sensed God was sending them to Hungary to do a rather unusual mission with the Secks and their MEK Hungary ministry: help construct an experimental passive solar greenhouse for the Grassalkovich Vocational High School. These 5 and 2 others answered God’s call and the new greenhouse was built between November 7 to 15 in Hatvan, Hungary.

(Learn more about the how and why of this project at justaseck.wordpress.com. “When is Coincidence Not Coincidence?” and “NAB Team Helps Construct Passive Solar Greenhouse.”)





This NAB Gateway Fuse Team helps illustrate one way we can think about applying ‘SENT’: **As NAB people of God, we too are sent by Him to work TOGETHER in partnership with our “Cross-cultural Staff” (i.e. our missionaries).**

I. God Has Sent Us TOGETHER to Reach the Next Nation

A. *THE GATHERING WAVE*, April 13-16, 2015



The media focus throughout this year was on the plight of 1 million refugees who were fleeing the conditions in their own countries (and refugee camps) with the expressed purpose of reaching the promised lands of Western Europe. Many of these determined migrants flowed through Serbia, Croatia and Hungary on their way to Austria and Germany and the opportunity to resume the good life they had before war forced them from their homelands.

In contrast, a 13-million member people-group lives in 3rd-world poverty and misery in Europe every day — the Roma or Gypsy people. After the million refugees are settled in relative comfort in Western Europe and gathered into their tight-knit Muslim communities there, the Roma will still be desperate — with little press coverage, little concern and little hope of a better life. However, these Roma or the most receptive to the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom in all of Europe and in the most need of whole-life transformation through holistic, Bible-based discipleship.

In May 2014, Ron, as NAB Hungary Field Director and CHE Central Europe Coordinator, met with leaders of five mission groups who are using CHE strategies in

their ministries around the globe. Their focus was on discerning God’s vision for the unreached poor of Central Europe and the Balkans. God gave the group a *2020 Vision: To have CHE Teams doing CHE community development projects in poor communities of every nation of Central Europe and the Balkans by the year 2020.*

It was decided that the first step toward realizing this vision was to hold a large-scale CHE Vision Seminar for leaders working with the impoverished, the marginalized and the Roma in CE and the Balkans in April, 2015. The Conference was to be held in Dures, Albania so attendees could view first-hand the results of 10 years of CHE community development work in poor Roma and Albanian Muslim villages. Ron and Agron Aga, leader of the CHE Team in Tirana, Albania, were to lead in putting the conference together. Other committee members would help invite the attendees. The conference was called “The Gathering Wave” to announce that God has been gathering mission groups around the globe to reclaim the Biblical strategy of wholistic missions — bringing the whole person captive to Jesus Christ.



Mission leaders came from over 20 nations of Europe and were struck by the truth and the results of wholistic community development. In group meetings leaders from 11 nations in CE and the Balkans made plans to take the next necessary steps to implement CHE. As Hal Jones, CEO of Global Hope Network International (GHNI) observed, “It was a kairos moment.” God was gathering more into His wave to flood the countries of CE and the Balkans with His grace.

(read more at justaseck.wordpress.com “The Gathering Wave Is Now Flowing out to The Nations of Central Europe” and “The Gathering Wave is Producing a Tidal Wave!”)

B. THE CHE EUROPE NET NETWORK

In March 2015, Ron brought the leaders of CHE teams already working in CE and the Balkans together to finalize the formation of what was named the “CHE Europe

Net” network. The working committee stated the network’s mission: *The CHE Europe Net exists to multiply and support CHE in Central Europe and the Balkans.* It also formulated CHE Europe Net’s vision: *To stimulate, facilitate and strengthen CHE Teams and projects in poor communities of all the nations of Central Europe and the Balkans by 2020.* The leaders of existing CHE Teams then pledged to resource new and emerging teams and projects in new regions and nations to achieve the 2020 Vision. Ron is currently acting as the network’s administrator.



