



**youth for christ**

europa // middle-east // north africa

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**2010**  
**AREA DIRECTOR'S**  
**REPORT**

# OVERVIEW

**As always, this year has been the usual mixture of highlights and low points, encouragements and challenges, with the calm assurance throughout that God has been in control.**

Several people close to the organisation in the Area have become seriously ill or have been hurt in accidents, and several have passed on to Heaven, either through accident or illness. At the same time we must remember that an incalculable number have been preserved on the roads, in the air and in difficult political circumstances and have not got sick or been hurt.

Many hundreds of young people have found Jesus Christ as their Saviour and God and Lord, many hundreds of staff have had their financial needs provided for, whilst some have not. As usual, God has been at work across the Area as Sovereign Lord.

The following report provides a detailed snapshot of the work of the EMENA Area during 2010. Feel free to use it for praise, prayer or to help you sleep, and thank you for the part you have played in this crucial and strategic work.



**John Duncan**

*Area Director  
for Europe,  
the Middle-East  
& North Africa*

## 2010 KEY FACTS

### Personnel changes & notable events:

- 31 January** – YFC Armenia officially launches at a youth training conference.
- 31 January** – Neil O’Boyle moves out as Director of Arabian Gulf YFC and becomes Area Director for Asia-Pacific.
- 1 February** - Amy Kellogg becomes Arabian Gulf YFC National Director.
- 12 February** - Bryan Blomker agrees to lead the Coaching training programme for the Area.
- 9 April** – Gavin & Ann Calver of British YFC celebrate the safe arrival of baby Daniel after a particularly-difficult pregnancy.
- April/May** – the Icelandic volcano dust-cloud severely restricts air travel throughout Europe and North America. European Evangelical Alliance General Assembly in Izmir, Turkey is among those affected.
- Early April** – YFC Germany’s housekeeper Inge Gebauer suffers a stroke and is severely incapacitated.
- Early April** – Lynsey & Sarah, the two girls from N. Ireland who were working in N. Africa, return home.
- 30 April** – Wioletta Hatak steps down as National Director of YFC Poland.
- 1 May** - Bartek Jaconiuk becomes National Director of YFC Poland.
- 19 May** – Timea Halasz is officially installed as the new National Director of YFC Hungary.
- 30 June** – John Sagherian resigns as National Director of YFC Lebanon after thirty-seven years in the post.
- 1 July** – Lindy-Ann Masri starts as Director of Ministry of YFC Lebanon.
- 1 July** – John Sagherian begins work full-time as the Regional Director for YFC Middle-East & N. Africa.
- July** – A new National Board forms in Portugal under the chairmanship of Antonio Pires.
- July** – YFC Northern Ireland’s first Project 32 outreach runs in sixteen Irish counties.



- 👉 **1 August** – lightning strikes the building in Zhytomyr, Ukraine where YFC was storing camp equipment. Everything was burnt.
- 👉 **31 August** – Natalie Oghassabian resigns as National Director of YFC Cyprus after three years. Brandon Johnson of Denver, USA is named as Director-designate.
- 👉 **31 August** – Fouad Shaker resigns as ND of YFC Egypt after ten years. Maged Talaat is named as Director-designate.
- 👉 **31 August** – Wanda Murray resigns as ND of YFC Ireland when her six-month tenure ends.
- 👉 **31 August** – Christi Cherechean resigns as ND of YFC Romania after less than one year.
- 👉 **16 September** – Nancy Sagherian of Lebanon goes through surgery for cancer.
- 👉 **17 September** – Irena Dragas of Croatia goes through surgery, also for cancer.
- 👉 **22 September** – the Board of YFC Ireland resigns.
- 👉 **October** – MySpace Bologna in Italy moves to a bigger building.
- 👉 **October** – the Turkish version of Why Jesus? developed jointly by YFC Netherlands and AGAPE, goes online.
- 👉 **October** – YFC N. Ireland begins its NOMAD programme, using a football cage.
- 👉 **31 October** – Irena Dragas resigns as ND of YFC Croatia ahead of her marriage to Scott and move to USA.
- 👉 **1 November** – Ruben Secen commences as ND of YFC Croatia.
- 👉 **1 November** – the appointment is announced of Allan Grier as Regional Director for YFC Southern Europe.
- 👉 **11 November** – MySpace Palermo has its official inauguration as a YFC drop-in centre in the capital of Sicily.
- 👉 **27 November** – around fifty supporters come to our house for an evening of food, fellowship and thanks.

1. Bartek Jakoniuk, ND of Poland  
 2. Timea Halasz with Attila, a YFC volunteer and her brother  
 3. YFC Armenia, EQUIP Conference, in Tsakhadzor  
 4. Irena Dragas on her wedding day  
 5. My Space, Palermo, Italy, on their opening night

### Travel & conferences:

For details of these, which represented a large proportion of my work throughout the year, please refer to Appendix I. Note that because of Maisie's expected hip operation I had kept my diary relatively free of travel in April and May. Praise God that in the end, one of our faithful supporters prayed for her hip, which was completely healed.

### Area Staff as at 31 December 2010:

Alison Moorhead, Art Melli, Bob Tanner, Bryan Blomker, Denise Weir, Gwen Ross, Jean-Jacques Weiller, John Duncan, John Sagherian, Malcolm Johnston, Paul Gilmore, Ruth Ellison, Sheila Hutcheson, Sylvia Dorman.

# WORLD LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Working to finalise the Strategic Initiative Process, putting detail on the three key priorities for the Areas – Engaging, Equipping and Empowering.
- Developing a curriculum for giving more advanced training to National Directors in service – probably at the three-year, six-year and nine-year mark.
- Working on a Pioneering document, bringing together the range of different approaches currently being used in different Areas and assessing their strengths and weaknesses.
- Developing a “new” Young Leader Training & Empowerment process, now that the original one has run its designated course.
- Developing a YFCI and Area Office Review tool, so that nations can have a chance to reflect back to the centre on how they are being supported.

