

The extensive amount of travel that Jim has front-loaded into the first part of this year is coming to a close. This means that we've already laid out a good bit of this year's support funds early. We would appreciate your prayers for continued financial partnerships, and would love to have some new stakeholders in [supporting](#) our servant leadership in Europe.



We continue to develop The Mill as a place where we can foster community and mission. The hubbub of spring is so intense that Liz hasn't been able to get an update from her role as "project manager" But it's coming!



Jim will shortly be leaving for Turkey to attending the [World Evangelical Alliance's](#) biannual [Global Mission Consultation](#). The theme of the consultation is "**Gospel – Church – Witness.**" This is an opportunity to interact with missiologists and reflective practitioners of the highest order, in a totally "global" format. Jim will be helping the SERVEurope team be a blessing by assisting with registration and logistics, as well as looking to interact with attendees about (among many other things!) the tools, approaches and vision of the Catalyst Team we're building. But mostly, he'll be doing his imitation of a sponge, soaking in every little bit of his time in conversation.

Please pray for safety in travel, for protection for all who will be traveling into Turkey from around the globe, and for deep and constructive interaction on some crucial issues regarding the role of the Church in our world today.

We continue to be on pins-and-needles as we scan the news about Ukraine each day (most of which we get via Facebook from first-hand acquaintances there). As we said last time, we honestly are convinced that prayer is *the* reason why the country has not been already plunged into war. The relevance of the themes of the WEA consultation are very striking: the **Church** is uniting in prayer and **witness** as we've never seen before, and the relevance of the **Gospel** is evident, as the true spiritual nature of the conflict is discerned and engaged.



ReachGlobal's partnership with the [LOGOS](#) center outside of Kyiv is answering profound needs - physical, social and spiritual - of many people who have been displaced by the current conflict. We have set up a fund to assist them in this crisis, to which you can contribute via this [link](#). We know that your participation in this life-changing opportunity would be greatly appreciated.

Jim continues to devote a lot of time, energy and travel to building SERVEurope's Catalyst Team and its capacity to help our staff and partners "*see and grasp kingdom opportunities by developing catalytic responses to complex challenges.*"

We've spent a lot of the last few months on the road: their goal is to relate to each of our [City Teams](#) and [their contexts](#), engaging personally, substantively and intentionally to learn about their visions, strategies and plans. We are also [identifying opportunities](#) that have transformative potential in multiple areas (currently working on ministry to and among the Roma and engaging human trafficking in Europe). We're developing conceptual "[maps](#)" and other [methods](#) and [tools](#) for collecting and organizing large amounts of information to discern missional opportunities amidst complexity in multiple spheres of mission, culture, and society where we believe we can have a significant impact.

Speaking of our time spent with Roma evangelists last month, we weren't kidding when we said that speaking to them was, at times, like reading the book of Acts. One pastor in Spain told of a spontaneous move (one of many) from one Roma village in which he had worked. Those who had received the Gospel headed to take this "good news" to the neighboring village, because "God told them the next village didn't know this news and needed to hear it." When visiting the village, the chief opposed them, chasing them away, shouting "Come back again, and I'll tear your heads off!" After at first retreating, the young Roma reasoned that "God told us to bring them this news" was more important than such threats. So they returned to the village, the chief, as expected, came after them, brandishing a machete at them. He rushed at them with apparently lethal intent... and his arm "just froze up," with the weapon still in hand over his head. Being unable for some time to move his arm, or drop the weapon, he shouted to the evangelists, "Pray to God for my arm!" They did, and the machete immediately dropped to the floor. He invited the young preachers to his home, and the good news found not only a new recipient, but made a powerful impact on the entire community.

Such stories reflect the power of the Spirit, and are an example of how we need to take what the Body is learning 'at the margins' and make it available and usable for all its members. That's a big part of what keeps us enthusiastic about what God can accomplish through us in this phase of our ministry. We are very grateful to all who make it possible!



Another highlight was getting back to Sofia, Bulgaria. The [City Team](#) there has connected well in multiple areas including student ministry, anti-trafficking, business as mission, ministry among Roma and refugees (many coming from Syria who have been through harrowing trials in their search for a safe place).

These are just the sorts of initiatives that we would like to deepen and strengthen through the help of our Catalyst Team. And they are also [great opportunities for you](#), if you are interested in pursuing your own call to follow Jesus into the world and make a real and immediate impact in His name.

Who knows, *you* might even be one of the resources for mission that we are seeking!



New US Contact information:

1202 Mill Pond Road,
Appomattox, VA 24522

434-992-2679 | cell: 434-664-9131

jim.baker@efca.org

liz.baker@efca.org

Skype and facebook – [jimplizbaker](#)

Blog – www.millpondporch.com

Support address:

ReachGlobal
901 E. 78th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55420
Attn: Donor Services

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By His grace,

Jim and Liz Baker