The CHE Europe Net network was introduced at The Gathering Wave. Attendees were encouraged to take advantage of the resources it offered and invited to become members of it as their teams are formed.

(read more at justaseck.wordpress.com “Ron Travels to Tirana, Albania for “2020 VISION” Planning. See CHE Europe Net’s brochure on the home page.)

In connection with these happenings Ron was asked to serve this year on the Global CHE Network’s Ad Hoc Advisory Committee which worked to bring some needed order to CHE’s rapidly expanding world-wide network of sub-networks, teams and workers. The goal was to make this network more useful to its members and to new and emerging CHE teams around the world. This took Ron to Barcelona in May for a training summit for network administrators. Now that the ad hoc committee’s work is finished, Ron has been nominated to be a member of the Representative Council for the Global CHE Network.

C. THE NEXT NATIONS

Since The Gathering Wave, mission leaders in **Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Russia, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Serbia** have made contact with CHE Europe Net for resources to help them begin Community Health

Evangelism in their sphere. Ron and Jeannie have worked most directly with leaders in Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria and south Serbia.



1. **Bulgaria** — Ron and Jeannie travelled to western Bulgaria twice, in June and October to meet with leaders of the Roma Pentecostal Bulgaria Church of God, a denomination of about 80 Roma churches. In October their team presented a CHE Vision Seminar in Lom, Bulgaria for pastors and church leaders. A second and third Vision Seminar are now being planned south of Sofia and in eastern Bulgaria for March 2016. If church leaders give their approval, they will send workers to a CHE TOT conference next summer/fall to begin CHE in their churches and communities. God has raised up Roger and Gail Dine in a most dramatic way to be our leaders to implement CHE in Bulgaria. (*read more at justaseck.wordpress.com "When is Coincidence not Coincidence?" and "The Gathering Wave is Producing a Tidal Wave!"*)
2. **Hungary** — Leaders from the Hungarian Pentecostal Church and their Hungarian Gypsy Mission came away from the Gathering Wave with a desire to adopt CHE strategies and principles into both their church and their Roma work. In September our MEK Team made a short follow-up presentation to their Board and is currently awaiting their dates for a Vision Seminar.
3. **Croatia** — Motivated workers with Roma are currently working to put together a CHE Vision Conference for spring 2016.

4. **South Serbia** — Snezana Slavoljub is a pastor's wife and a former government worker who has long had a vision of reaching 20 villages surrounding her in south Serbia for Jesus Christ. At the Gathering Wave she came to tears as God showed her how he wanted to do it — through CHE. Ron and Marijana helped connect her with Global Hope Network International (GHNI) which has a desire to initiate CHE teams and projects among unreached Roma and Muslims in the Balkans. Snezana is now forming her CHE Training Team and will be starting her first CHE project in the village of Dorgovska masala in 2016! Other potential projects are also developing in this region.
5. **Transform World** — TW was birthed out of the Lausanne Mission Movement. One of its goals is The Million Village Challenge — to reach a million new poor villages within the 10-40 Widow using CHE as its outreach and discipleship/development strategy by 2020. TW would like to use the Gathering Wave as a model for mobilizing nations in the 10-40 widow to reach this goal. Because of this, Ron was invited to Seoul, Korea for the annual TW conference in October to speak on the Key Principles of the Gathering Wave Model. Results of The Gathering Wave are flowing outside of CE and the Balkans. (Read more at justaseck.wordpress.com "The Gathering Wave Flows through Seoul, South Korea.")



A. THE NEED in order to Reach the Next Nation

1. God is opening a door of opportunity for the NAB to reach the poor of the next nations of the world. Ron and Jeannie need at least two NAB couples to become part of their team so that we can step through this door into the next nations. Are you being SENT?
2. Ron and Jeannie are being blessed with financial support to help support new teams and workers. What we need are partners, both church and individual, with great vision for pioneering new national mission fields with us. Is your church being SENT to reach a new nation?