One of the important roles of the four Area Directors is to serve on the World Leadership Team, or WLT, the Executive side of the central leadership of YFC internationally. The other half of that is the International Board, the Legislative side. Some of the key items on our agenda at the moment are:

- Further developing the Leadership Training Manual, and getting it translated into Russian – Asia-Pacific Area handling this.
- Looking at the chartering process for “atypical” nations to find a way to accommodate them within our structure.
- Working on the Global Launch initiative to provide funding and mentoring for young entrepreneurs who are willing to commit to helping YFC locally with some of their profits.
- Reviewing the Board Training Manual, the most-requested resource we have, and adding to it with Powerpoint presentations, etc.
- Looking at any constitutional changes that we may want to recommend.
- Working on the 2011 General Assembly – a “small” one, and on the 2014 General Assembly – a “big” one, and our 70th anniversary.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Sadly, a number of folks connected with YFC passed away during 2010, and so that they should not be forgotten, we mention them here:*

- **17 March:** Grace Wolgemuth, widow of Dr. Sam, first President of YFC International and mother of Dan and Sam. Dan is the National Director of YFC/USA and Sam is Chairman of the International Board.
- **17 April:** buried, Pauline Simms, faithful supporter of the Area.
- **30 May:** Mark Bailie of Dromore, Northern Ireland, brother of YFC staff member David – took his own life.
- **10 June:** Kezia Smit from Zimbabwe, worker with Newmarket YFC, England - killed in a car accident.
- **12 Aug:** Francine Hildebrandt, wife of YFC Germany National Director Alfons, after a long illness.
- **15 Nov:** Fitu Mau, National Director of YFC Samoa, suddenly.
- **27 Dec:** Tudor Cataraga and his wife, parents-in-law of Harald Aalbers, ND of YFC Moldova – killed in a car accident.

## BIG EVENTS

- 👉 **Staff Training School, 16 - 23 January:**  
Annalong, N. Ireland – 11 students from 6 countries
- 👉 **Stage II of Coachnet training, 9 - 12 February:**  
Immanuel Centre, Czech – 8 students from 8 countries
- 👉 **Area Council, 14 - 18 June 2010:**  
Immanuel Centre, Czech – 60 delegates from 21 countries
- 👉 **SLOT Art Festival in Poland, 7 - 10 July:**  
with around 4,000 people
- 👉 **CAMPFEST in Slovakia, 5 - 8 August:**  
with around 4,500 people
- 👉 **SPORTFEST in Serbia, 9 - 14 August:**  
with around 1,000 people
- 👉 **FLEVO Festival in Holland, 19 - 22 August:**  
with around 10,000 people
- 👉 **National Day of Prayer in Italy, 12 October:**  
run by YFC Italia in conjunction with AGAPE

# FINANCES

We have five main streams of support, as follows, to all of whom we are extremely grateful:

**Individuals:** the bedrock of our monthly support. During 2010 the economic downturn meant that several people had to stop their support. By year-end we had just over 60 regular monthly donors, giving around £3,230 per month plus Gift-Aid.

**Churches:** especially my home church of Ballynahinch Baptist, has been incredibly faithful, and income from church sources averaged about £1,200 a month.

**Trusts:** Supporting Trusts were:

- Alexis Trust
- Ardbarron Trust
- Arthur Henderson Trust
- SW Buckhurst Trust
- Demesne Trust
- Elmhurst Trust
- Good News Trust
- JC Stewart Ltd
- Lurgan YMCA
- Marianne Trust
- Menary's Trust
- Stansfield Trust

**Member nations:** support from member nations and Regions was once again encouraging, with regular giving of about £850 per month, plus occasional one-off gifts. Special commendation to Germany, which has for many years been the biggest supporter of the Area by amount, and to Lebanon, which since the General Assembly in Brazil in 2003 has faithfully given 3% of its income to support the Area. Gifts in 2010 came from:

- YFC Eastern Europe Region
- YFC Germany
- YFC Ireland
- YFC Lebanon
- YFC Northern Ireland
- YFC Poland

**YFCI HQ:** In common with the other three Areas, we get support every month from the Denver HQ to the tune of about \$3,000, when available.

## Support from the Area budget to nations and individuals:

In 2010 we gave support to the following in the amounts shown:

- Cyprus - €700 per month
- Hungary - €1,200 per month
- Serbia - €925 per month
- Tunisia - \$500 per month
- MENA Media - \$4,250 per month
- Central Europe RD Bob Tanner - €900 per month
- USA Liaison Director Bryan Blomker - \$500 per month
- Area Chaplain Jean-Jacques Weiler - €1,100 per month

## UK Board of Trustees:

The EMENA Area office, being located in the UK, is registered as a charity with the UK Inland Revenue (Charity Reg Number XR79732) and as such, receives benefit from the Gift-Aid scheme. A small Board of Trustees looks after the legal interests of the Trust, and at the end of 2010 this Board was composed of Mr Denis Campbell of Newtownards, Dr John Donaldson of Comber, Mr Stuart Hamilton of Bangor and Mr David Wraight of Denver, Colorado, the International Director of YFC. Mr Malcolm Johnston stood down as a Trustee in February, and I am grateful for his sterling service in that role for a number of years.

During the year the Trustees appointed Miscampbell & Co, Chartered Accountants in Belfast as our official Auditors.



From left to right: Art Melli, John Duncan, Bob Tanner, Bryan Blomker, Malcolm Johnston, Jean-Jacques Weiler, John Sagherian & Allan Grier

# IN CONCLUSION

**In spite of the economic downturn that showed few signs of bottoming out, I look back on 2010 as a year of progress and encouragement on most fronts, but with some warning signs. There was a smooth transition in leadership in a number of countries, and some new sources of home funding were found to replace money that had formerly come in from outside.**

After several years of looking, we found a good man to take on the role of Regional Director in Southern Europe, and the Eastern Region made great progress in thinking through the formation of a Board for Russia, and in developing linkages with the Central-Asia Region of Asia-Pacific. The June Area Council meetings were a tremendous source of encouragement and fellowship, and the Staff Training School again provided a good solid introduction into the history, ethos and ministry models of the organisation.

