



Over the weekend of 30 September the 8th annual CEP conference was held in the beautiful Czech mountains at Malenovice. Representatives of the various Partners, plus several friends and supporters from the UK and other countries gathered to share, learn, pray and be encouraged, so that they can return to their sometimes isolated places of ministry refreshed and with renewed vision. The theme of the conference was the development of Integrated ministry since the fall of communism 25 years ago.

The more traditional methods of preaching the gospel have limited effect in these largely Roman Catholic and Orthodox countries. The approach that CEP favours is to attempt to meet the felt needs of people by providing various platforms of ministry. By befriending individuals, educating, counselling, training and helping them to gain employment, we demonstrate the love of Jesus to them and often have opportunities to share our faith.

Partners in Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Bulgaria are running schools for children from preschool age to older teenage years where Christian values are shared. Others run Youth For Christ activities, Arts festivals, retreat facilities for pastors and families and kids camps. Student volunteers work with disabled children in Romania. Through new enterprises, financed with micro loans, farmers as far away as Kenya and Rwanda are able to establish sustainable lives.

Along with morning devotional talks, prayer times and reports from the Partner organisations, the attendees were treated to some excellent teaching sessions from men and women who have over 100 years of experience between them in these areas of mission ministry.

With reference to Paul's integrated ministry on his 3 missionary journeys, the subjects covered included financial sustainability, social impact and spiritual transformation.

In one of the sessions a panel of contributors addressed questions based around the signs of the times today.

With good conference facilities and food, good weather and great views of the surrounding hills this was a really beneficial conference.





For more information on CEP please see our web site at www.cepartners.org.uk

Paul Carter - CEPUK chairman