



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL**

- Reaching out to a reaching world

News Bulletin

April 2019



Oliver Lindberg preaching in Filadelfia Church in Oradea, Romania.

A life in the Lord's service

We hope all is well with you. Whatever happens in your life, God is in control. He holds you in his hand and holds his protecting hand over your life. In and through it all we are surrounded by his love, carried in his hand. Nothing can separate us from his love. The apostle Paul witness about this in Romans 8:38-39: *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our deepest thanks for all of the condolences in connection with Oliver Lindberg's home going. We are so thankful to everyone who showed sympathy in our grief.

Since my father, Oliver Lindberg, has gone home to be with the Lord, we would like to dedicate this newsletter to honor his memory and his ministry over so many years. For Oliver, People to People Int'l was his life's work. His life's mission was to spread the gospel in all its forms. His heart and love was with the people in Eastern Europe and the countries that once were called "behind the iron curtain".

It is not possible to summarize all the years that Oliver was in active ministry. There are so many things to tell, so many stories to marvel at, where he got to be a tool in the Lord's service. In the following I would like to try to paint a short picture of a life in ministry.

God calls for service

Oliver's calling to ministry started already in 1977 in our Church in Tranås, when a Bulgarian pastor by the name of Haralan Popov came to speak. Haralan had been in prison for 13 years for his faith in God. He spoke about his experiences in prison and the calling he had had since then to spread the gospel. During the service Oliver felt that the Lord spoke to him in a strong and direct way, which not only came to change his life, but also his entire family's life and future.

Shortly after that, Oliver started to travel, in his spare time, for ECL (Evangelism to the Communist Lands) which was the name of the organization. At this time Oliver was working as a salesman, but felt very soon that he was to start to work full-time for this organization. From 1977-1984 Oliver worked for ECL. He visited the countries behind the iron curtain, but he also traveled in Sweden to visit churches to speak about the work.

In his book "My journey – from rascal to missionary" Oliver writes about the time when God called him and Ulla into ministry. Oliver writes:

"The night of January 10, 1978 I went into action. I told Ulla that I had to find out why God had called us into the ministry. "I will not go to bed until God, in a clear and understandable way, has shown me why He has called us and what direction we are to take. I am going down to the basement and I will not go to bed until I have received clear instructions from the Lord." My



Newsletters



Loading a printing press at our previous office in Tranås.

decision was rock solid. Nothing could stop me that evening.”

Oliver also describes in the book how he, during the night, in a vision from the Lord, was transferred from country to country in the communist ruled countries. How pastor after pastor cried out to God for help. Oliver writes:

”Suddenly I was transferred and the picture I saw in my heart changed. I understood I was in Poland. There I heard the same cry for help from the servants of the Lord. The same happened in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania and finally even in China. Everywhere I experienced the same thing, how a servant of the Lord, with loud voice cried out to God for help.

The Spirit of the Lord had in a peculiar way taken me on a trip around the entire Communist world. As quickly as it started, so suddenly I was back in our basement. I cried as a child. I was, as you probably understand, much shaken by the experience.”

This, together with many other experiences, became the start of many years of ministry.

People to People Int'l

In 1984, Oliver felt the Lord urged them to leave ECL to start an organization of their own. This became the start of PTPI. In spite of a very uncertain future, God would very soon show that the ones he calls, he will also equip for the service.

The total capital this time was a printing press and a chair in black leather. The chair is still in our possession. During Oliver’s leadership, the organization grew during the 80’s and 90’s. During these years lots of relief material, about 350 18-wheelers were sent to Poland and also to Romania. During the early years, from the time of ECL and until the fall of communism, much of the work was about distributing Bibles and Christian literature. Already in 1989 a project called “Sign your own Bible” was started. The goal was to distribute 1,000,000 signed Bibles to the Soviet people. PTPI also started several printing shops around Europe. One of them is in Oradea, Romania, and is still operating. The goal with the printing shops was to help the Christians and the Evangelical Church with Christian literature. Over the years a large quantity of Bibles and New Testaments has been smuggled in behind the iron



Oliver met several great preachers. Here together with Pastor John and Dodie Osteen, Lakewood Church in Houston, TX.



Blaj, Romania. The remains of the bulldozed Church building are piled up behind Oliver. It was an outdoor service. The temperature was 14 degrees. The service lasted for three hours.

curtain. Also from PTPI's printing shop in Tranås a large amount of literature has been printed and distributed over the years. Several pastors' conferences have also been held, both in Poland and Romania. A number of pastors have also been financial supported over the years in the countries where PTPI has been working. All of this has its foundation in the vision that Oliver received from the Lord.