The Area Training & Conference Centre, Camp Immanuel in Czech Republic, continued to develop well under the direction of the Immanuel Board of Trustees led by Dr John Donaldson, and under the very capable day-to-day supervision of Christer & Kicki Dahlberg. The dining-room was completely remodelled at the start of the year, the staff team has settled well together, and the reputation of the centre continues to grow in central Europe.

However, there were some disappointments. It was difficult to accept the resignation of the Board of YFC Ireland, a YFC nation that had started so well only a few years ago. It was frustrating to still not have found a Director for the work in Geneva, Switzerland, and to have had to let go the ND of YFC Romania

after less than a year in the job. The illness of Nancy Sagherian and the death of Francine Hildebrandt also hit the YFC family hard.

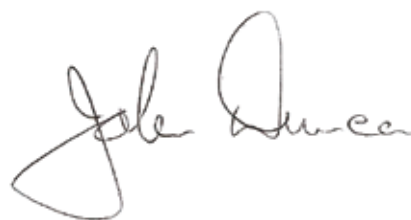
The 2010 ministry figures in Appendix III, however, give grounds for thankfulness, with almost half-a-million young people contacted directly by our programmes

around the Area, even though there has been a decrease in the number of ministry sites from 189 two years ago to 172 in 2010. This does not count the people impacted by broadcast and streaming media, especially in the Arabic-speaking world, which we believe numbers in the millions.

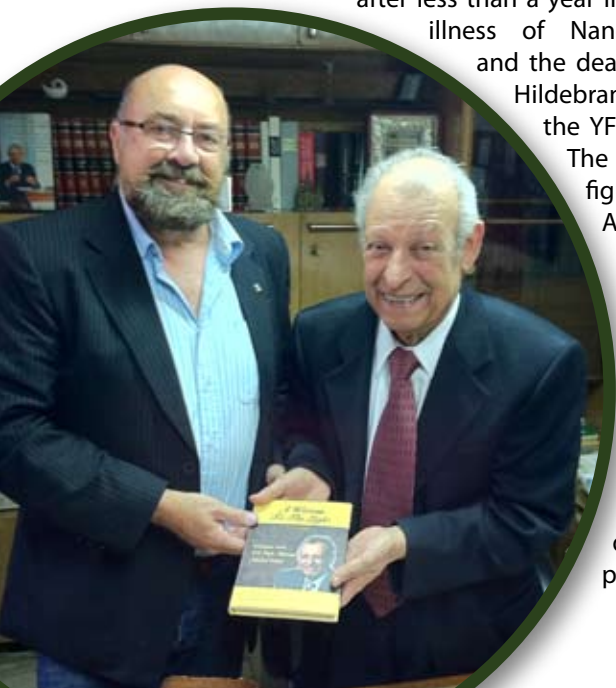
Encouraging also, as we rightly pride ourselves on having a strong volunteer ethos, that the numbers of people giving their time freely rose considerably in 2010 to just over 13,000. Our full-time and part-time staff numbers stayed roughly the same at around 680. Volunteers play an invaluable part in our work, but they need to be co-ordinated and facilitated, and those are hard jobs to do without staff. They are the people who traditionally take care of the electricity and insurance bills, stock the tuck shop, organise the registration of the centre with the government, do the fund-raising, make sure the place is clean, liaise with the local churches, book the teams into schools, set up missions, check that all equipment is working properly, train the volunteers, call the prayer-meetings, attend the YFC national and international events, the joint-ministry meetings and fraternals – all done so that when the volunteers turn up, “all” they have to do is interact with kids.

Our ministry sites (any site where ministry happens in or from) do an amazing job. In 2009 each site connected on average with 1,749 young people. In 2010 this had risen dramatically to 2,546 – albeit that the increase is likely to be because of more accurate reporting by one of our bigger nations. It’s a phenomenal number of individual young people associated with each site – whether through work in schools, drop-in centres, on the streets, in Young Offender institutions, or via one of the forty or so other ministry models in use somewhere around our Area – and an equal number of human stories of families, education, successes, failures, broken homes, alcoholism, drugs, anti-social behaviour, insecurities, the need to love and be loved. If even 10% of those young people finally come through to become ardent followers of Jesus Christ, every penny spent, every tear shed, every late-night prep session will have been well worth it.

God has been extremely faithful to us as we have grown since the humble beginnings back in the Forties, but we continue to need His wisdom as we steward the precious resources entrusted to us, of people even more than of finances.



John Duncan with Dr. Menes Abdul Noor of Egypt and Menes's autobiography



# AREA LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORTS

## BRYAN BLOMKER

### LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN EMENA AND YFC/USA

**My role could be defined as helping young people come to know Jesus Christ by serving the Europe, Middle-East and North Africa Area of Youth for Christ International through the development, utilisation and maximising of connections, opportunities and resources between YFC/USA, like-minded partners in the USA, and YFC's outreach in the EMENA Area.**

#### Responsibilities and Activities in 2010:

##### Overall Movement in USA Connection

- Represented EMENA Area at Mid-Winter Conference in Florida (February 2010)
- Represented EMENA Area at Central States Conference in Nebraska (October 2010)
- Represented EMENA Area at Southwest States Conference in California (October 2010)

##### World Outreach Connection

- Two World Outreach Retreats in Denver (January & September 2010)
- Staff Serving in EMENA Area
- Weekly Prayer Calls

