



Great Commission Center International

2015 Missions Conference

“REACHING THE ROMA PEOPLE IN EASTERN EUROPE”



向東歐羅姆人宣教研討會
Reaching the Roma People in Eastern Europe

從羅姆到萬邦



From Roma to the Nations

Sep 29 — Oct 2, 2015

匈牙利華人基督教會 · Hungary Chinese Christian Church
匈牙利布達佩斯 · Budapest, Hungary

Conference Venue

Many thanks to the Hungary Chinese Christian Church in Budapest for providing the place for our use



Participants volunteered to help out the registration work. Thanks!





THE ROOMY CAFETERIA ALLOWED US TO ENJOY THE MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR.

Personal sharing during breaks



Opening Ceremony



- **GCCCI President (right) gave words of welcome,**
- **The Conference was conducted in Chinese and English**

Opening Ceremony



Rev. Thomas Wang encouraged people to spread the Gospel to the Roma in a sermon “Repaying Our Debts”. We are grateful to the missionaries who first brought us the Gospel.

Praise and Worship



Rev. David Chi led the congregation singing in Chinese and English.



Congregation sang and rejoiced in God

Bible studies in the morning



**Rev. Xing Kai,
Rev. Grover Crosby,
and Rev. Jason Lim**

Revival meetings in the evening

Rev. Lie Hsu

Rev. Sam Chan



Hungary Chinese Christian Church led one worship session in the evening



Panel 1



Dr. Anne-Marie Cool gave a talk on “The history and culture of the Roma” . Dr. Jason Lim served as the Chinese interpreter.

Panel 2



Sister Melody Wachsmuth gave a talk on “Population, Christianity and the present conditions of the Roma”, with Rev. David Chi as interpreter.

Panel 3



Mr. Radko Kratsov addressed the “Religious views of the Roma”, brother Wang Junxiang served as the interpreter.

Reports on Roma ministries in different nations in Eastern Europe



Reports on Roma ministries in different nations in Eastern Europe

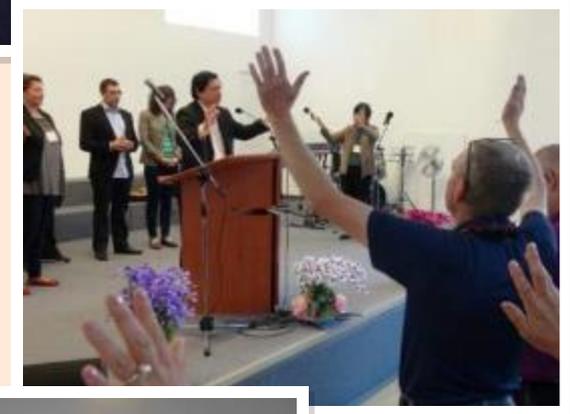


It has enriched our understanding to the Roma, their needs and how better to meet their concerns

**Coordinator of the
Preparation Committee,
Sister Nina Vujic**



**Progress report for the preparation of the
2016 Conference which will be held in
Hungary on 21-24 September, 2016.**



Dr. Jason Lim prayed for the 2016 Conference Preparation Committee

Missionaries shared their
work experiences



**Korean missionary Paul Kim shared his experience
in serving the Roma**



Missionary Lim of Hong Kong and her husband, Missionary Andy Warner of the U.S., shared their joy and desire in serving the Roma

Discussion among those who worked with the Romas marriage and family education



Work for the homeless and children



After two days of discussion, we now know better what to do and how to do it

Strategy Session



Regional reps held strategy sessions every night after the meetings

On the last day, a statement was issued after participants discussed in groups



Closing Ceremony



Rev. Wang's message, "Jesus is Coming Soon" , encouraged everyone to speed up his / her work.

A moving scene



Everyone hugged each other after the Berlin Chinese Christian Church apologized for the Germans' killings and unjust treatment of the Roma in the past.

**Rejoice with them that do rejoice –
it happens to be the anniversary of
two Greek colleagues**



**Rejoice with them that do rejoice –
This year also marks the ninetieth birthday
of Rev. Thomas Wang
A birthday dinner was organized for the
occasion**





Co-workers sang Happy Birthday in different languages.