II. God Has Sent Us TOGETHER to Equip the Next Generation of Leaders.



CHE strategy fits in perfectly with the NAB's vision of equipping the next generation of leaders. It's all about training others to train others. That's why CHE training conferences are called TOTs, which stands for Training of Trainers. We are training the next generation in Central Europe and the Balkans to lead and train. Here are a few ways we did it in 2015.

A. Training of The MEK Hungary Board

In 2015 the Misszió az Egészséges Közösségéért Board made the transition to complete independence. After 3 years as a non-profit foundation it applied for and received status as a Hungarian charitable organization. Three additional Hungarians were added to the Board and Ron finished his mentoring, training and leadership with a

seminar on Board Governance. In October he turned over leadership to the new Chairman of the Board, Balazs Dicsofi.

B. Training of REZ and ZZ Serbia Boards

Ron also continued to mentor and train the REZ Serbia Board in 2015. However the results were not as favorable. It was agreed that there was a difference of vision and leadership styles within the Board. Marijana Cizmanski, NAB National Worker, resigned as REZ Director and formed a second CHE foundation, ZZ Serbia. The NAB has agreed to continue to support Marijana Cizmanski as director of ZZ Serbia. Now there are two CHE Teams in Serbia (Much like Paul and Barnabas). Both have agreed to provide and combine resources when necessary but to work in difference projects. Ron is currently working with both Teams.

C. Children's CHE training

CHE workers from Hungary and Serbia held a Children's CHE TOT in March for Child Evangelism Fellowship workers in Serbian-speaking countries. They are seeking out new strategies for more effective outreach to parents of the children they work with. The CEF workers are now considering taking a CHE TOT.

D. Women's Cycle of Life training



In May, 2015 NAB Hungary sponsored a CHE Women's Cycle of Life (WCL) Training Course in Belgrade, Serbia for CHE Master Trainers in Central Europe. The

conference was organized by Eszter Daroczi-Csuhai and Marijana Cizmanski. Marijana is now starting her own WCL course for women in Novi Sad and Eszter has begun a WCL in Kékcsse, Hungary and Biharia, Romania. *(Read more at justaseck.wordpress.com "Women's Cycle of Life Course Provides Empowerment to the Poor.")*



E. CHE Vision Conferences

CHE Vision Conferences introduce church and mission leaders to the concepts of CHE. In addition to those held in Bulgaria this year, Marijana also ran a conference in Nis, Serbia for Roma leaders from 5 area churches. Ron and Jeannie also held one as part of a Chinese "Reaching the Roma" Missions Conference in Budapest in October. *(Read more at justaseck.wordpress.com "Chinese Receive Training to 'Reach the Roma.'")*





F. CHE training in Communities

The real goal of CHE is not to train Master Trainers, but for Master Trainers to begin to do outreach and training among Roma in community development situations to produce Christ-transformed lives.

This year Laci and Eszter Daroczi-Csuhai facilitated a CHE Life Skills Course at Grassalkovich High School to about 120 students in 6 classes. These students are mostly Roma who have failed in normal educational settings and come from at-risk homes.

In September they began teaching a Micro-enterprise course to the future Community Leadership Team for the Roma community in Boldog, near Hatvan. The



class has just formed its first savings club to create capital for their small businesses. CHE lessons always combine spiritual and physical training.

In eastern Hungary, Hessel Keuter's team is holding CHE training in Ajak, Kékcse and Doge for Roma from surrounding villages.

THE NEED in order to Equip the Next Generation of Leaders
Ron and Jeannie need additional NAB full-time, cross-cultural wholistic disciple-makers.
Also needed are Churches that will partner in Equipping the next generation of leaders among the poor in CE and the Balkans to begin a Roma Revolution of Revival and Awakening.

III. God Has Sent Us TOGETHER to Impact the Next Community.

Of course we reach the next nation and train the next generation so that we can impact the next community and the people in it for the Kingdom of God.