##### Project Serve Connection

- Led a Project Serve Team from West Puget Sound YFC to Serbia (August 2010)
- Helped lead Project Serve Leader training at Mid-Winter (February 2010)
- Serving on Project Serve Leadership Team, first meeting in Denver (December 2010)

##### GA Link Team

- Serving on committee
- Current commitments for: Serbia YFC (W. Puget Sound YFC), Slovakia YFC (\$250 - James Valley YFC), Croatia YFC (possibly South Central MN YFC), Poland YFC (Bob)

##### USA Church & Other Connections

- Moldova Plan with Steve Van Meter - currently has two churches supporting Moldova, one with an initial gift of \$500, another with a commitment of \$3,000 a year
- He has committed to raising support for twenty centres in three years
- Have spoken in five churches (four in MN, one in ND)
- Run YFCI booth at Music Festival

##### Coaching

- Trainings have been held in Arabian Gulf, Britain and Germany
- Total number to date credentialed as coaches in EMENA Area is seventeen
- Last EMENA Coaching Training was in Italy, February 14th - 17th 2011
- Interest in N. Ireland, Russia

##### Book Summaries

- First completed - "The Hole in Our Gospel"

##### Goals & Prayer Requests

- Fundraising
- Vision Trip



Bryan & Jill with Elijah, Cody and Mykala

# BOB TANNER

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE

**Kids are hearing the Gospel in Central Europe! Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia, Romania, Austria, Croatia... God is at work in these countries. What a joy it was to be back in many of these nations again! We have been away for several months and now to again see the work the staff of YFC has accomplished during that time was so exciting!**

As I reflect on the overall picture the thought that comes to the forefront of my mind is, "How can they do so much with so little?" Consider the fact that they publish a beautiful Christian Teen magazine, do weekly club meetings that average twenty plus young people in over a hundred locations, hold music festivals that range from a few hundred to thousands of kids, work with poor families and their children in rough neighborhoods, hold a dozen or more summer camps, train youth leaders for hundreds of churches, run discipleship groups, provide counselling and help for hurting people. The bottom line is that each YFC team adapts the methods to fit their culture and gets

the Gospel out in the most effective way possible. Yet if we totalled up all of their budgets together, they spend less than many individual churches in the USA! A conservative estimate of the number of young people who heard about Jesus from these ministries this past year is c l o s e

to 30,000! Even though the full-time staff numbers fewer than twenty, these committed people have recruited over two thousand volunteers who work beside them, often at a level that is close to that of paid ministry people! Please forgive me for bragging about my team, but I am so proud of them and the work they do! Here are a few pictures we took along the way...

On this trip we visited six countries during the three weeks... Hungary was first where we met with the new National Director whose name is Timea, the staff of YFC and the board (Timea is standing next to my wife Judy in picture no.1). The Hungarian magazine is published twice a year and reaches over 15,000 young people. More than forty churches partner with the ministry in Rock Solid youth clubs. They have strong plans for growth in 2011. Peter Barbarics, also picture no. 1, is the Chairman of the board and a key leader in the Region.

When we got to Slovakia the Director and his family said, "Bob, will you make American hamburgers and fries for us?" How can you refuse a request like that! (We had to find a beef roast and get it ground up to do it!) Marian, the National Director, and his son are enjoying the results in picture no. 2.

It was on to Czech for a meeting with the team that is beginning a new YFC ministry there. This wonderful group of leaders has already done a camp with about fifty kids and spent the entire day working on plans for the coming year. We hope to register the ministry in Czech this next year and charter them with YFCI. They are standing together in picture no. 3.

Next stop Serbia! Zvonko Valentini and his entire family are involved and working in YFC. The country is very poor and all of them work at jobs to support themselves and the ministry. (There are very few paid pastors in Serbia.) Ester runs a small bakery and has to keep her daddy, the National Director, from eating all the profits - seen below in picture no. 4! They are a wonderful family and we praise God for the work they do. Lord willing we will do the first real Youth Ministry Training School ever in that country this coming year!

Judy and I then spent a few days in Vienna to see YFC people and others we have come to love dearly over the years. This has been one of our best trips yet for which we praise God! We took a few opportunities to stop for coffee too! In fact, we brought about twenty lbs of that great European stuff home with us! The coffee pot is on, so come on over! Thanks for your help in our ministry.



# JOHN SAGHERIAN

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE MIDDLE-EAST & NORTH AFRICA

**To say that the Middle East is in a state of flux is stating the obvious for whoever has been following the news: Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen... These are exciting, uncertain, and scary days for the region. Even YFC is going through changes in the Region!**

**Lebanon:** On July 1st, 2010, I stepped down from the position of National Director of Lebanon YFC after 2½ years of Acting Director and 36½ years as National Director. My last responsibility left over as National Director was to complete the training of the tenth and my last "20PLUS!" leaders-in-training group. We had a great time and we were all blessed, sensing the Lord's presence. As I gave out their certificates of completion I prayed that the Lord would bless and use them in reaching lost youth for Christ. Their last assignment had been to as a group, plan and execute the Winter Event in December that attracted fifty-four teenagers. Lindy-Ann Masri is serving as Director of Ministry. She has two paid staff and around ten volunteers. They had a great camp in August, and are trying new ways to work with teenagers. Three of the staff recently attended the Staff Training School in N. Ireland in January. Lindy will be attending her first CoachNet training in Italy in February – I coached her last year.

A year ago the Board of LYFC had decided on inviting Pierre Daoud to become the National Director. Pierre, a Lebanese/American, accepted and began his training and fund-raising. Unfortunately, in November he and his wife decided to quit their fundraising – they were finding it very difficult, so the Board is back to its search. LYFC has a General Assembly of twenty-seven prominent people. One of their responsibilities under Lebanese law is to elect the Board from among its members. We have recently gone through the process of amending our constitution and by-laws, and among other things, increase the number of Board members from six to seven to comply with YFCI's rules. These changes have been sent to the authorities and they have reportedly already been accepted so the GA will elect a new Board at our next annual meeting in January 2012.

