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...for global mission with Radstock

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- Paul Williams and mission in Mongolia / Russia
- Delegate subsidies for the Radstock Conference
- Sending Rapport to churches worldwide
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RADSTOCK
churches connected for global mission
RADSTOCK MINISTRIES SPRING 2009 RAPPORT

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** Forging project based church connections
- Create Opportunities** Opening new doors for ministry through

multi-church partnerships

- Coach Churches** Equipping churches to take their next steps in mission
- Provide Expertise** Tapping into specialists' experience of particular countries, cultures and ministries

For more information and to get connected for global mission, contact:

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round up

Meet the Teams!

"I'll be involved in language learning and equipping church planters... and building on our micro-enterprise connections."

In this new mini-feature, we introduce some of the people behind the Radstock network are two teams – Network Support and Network Development. Meet one member of the Network Development Team (NDT): Paul Williams.

As Radstock's Eurasia Network Developer, Paul travels widely in Russia and Mongolia, helping to establish missional connections with churches. Paul is also an ordained minister in the Church of England, a former market researcher, a fan of mushy peas, walking, cycling and has recently converted from PC to Mac!

Paul gave his life to Christ at the age of 17 and so appreciates the value of reaching that generation – absent from many churches – for Christ. Among his networking initiatives with Radstock, he has had the privilege of connecting a youth group attached to a large church in



Paul Williams

Romford, UK, with a youth cafe church outreach in Udmurtia, central Russia.

Until the end of last year, Paul was Associate Minister of St Mary's Old Harlow, where amongst other things he oversaw a fundamental review of the church's global outlook. *"The church's vision for mission now includes the mission partnerships so important in the Radstock network,"* explains Paul, *"as well as ongoing support for our mission partners with traditional agencies."*

St Mary's are now preparing to commission Paul as he re-locates to Mongolia for at least a year. *"I should be in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, by the end of March, from where I'll be involved in language learning and equipping church planters, as well as building on our existing micro-enterprise connections."* He will also travel to Russia regularly to foster the Radstock network links in Siberia and the Urals.

Chicago Coalition

Join Radstock at the Gospel Coalition Conference, April 21-23 in Chicago. We'll be there talking to pastors and church leaders about mission opportunities, how the Radstock network is developing and ways for you and your church to get connected for global mission. Stop by our booth to say hello, and ask about our church consultations, mission audits and more. We look forward to seeing you in the Windy City!

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Do pray for Paul and St Mary's as their mission partnership with churches in Mongolia and Russia takes this next step forward.

Keep up-to-date with Paul's news via his website (www.criesofaseagull.com) or by requesting more information on the response form.

rappoort

The Newsletter of Radstock Ministries • Spring 2009 • Suggested donation 50p / \$1

Bringing it all together

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A Chinese church in Oklahoma, USA, commissioning a Caucasian American for ministry in the Balkans. Radstock's USA Director, Brad Byrd, couldn't help but be excited...

It wasn't just because Matt Barton, of Stillwater Chinese Baptist Church (SCBC), was going to take over Brad's real estate business in Peje, Kosovo. *"Seeing an immigrant Chinese church of 50 people sending Matt out to minister among Muslims in the Balkans was a great picture of the body of Christ at work,"* reflects Brad, *"and a great result for Radstock!"*

Matt's background in business, and cross-cultural mission experience from Europe and Asia, have all equipped and envisioned him for taking on parts of Brad's previous role, and developing his own relationships and opportunities.

And that's not the only way God is building on Brad's work in Peje. Helping Matt in the real estate agency is Aferdita, a living testimony to the life-changing impact of Radstock's Micro-Enterprise loans scheme. *"About 18 months ago, we gave a Radstock loan to Aferdita to start a jewellery shop,"* explains Brad, *"and it has been a huge success!"*

As well as paying off debts, Aferdita has been able to keep her household budget running and even gave a loan herself to a couple who want to start a business in another part of Kosovo.

"Aferdita is a true example of what we were trying to accomplish in Kosovo – and now she's quickly becoming Matt's best agent! Most special of all is her openness towards the Lord and the credit she gives for what He is doing in her family's lives."



Commissioning Matt Barton

Meanwhile, SCBC are making the connection between local and global mission. Matt is also looking to reach out to some of the immigrant Chinese in Kosovo who work as day traders and links in the chain of human trafficking from East to West.

"it is an honour to send you to some of our people we will never meet!"

As God brings together the different members of this cross-cultural partnership, they share the privilege of being part of His global plans and purposes. At Matt's commissioning, SCBC leader, Puck Ja, acknowledged, *"it is an honour to send you to some of our [Chinese] people we will never meet."*

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Read some of Matt's reflections on crossing cultures at the Radstock blog:
www.radstock.org/radstock-reports-from-the-front-line

RADSTOCK
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Striving Together



“the Radstock vision has shaped the local churches we’ve planted”

In 1990, as the Iron Curtain fell, the men and women of Friedensstimme UK faced a choice. Their work of advocacy for imprisoned believers in communist Russia was no longer needed. How should they now put their commitment to brothers and sisters around the world into action?