Oliver's mission deed

God called a furniture salesman and an insurance representative to service in his kingdom. Oliver was a living proof that God equips the one he calls. Oliver was a visionary, driven and goal oriented in everything he did. Given promises were fulfilled. He lived and practiced the faith that the Bible talks about. The Word of God was his beacon, the foundation for what came to feature his life and ministry. His very strong and personal newsletters included teaching, where he, in a very personal way, shared his faith and his spiritual experiences, but also the projects which became the ministry's calling and mission. These newsletters became over the years strongly associated with PTPI. Very soon Oliver became loved as a person and preacher, both in Poland and Romania, where the people took him to their hearts. Oliver's love for the Eastern European people came to characterize his life and ministry, also his love for people in general. His generosity and love touched many people who crossed his path over the years.

Most of all, Oliver took his calling very seriously. He made himself available for the Holy Spirit. This prompted him to write what later became the booklet "How to cooperate with the Holy Spirit". A publication

Oliver Lindberg brought to the last rest

Tuesday April 2 the funeral service was held in his home Church in Tranås for Oliver Lindberg.

Pastor Daniel Alm officiated. A personal reflection was held by Pastor Sam Smucker, Lancaster, PA. It was a wonderful service. Even if it was hard to say goodbye, the service was characterized by hope and light, all in Oliver's spirit. The following reception also became a time when Oliver's life was honored with several touching speeches.



that in a practical way highlights the importance and necessity of listening to God's voice, also of acting when the Holy Spirit speaks to you.

Oliver had a spiritual sensitivity that very strongly came to touch his life and ministry, and also the people that he came in contact with. The calling and his faith became his passion. Many can testify how Oliver contacted them in times that were very crucial for them, to guide and encourage them. Equally strong was the necessity to forgive and about this Oliver writes in his book "My journey", where he openly writes about the importance to forgive. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith". The Apostle Paul's testimony also became Oliver's.



During especially the 80s and 90s Oliver received several awards for his humanitarian work in Poland.

A Big Thanks

We as a family would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who showed sympathy in connection with Oliver's passing. Thank you for words of comfort, phone calls, beautiful flowers, cards and texts. It was a great consolation in a time of loss and grief.

Also a big thank you to Pastor Sam and Sherlyn Smucker and Chris Lautsbaugh for coming. You were a wonderful support to me and the rest of the family before and during the funeral. Pastor Sam thank you for your wonderful words in the funeral service.

*Ulla
Jörgen, Lena with families*

Project of the month

As many of you know, we support a few projects on a regular basis. In Romania we work, among other things, together with Children of Promise. They are doing a great work among the Roma children in the area around Oradea, with a focus on learning how to read, write and count. The Christian emphasis is strong. Bible teaching and Christian songs are high on the agenda, an important and meaningful ministry.

In Moldova we have our bread project which is in need of regular financial support. Even the food parcels which are handed out to needy families need support on a regular basis. The other ongoing projects you can read about on our website. We are very thankful for your financial support for any of these projects Thank you for your love and support!

If you still would like to give a gift in honor of Oliver's memory, there is still that possibility.

Thank you for your support!

Words of remembrance

With humor he opened hearts, the best he gave away. He fulfilled what he had promised others, was generous and loved Jesus. He did not write anything until he had a word from the Lord and chose care and reflection in what he said. When times were hard, he called and encouraged others. Forgiveness was his heart's message and his desire was to be led by the Spirit of God, to be a support and help to others. He believed God about big things and was very respected by the people in charge of cities and countries. He could be very serious in what he said and did; at the same time, with a twinkle in the eye, he could be liberatingly funny. He loved sweets and had decided to be in "a terribly good mood", regardless of circumstances and his physical situation. He let me choose bed first when we were traveling together in Sweden and other countries. He asked God what to say when he stood before the people. We have seen many interventions by God and with God everything was possible.

He fought bravely the latest 24 years and at the end he longed for heaven. Some years ago in one of our early morning talks, when he was rested, he said: "When I get to heaven, I will live on Joy street number one". Now he has gone home and I am looking forward to seeing him again the way he was when he was in the best days of his power. One thing is for sure, the angels are rejoicing in heaven.

*Paul Forsén
Friend and former co-worker*

CONTACT INFO

People to People International
P.O. Box 311
S-573 24 Tranås
Sweden

Email ptpi@ftm-mission.org
Internet www.ptpint.org
Phone +46 140 31 13 21

US ADDRESS: Worship Center, 2384 New Holland Pike, Lancaster PA 17601

CHEQUES should be written in the WC's name. Beneficiary PTPi.

Direct Bank Transfer

Bank name: SWEDBANK :: SWIFT/BIC: SWEDSESS

Account nr: 81505544310444

IBAN: SE4780000815050544310444



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL
a most important ministry...