**Egypt:** Egypt YFC is also changing leadership. On September 1st Fouad S. stepped down from his position as National Co-ordinator and Maged T. took over. Maged is still new and needs guidance and supervision. John Duncan and I were scheduled to fly to Cairo to honor Fouad, install Maged, have a Board meeting and talk about the future. Of course, the events in Cairo pre-empted our plans and we cancelled the trip.

Emad still leads the media ministry. They have a well-equipped studio and a large staff who seem to be working well together. An e-mail from Emad said that recently they broadcast from the hill that's in the middle of Cairo, an unheard-of thing. The Lord

seems to be opening new doors in the middle of the upheaval. Emad has been an important "at-large" member of the Egypt YFC Board. He recently had named two new members to the Board for our meeting. This was good news because one of the very active Board members had just informed me that he and his family were moving to the USA. Egypt is a huge country, the biggest in the Arab Middle-East, and EYFC has to find its niche in that country.

**Tunisia:** Tunisia too has been going through a social and political changeover. The National Co-ordinator there, Kamal Fatmi, has been interviewed on an American Christian network regarding the situation there and the role of the church. Kamal is a graduate of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Baptists had a friend who was providing Kamal for part of his support – the YFC Area office gave the rest. Unfortunately, the Baptist friend has stopped his support – it was a limited-term commitment. We need to decide on what to do about Kamal's support as well as help him crystallise his vision for the future of the ministry.

**Arabian Gulf:** In February, John Duncan and I spent four wonderful days in the UAE, mostly in Al-Ain and mostly with the National Director, Amy Kellogg. Amy has been the Director since February 2010 and has a wonderful staff (five full-timers) with great vision. One of them attended the STS in N. Ireland in January. They're continuing their annual Desert Challenge conference, which attracts more than 300 teenagers. Last year they started "exporting" it to other countries in the region. Their first country was Kuwait. Amy is very interested in expanding the ministry, adding to the staff and funding the work.



*The 20PLUS! Leaders-in-Training Group in Lebanon*

# MALCOLM JOHNSTON

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN EUROPE

**Our operating mission for Eastern Europe is 'To see God's glory coming across the nations through the mobilising and equipping of local churches to be salt and light in their communities and rescue lost kids at risk and young people for Jesus Christ'. In addition, we are motivated to be a catalyst to bring denominations together and build greater understanding and unity among the churches.**

**The Team:** The Eastern European region is supported mainly by volunteers – an excellent group of highly-motivated and committed people who give enormously of their own time and money. The volunteer team includes around eleven people in N. Ireland, London and France. We have two part-time staff – Sylvia Dorman who manages the office and Gwen Ross who is our Director of kids@risk development. Sheila Hutcheson works for me in the office. A key role of the Regional Director is to build, lead, support, encourage and mentor the team of mission partner volunteers who in turn partner with our leaders and teams in each of the nations.

**Parenting Model:** The approach in the Eastern Europe region is for the support team to 'parent' the national projects across Eastern Europe – i.e. to help in the inception, birth, childhood, adolescence and preparation for adulthood of each of the nations. Therefore the relationship of the mission partners evolves over time with the goal being to see each of the national projects fully on their own feet and reproducing in their own right. The goal of the parent – i.e. the office and mission partners – is to reduce their influence and role in each of the national teams. In time each of the more mature nations begins to support the younger nations.

**Evolution:** It has been a year of evolution in each of the nations. The changing profile of finances has at times been difficult but

overall been positive as we have refined the strategy in each of the nations which mostly has led to greater efficiency. With less budget we have generally been able to achieve more, focusing on devolving activity to the churches, to volunteers and concentration into smaller but more effective staff teams. Also the responsibility for finances has moved increasingly away from the Eastern European office out to the Mission Partners and also out to the nations themselves. There has been a healthy progression of responsibility for budget moving to the nations as each begins to seek their own sources of finances through their programmes, national donors or through other international contacts that the nations may have.

**National Highlights:** There has been great strengthening in many of the nations. Leaders have become stronger and stepped up to greater challenges. More mature nations have begun to support other nations – for example, Ukraine is now providing support in Belarus and Armenia; Moldova continue to provide example of models of ministry to the other nations. Each of the programmes in Russia continue to consolidate and strengthen and better links are developing between them. A new leader was appointed as director for the Moscow region. The new Mission Partner and national co-ordinator for Armenia have settled in well to their roles and are establishing a strategic approach to the programme. We had an excellent Regional Staff Conference in Kiev in March. While this was facilitated by the EE office, it was led by the national leaders.

**Office, Gwen Ross & Regional Director Roles:** The role of the office has been able to evolve and decrease. My role continues to evolve, having less involvement in the more mature nations and concentrate activity in strengthening newer projects and consider pioneering. Most of my focus is working with the mission partners. Gwen Ross (Director of kids@risk ministry) is a specialist in the field and a huge asset. She has built relationships with each of our programmes where they have a growing kids@risk ministry. She helps to focus each of the projects in their strategy, build the capability of the teams and continues to mentor and support each of the programmes along their path of agreed development. In 2010 we saw great strengthening of the kids@risk ministries particularly in Ukraine, St. Petersburg and Samara. We are working to strengthen the work in Moscow and begin kids@risk work in Belarus and Armenia. Gwen was able to share her experience at the Area Council in Czech on Child Protection and the Freedom in Christ course. She also visited YFC Netherlands to explore how we can collaborate together.

**Low Points:** Most of the discouragements are around the difficulties of working in poor, corrupt nations. Emigration of nationals continues. Relationships between denominations & churches are often weak/poor. There is a cultural tendency to mistrust which affects growth of collaborative initiatives in



*Regional Staff Conference in Kiev, March 2010*

several directions. From our limited perspective, more money available would feel better (and release various ideas), as would more support from up the YFC organisation.