After much prayer, they decided to pursue gospel partnerships with believers in what had become the ‘former Soviet Union’. And so Radstock Ministries was born: dedicated to seeing local churches in Russia, the UK and beyond take up their privilege and responsibility in mission.

Steve Timmis was integral to that transition and, as co-Founder, Director and Chair, has brought much of the vision and energy used by God to grow Radstock into a global network of churches over the past 18 years. Last December, Steve handed on the role of Chair to Ross Campbell. We asked Steve for some of his thoughts reflecting on the past – and looking to the future.

Rapport: What did you and others hope for when Radstock first began?

Steve Timmis: We wanted local churches to take seriously God’s call for them to be his mission strategy in the world – leading to churches being planted among unreached peoples across the globe.

R: Tell us some of the exciting ways you’ve seen God at work through Radstock since then.

ST: Latvia in the early 1990s was an exciting time. It was the immediate aftermath of the break up of the Soviet Union and there were lots of young people hungry for truth and meaning.

We also had the privilege of going into prisons in Ukraine as churches took their responsibility for reaching these people seriously. We were able to witness converted prisoners living for Christ in horrendous situations.

R: How has God done ‘more than you asked or imagined’ since 1991? Which current developments in the Radstock network particularly encourage you?

ST: Seeing the number of churches and people taking God’s call on them seriously – and greater acceptance of the centrality of the local church – has been a great encouragement.

In recent years, what has been most encouraging is churches traditionally seen as ‘receivers’ becoming

‘senders’, such as Albanian churches exploring church-planting opportunities in Macedonia and partnering with churches in Cambodia.

R: Meanwhile, tell us about the other ministries you’re more directly involved with these days.

ST: The Crowded House (www.thecrowdedhouse.org) is an international group of church-planting networks. I’m involved both in leading a local church in Sheffield and in the international dimensions of The Crowded House. We have churches in Dallas, Cape Town, Perth, Northern Tasmania, and also in various UK locations.

The other main initiative that occupies my time is The Porterbrook Network (www.theporterbrooknetwork.org), which aims to train and equip local churches for mission. This is based in Sheffield and is developing in the States and South Africa.

R: How have Radstock and your local church ministry benefited each other?

ST: One of the primary motivations for starting The Crowded House was planting churches that had mission in their DNA, so the Radstock vision has shaped the local churches we’ve planted.

R: What is your prayer for Radstock’s churches and teams as you leave the board?

ST: Stay true to the vision of Radstock and keep connecting churches for global mission! *“Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”*

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For information on The Porterbrook Network training for mission, see their website or use the response form on page 3.

Heart-Lag



“the one thing we share transcends our differences...”

Peter LaRuffa is the Youth/Children’s pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, Kentucky, USA. He shares his reflections after leading a short-term trip to Albania where their church is developing a partnership with the Lushnja Disciples Church and pastor Edi Halili.

I’m pretty flexible when it comes to bedtimes. It’s not unlike me to pull an ‘all-nighter’ to get something done. It may not be the ideal lifestyle, but I think it helped to make my experience with jet-lag after our mission trip to Albania pretty smooth.

What I did experience is ‘heart-lag’. Jet-lag comes from travelling a long distance in a short period of time. Heart-lag comes from growing incredibly close to people in a relatively short period of time. It happens when one’s heart must leave a location physically before it is ready to do so emotionally.

During our time in Albania, God in His kindness was pleased to knit together the hearts of two groups of people who are so different: our languages have almost nothing in common; America is a baby compared with the centuries of Albanian history; our grocery stores, homes,

churches, schools and streets are all very different.

But Christians have a unique ability to grow close in a short period of time because we have the most important things in common. We’re all poor beggars who don’t know one another, but know how to be filled by Jesus, the Bread of Life. The one thing we share transcends our differences and causes us to ask, *“Am I really meeting a stranger for the first time, or being introduced to a sibling I never knew I had?”*

I believe heart-lag is indicative that one has loved as Christ loved - vulnerably. It shows relationships centred on the gospel, although messy at times, are a mess worth making for the glory of God!



Teaming Up

Radstock is teaming up with The Good Book Company to offer a broader range of resources to churches in the network. “The Good Book Company has been offering solid, Bible-centred resources to UK churches for over 18 years,” explains Brad Byrd, Radstock’s US Director. “Excitingly, they are now making those same useful tools available in the US.” In celebration of the US launch of The Good Book Company, check out www.thegoodbook.com.



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- Matt Barton and MED in the Balkans
- Paul Williams and mission in Mongolia / Russia
- The Porterbrook Network
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