A. Hungary



In east Hungary (Debrecen area) in 2015, Hessel Keuter and Kalman Hámzá, MEK's first full-time Roma worker (pictured below), saw their CHE work spread from the Roma community in **Ajak** to gypsies in the neighboring Roma communities of **Rétközberencs**, **Kékcse** and **Döge** because of their successful agriculture projects. Currently they are holding CHE training meetings together in all three

communities. in 2016, they would like to make connections in two more communities: one is **Bököny**, where they had two children's camps, last year and this year. The other one is **Hajdúhadház**, where there is a Gypsy church they are connecting with.

Laci and Eszter saw progress in central Hungary (Budapest area) in the Roma community in **Boldog**. They have begun a micro-enterprise and training program with the Roma leadership with the plan of spreading it into the full village. A



number of the Boldog leaders are maturing Christians. They also deepened their CHE partnership with **Grassalkovich Vocational High School** in Hatvan which led to the construction of the passive solar greenhouse with the agriculture department. In 2016 Laci and Eszter hope to begin a micro-enterprise course at Grassalkovich and to enter the village of **Csány**. Jozsef Csuha has put together a team of Hungarians that is attempting to plant a Roma church and begin a CHE project in **Csörög**, northeast of Budapest.

B. Serbia

In May Ron and Jeannie spent a week with Marijana Cizmanski surveying 5 Roma communities in the Novi Sad area, seeking God's leading on which ones were most ready for a CHE development project.

(Read more at justaseck.wordpress.com "Take a tour of Roma Villages in Serbia with REZ and Us.")

ZZ Serbia has begun a partnership in **Mali-Beograd** (Village A in blog) with a vision of reaching two larger slum areas. REZ Serbia will focus on **Adice** (Village C).

In November, Ron travelled to south Serbia to visit and prioritize projects with Marijana and Snezana. Snezana's Team's first project will be in the Roma community of **Dorgovska masala** near Nis.



C. Bulgaria



This year we spent time laying the groundwork with the Roma Bulgaria Church of God for possible CHE projects in the Roma communities of **Lom** in the northwest, of **Filapopos** in Sofia, of **Samokov** south of Sofia and **Silistra** in the northeast. Roger and Gail Dine, missionaries from Australia, will be coordinating the CHE work in Bulgaria.

THE NEED

We need a wholly new type of NAB missionary: full-time wholistic community developers for Central Europe and the Balkans.

We also need NAB churches who will each come along-side a wholistic community development project as a partner to help see it through to completion.

CONCLUSION:

Significant creative work was done in 2015 on the important matter of ministry financial sustainability. Norm Poehlke, VP of Ministry Outreach, and his Missions Advisory Board developed a grant-based system for supporting our teams of national workers until they can develop long-term church and individual donor support.

Starting in 2016 a portion of Ron and Jeannie Seck's support will be put into a grant fund. Teams such as MEK Hungary and ZZ Serbia can apply for grants from this fund to help pay salaries and operate their ministries. At the same time they will be seeking out long-term, sustainable NAB churches and donors to partner with them. Grant amounts will decrease as church partnership support increases until teams are fully funded long-term by their church partners.

This strategy fits in perfectly with the NAB's new emphasis: *SENT*. More emphasis will be placed on our NAB churches to be more than financial supporters but to actually get personally involved in the community outreach and development programs they are helping to finance.

A perfect example of this is Hillside Baptist Church of Dickinson, ND. In 2013 they committed to be a partner of MEK Hungary. Under the new grant system, they have designated their NAB support to go to MEK Hungary. In addition, they have sent two short-term teams to assist MEK in their development efforts, have adopted Laci and Eszter Csuhai-Daroczi as their NAB national missionaries and continue to look for significant ways to help their CHE projects.

This year Ron and Jeannie visited supporting NAB churches in California and North and South Dakota to promote this new grant and partnership strategy. In January and February 2016 they will be traveling to NAB churches in California and the upper midwest to do the same. If you would like more information on the grant strategy or church partnering, contact Ron Seck or the NAB International Office.