**Central Asia:** There are many areas of similarity between Russian speaking Eastern Europe and Central Asia – primarily shared language, culture and history. We have worked to improve relationships with Sasha Kim (Regional Director – Central Asia) particularly to define areas of potential collaboration. We have been able to find financial support for Central Asia in 2010.

The team in the Volga region of Russia led by Zhenya Fokin has already agreed to assist the efforts from within Russia to support Central Asia. There are strong natural connections between Central Asia and Moscow.

**Relationship with Kids Alive (UK):** We have many opportunities to grow ministry with kids@risk but it is of necessity a ministry that requires more financial support for the poor. We are working to develop a strategic alliance with Kids Alive who are strong in the area of fundraising support for kids@risk ministry in the UK.

**Parenting Model:** We will continue to follow this model of seeking to strengthen the more mature projects, develop those that are already in operation and consider pioneering. For the more mature nations we are focused on developing effective

Boards, having these them take more responsibility for strategy formation, fundraising and connecting the ministry out to the wider world. We are encouraging each nation to strengthen their links with the Area and YFCI.

**Russia:** Key in this year will be the development of the Russia Board giving greater connectivity between the four Russian projects. Given the mindset and history in Russia this is a challenge but effective steps in 2011 can lead to a properly functioning Board, charter status for YFC Russia and a gathering point for Russian leaders to build more effective collaboration on the ground. Southern Russia needs some attention in 2011. The beginning made in Sochi can be built on with Nick Markin and/or we could build a base in that area in Krasnodar given that there are some good connections there. We need a new Mission Partner for this project.

**Pioneering:** The obvious targets for pioneering would be Azerbaijan and/or Georgia. So we continue to pray about the right time to take steps in that direction.

**Strategic Review of kids@risk Ministry:** We seek the most effective direction for this part of Eastern Europe ministry to build on progress made. Patrick McDonald (Viva Network) has been retained as a Consultant to work with us on this in 2011.

# ALLAN GRIER

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE

**Firstly I am very excited to be rejoining Youth for Christ Europe, a ministry that has played such an important part in my life, and which I have continued to pray for since I was last actively involved. And I am humbled too, as I look at the size of the challenge, and the responsibility there is to encourage and develop the work in the Southern Region.**

In the past three months I have been fundraising for support, and it has been very encouraging to see the response from friends and supporters, and I am confident that the balance will come in in the near future. On 17th January I started part-time, attending the Staff Training School which enabled me to meet a number of people from my own region which was very helpful.

**As I look at the region there are a few significant challenges:**

- The Region is not perceived as a high priority in missions terms, yet it has enormous spiritual needs
- Only a few active national programmes at this stage
- Significant number of smaller isolated islands

**Some thoughts on the way ahead:**

- Obtain 100% of financial target, preferably more to provide some additional finance for region
- Develop relationships with staff and Boads in the region
- Focus on restarting ministry in Portugal
- Hold a Regional Conference in May-June 2011
- Identify people within Ireland and UK who already have a burden or concern for countries within the region
- Many countries within the region are popular tourism destinations; can we use this in some way?



Sophie, Allan, Wendy and Emma

# ART MELLI

## CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PROJECTS FOR EMENA

**Engaging, Equipping, Empowering. It's been exciting for me to be a part of the YFC EMENA Area Leadership Team this past year. My highlight would be my visits to see our National Directors. Committed to the Lord Jesus, they desire to have effective youth ministry in their nations and think creatively to do so.**

Visiting these national ministries helps me get a much better idea of how I can recruit short-term teams or EMBARK interns to come alongside them to enhance or serve them and their programmes. An American team from a church in Stapleton, Denver came over last summer to work at one of the youth camps at Immanuel in the Czech Republic. Another American team from a church in San Jose, California will come over this spring to do some construction work at the YFC Ranch - Kralova Lehota, in Slovakia. During our Area Council retreat, held in June in the Czech Republic, I felt like the Lord was very present during that time, and ministered to individuals very personally, in ways that made a difference in their lives.

For me, I was able to connect with several staff for the first time. I also enjoyed our recent Staff Training School in January. It was a great time of connecting, and becoming informed as to what kind of

training and equipping our new staff get. We hope to send many EMBARK interns for the EMENA Area to this training. I was able to hang out this time with one of our interns, Jacob Calera, who is in the UAE.

### **EMBARK [www.yfcembark.org](http://www.yfcembark.org)**

This past May, Beckie and I launched a new Internship Ministry called EMBARK within YFC/USA's World Outreach department. Engaging, equipping and empowering American 19 – 29 year olds to participate in the ministry of YFC in EMENA (and other parts of our world) is a passion for us. EMBARK interns serving in EMENA since May of 2010 are: Megan Fitzgerald, Germany; Jennifer Lawler, Germany; Stephany Hines, N. Ireland; Ali Petrocelli, N. Ireland; Jacob Calera, UAE; Andrew Pope, England; Levia Tijerina, Germany; Adam Wireman, France; Maria Forman, England. We have more people raising funds to join YFC Slovakia, Serbia and N. Ireland. I started the CoachNet programme this past year, but because of my schedule will have to finish it this coming year. I'm excited to have the challenge of "listening" and not "telling". Beckie is going to enter the training also this coming year, starting at GA.

### **Ministry in Germany**

Beckie and I have lived in Kandern, Germany for thirteen years near the Black Forest Academy. BFA is a school for (primarily) missionary kids whose parents are from many nations, and who minister in over fifty countries (mostly from the Middle-East, N. Africa and former parts of the Soviet Republic). I coach basketball with High School boys, and lead a small group of five Junior guys. This has kept me in touch with the youth culture, and has also given me much joy.

I'm also the Head Elder for our church – Black Forest Christian Fellowship. This past year I launched a men's ministry in Kandern called "BMOC" or "Be Men of Courage". We meet in the Connexion, our German/American outreach youth centre.

