

October 2009

Greetings to All of You,

I am writing this letter from the new Europe Teen Challenge headquarters facility in Portugal. We have worked many hours getting moved in and organizing the new and improved offices. What a blessing God has given us with this new facility!

Since returning to Europe in early September, I have also visited several of our TC programs: Hungary, Serbia, Macedonia and—for the first time—Sicily. (No, I did not run into any from the Mafia!)

Teen Challenge in Italy is hoping to open a street work as well as a residential program in Messina. I taught the Teen Challenge Principles of Rehabilitation in a public forum. These sessions went very well. I also spoke in three different churches. The last evening, there was an extended time of prayer at the end of the service. Times of prayer like these always serve as a barometer of spiritual, emotional and physical needs. I was moved deeply by the needs of some of the people with whom we prayed. Please pray for the development of the new TC program in Sicily. As in any place, the needs are great. Above all, we need to see the workers God has called to this harvest field.

I would like to mention another prayer request. The TC residential program in Macedonia has temporarily shut its doors. Even though they continue to work with addicts in the areas of counseling and referrals, the day to day work in the residential program is no longer operating. The program was small but viable. The sole reason for shutting the doors was/is lack of funds. The current turbulent economic times are affecting many of our programs across Europe. I know God is not surprised by this, but please pray that God would bless these works abundantly.

On a more encouraging note, Europe Teen Challenge has now made official contact with the European Office of Drug Policy. Just a few days ago, Joao Martins and I visited the leading candidate for this political seat. He is very aware of the success and nature of Teen Challenge, as is more than willing to have faith-based programs like TC have input into the wider drug policy of Europe. This is an open door that we have been working on and praying about for a long time. In November, he will attend our Fall leaders' meeting which will be held here in Portugal.

As always, I am thankful to all of you for your faithful giving—especially during these difficult times. We are doing okay, but are feeling the "pinch". Nevertheless, we continue to rely on God's goodness and provision for us. We thank him for faithful partners like you!

God Bless,

Tom Bremer
Executive Director Eastern Europe Outreach, Inc.