### **YFC/USA World Outreach LT**

Beckie and I serve on the World Outreach Leadership Team of YFC/USA because we direct EMBARK. We stay in touch through weekly staff meetings (via SKYPE), and bi-annual team meetings in Denver. Our next meeting is in June.

1. Black Forest Basketball Team
2. A group from the Area Leadership Team
3. World Outreach Leadership Team
4. Group of guys attending the Area Council



## APPENDIX I

Area Director's Travel and Conferences in 2010:

DATE	NATION	EVENT
16-23 Jan	N. Ireland	Staff Training School ( <i>pictured bottom left</i> )
17-19 Feb	N. Ireland	Area Leadership Team meetings, Ballynahinch
6-11 March	USA	World Leadership Team meetings, Denver, Colorado
12-15 March	USA	Minnesota, with Bryan Blomker
13-18 June	Czech Republic	Area Council at Immanuel Centre
18-20 June	England	Speaking at a church weekend in Bristol
28-30 June	N. Ireland	Visit by Larry Williams, YFCI
4-7 July	Czech Republic	Vision Trip, Immanuel Centre
11-17 July	N. Ireland	Spoke at Family Camp, Mullartown House, Annalong
23 July	Ireland	Spoke at the Project 32 Commissioning Service, Parnell Square, Dublin
17-18 Aug	Germany	Francine Hildebrandt's funeral, Muhltal
8-10 Sept	Lebanon	Thia Sagherian's wedding and brief country visit ( <i>pictured bottom centre</i> )
11-15 Sept	USA	World Leadership Team meetings, Denver, Colorado
16-18 Sept	USA	Visit to John & Nancy Sagherian, Des Moines, Iowa
21 Sept	N. Ireland	YFC EMENA Staff Meeting, Newcastle
22 Sept	Ireland	YFC ROI Board Meeting, Dublin
30 Sept-3 Oct	Lebanon	YFC Lebanon Staff Retreat
4-5 Oct	Cyprus	YFC Cyprus Board Meeting
18-19 Oct	England	Visit to The Barnabas Fund
6-8 Nov	Tunisia	Visit with Kamal ( <i>pictured bottom right</i> )
17-21 Nov	Armenia	Visit with Arevig Sarukhanyan
29-30 Nov	Czech Republic	Board Meeting, Immanuel Centre
1-3 Dec	Hungary	Board Meeting, Budapest



## APPENDIX II

At the end of 2010, the following were the Chartered, Associate and Pioneer nations connected to the Area, by Region:

REGION & NATION	REGIONAL/NATIONAL DIRECTOR/ CO-ORDINATOR	CHARTER STATUS
<b>Western Europe:</b>	<b>RD position vacant</b>	
Britain	Gavin Calver	Chartered
Denmark	Finn Kier-Hansen	Chartered
France	Sam Weiler	Chartered
Germany	Alfons Hildebrandt	Chartered
Ireland	Vacant	Pioneer
Netherlands	Edward de Kam	Chartered
Northern Ireland	Steven McCready	Chartered
<b>Northern Europe:</b>	<b>RD position vacant</b>	
Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania Norway, Sweden		
<b>Central Europe:</b>	<b>RD Bob Tanner</b>	
Croatia	Ruben Secen	Chartered
Czech Republic	Overseen by Marian Lipovsky	Pioneer
Hungary	Timea Halasz	Chartered
Poland	Bartek Jaconiuk	Chartered
Romania	Vacant	Pioneer
Serbia	Zvonko Valentini	Chartered
Slovakia	Marian Lipovsky	Chartered
Switzerland	Vacant	Pioneer
<b>Eastern Europe:</b>	<b>RD Malcolm Johnston</b>	
Armenia	Arevik Sarukhanyan	Pioneer
Belarus	Mischa K.	Pioneer
Moldova	Harald Aalbers	Chartered
Russia – Moscow Region	Artyem Popov	Pioneer
Russia – Sochi Region	Nikolay Markin	Pioneer
Russia - St Petersburg Region	Alexander Akimov	Pioneer
Russia – Volga region	Zhenya Folkin	Pioneer
Ukraine	Andrey Kostychyn	Chartered
<b>Middle-East &amp; North Africa:</b>	<b>RD John Sagherian</b>	
Arabian Gulf	Amy Kellogg	Chartered
Egypt	Maged T.	Pioneer
Lebanon	Lindy Masri (Co-ordinator)	Associate
Libya	AD/RD	Pioneer
Tunisia	Kamal Fatmi	Pioneer
<b>Southern Europe:</b>	<b>Allan Grier (wef Jan 2011)</b>	
Bulgaria	Ruben Lafuente	Pioneer
Cyprus	Brandon Johnson (designate)	Pioneer
Italy	Ester Montefalcone	Pioneer
Portugal	Vacant	Pioneer
Spain	Mark Dodrill	Chartered

## APPENDIX III

Summary of information gained from the Ministry Report forms for the year 2010: (2009 figures in brackets)

(N.B. The numbers contacted are conservative estimates and take no account of mass-media initiatives such as radio, TV and internet contacts, which may well number in the millions.)

COUNTRY	FULL-TIME STAFF	PART-TIME STAFF	VOLUNTEERS	MINISTRY SITES	YOUTH CONTACTED (direct ministry)
<b>Western Europe: RD position vacant</b>					
Britain	191 (166)	111 (142)	3,880 (2,782)	67 (63)	200,000 (71,000)
Denmark	5 (3)	1 (1)	90 (90)	11 (14)	8,000 (6,000)
France	7 (6)	6 (3)	250 (250)	14 (11)	10,840 (10,840)
Germany	13 (15)	8 (4)	85 (84)	1 (2)	57,400 (52,641)
Ireland	0 (1)	1 (2)	6 (72)	1 (2)	500 (1,042)
Northern Ireland	21 (17)	6 (5)	300 (163)	8 (8)	8,747 (12,058)
Netherlands	30 (30)	140 (155)	4,720 (4,300)	30 (30)	70,000 (60,000)
Totals	267 (238)	273 (312)	9,331 (7,741)	132 (130)	355,487 (213,581)
<b>Central Europe: RD Bob Tanner</b>					
Croatia	3 (2)	0 (0)	25 (1)	1 (1)	2,600 (650)
Czech Republic	2 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	500
Hungary	2 (2)	2 (2)	175 (135)	1 (1)	1,300 (1,100)
Poland	2 (1)	4 (6)	49 (61)	1 (1)	737 (443)
Romania	1 (1)				
Serbia	2 (1)	2 (1)	60 (40)	1 (1)	800 (800)
Slovakia	0 (0)	2 (2)	1,900 (1,700)	4 (0)	28,000 (30,000)
Switzerland	0 (0)	2 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	75 (75)
Totals	12 (9)	13 (13)	2,209 (1,937)	11 (6)	34,012 (33,068)
<b>Eastern Europe: RD Malcolm Johnston</b>					
Armenia	0 (1)	1 (1)	5 (0)	0 (0)	5
Belarus	1 (1)				
Moldova	16 (17)	3 (2)	250 (240)	3 (1)	3,000 (1,754)
Russia – Moscow	4 (2)	0 (0)	250 (197)	1 (1)	1,600 (1,301)
Russia – Sochi	(0)	(1)	(9)	(1)	(20)
Russia - St Pete's.	8 (8)	2 (2)	135 (120)	1 (1)	1,600 (1,500)
Russia – Volga	3	3	106	1	400
Ukraine	11 (17)	3 (0)	468 (894)	3 (3)	25,027 (18,152)
Totals	41 (46)	12 (6)	1,214 (1,460)	9 (7)	31,632 (22,727)
<b>Middle-East &amp; North Africa: RD John Sagherian</b>					
Arabian Gulf	6 (5)	0 (0)	120 (95)	2 (2)	1,200 (1,000)
Egypt	3 (1)	1 (3)	7 (8)	0 (1)	2,450 (2,410)
Lebanon	1 (3)	2 (2)	47 (43)	2 (2)	2,760 (3,500)
Libya	0 (0)	2 (2)			
Tunisia	0 (0)	1 (1)	11 (0)	1 (1)	120
Totals	10 (9)	6 (8)	185 (146)	5 (6)	6,530 (6,910)
<b>Southern Europe: RD Allan Grier</b>					
Bulgaria	1 (1)			1 (1)	
Cyprus	0 (1)	2 (10)	6 (15)	1 (1)	200 (125)
Italy	7 (6)	1 (1)	15 (15)	2 (1)	200 (140)
Portugal	0 (0)	1 (1)	4 (0)	0	
Spain	5 (6)	6 (8)	50 (90)	3 (2)	10,014 (5,184)
Totals	13 (14)	10 (20)	75 (120)	7 (5)	10,414 (5,449)
<b>Area HQ: AD John Duncan</b>					
MENA Media	9 (5)	4 (10)	23 (0)	1 (1)	?
Area Office	5 (6)	8 (4)	1 (1)	7 (6)	?
Totals	14 (11)	12 (14)	24 (1)	8 (7)	?
<b>Overall totals for '10</b>	<b>357 (327)</b>	<b>326 (373)</b>	<b>13,038 (11,405)</b>	<b>172 (161)</b>	<b>438,075 (281,735)</b>

## APPENDIX III CONTINUED

Summary of Information for 2010 compared to 2009, by Region:

Figures for:	W. Europe	C. Europe	E. Europe	MENA	S. Europe	Area HQ & Regions	Totals
Full-time staff 2010	267	12	41	10	13	14	357
Full-time staff 2009	238	9	46	9	14	11	327
%age change	+12.2 %	+33.3 %	-12.2 %	+10 %	-7.7 %	+27.3 %	+9.2 %
Part-time staff 2010	273	13	12	6	10	12	326
Part-time staff 2009	312	13	6	8	20	14	373
%age change	-14.3 %	0 %	+50 %	-25 %	-50 %	-16.6 %	-14.4 %
Volunteers 2010	9,331	2,209	1,214	185	75	24	13,038
Volunteers 2009	7,741	1,937	1,460	146	120	1	11,405
%age change	+20.5 %	+14.1 %	-20.3 %	+26.7 %	-60 %	+2300 %	+14.3 %
Ministry sites 2010	132	11	9	5	7	8	172
Ministry sites 2009	130	6	7	6	5	7	161
%age change	+1.5 %	+83.3 %	+28.6 %	-20 %	+40 %	+14.3 %	+6.8 %
Youth contacted 2010	355,487	34,012	31,632	6,530	10,414	?	438,075
Youth contacted 2009	213,581	33,068	22,727	6,910	5,449	?	281,735
%age change	+66.5 %	+2.9 %	+39.2 %	-5.8 %	+91.1 %	?	+55.5 %

## EMENA AREA CREDENTIALLED COACHES

Paul Bennett	.....	Britain	Amy Kellogg	.....	Arabian Gulf
Bryan Blomker	.....	Area Office	Finn Kier-Hansen	.....	Denmark
Richard Bromley	.....	Britain	Jon Mills	.....	Britain
Kathryn Delderfield	.....	Britain	Ester Montefalcone	.....	Italy
John Duncan	.....	Area Office	John Sagherian	.....	Area Office
Liz Etherton	.....	Britain	Dominik Sandles	.....	Germany
Paul Gilmore	.....	Area Office	Claudia Schulz	.....	Germany
Timea Halasz	.....	Hungary	Mark Tuma	.....	Britain
Alfons Hildenbrandt	.....	Germany			

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.”*

1 Corinthians 15:58