Rev. Lie Hsu prayed for Rev. & Mrs. Wang



The Workshop serves as a platform for colleagues to share God's work and encourage each other on! As the session comes to a close, everyone, with great appreciation, is looking forward to our next meeting

2015 Trip to Serbia

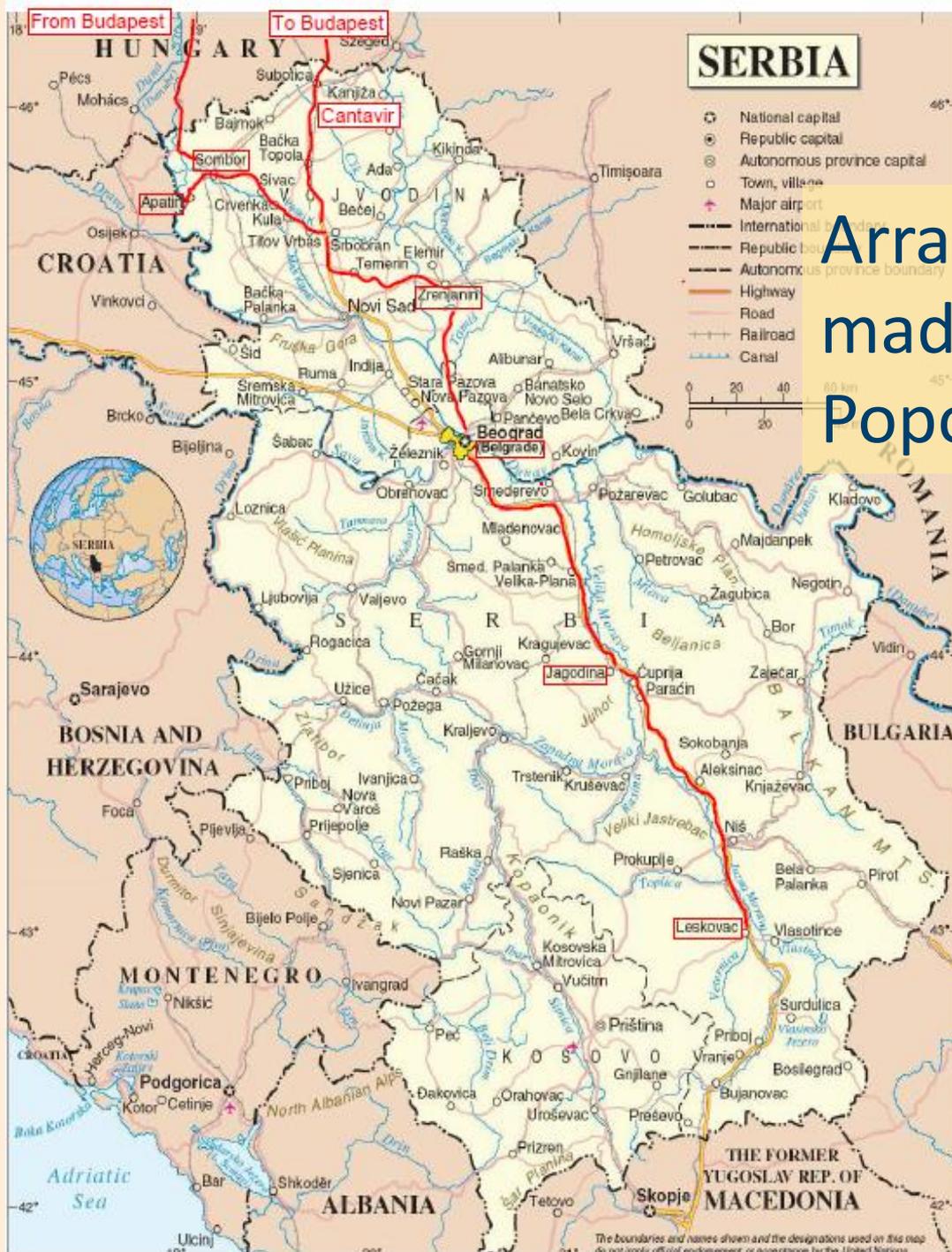
Oct 3-7



After the Conference, eleven people embarked on a trip to Serbia to visit Roma Churches.

Serbia is a small developing country in East Europe, most people are followers of the Eastern Orthodox Church.





Arrangements were made by Pastor Jovica Popov (Pastor John)



We entered the country through a checkpoint near Sombor, a tranquil town in neighboring Hungary. We encountered no problems, nor did we come across waves of refugees that lately plagued the area.



Apatin was our first stop, where we visited the place of the Roma Church bought with the help of our small donation. The congregation used to meet at another center, as they were forced out.



The new place is dilapidated, needs money for renovation

Visiting Roma families

While the husband is out to work, the wife with their small son came to meet us.



The older son is looking for work. We prayed for the family.



The family is within the church network. All members attend church regularly.

We stayed at the church dormitory of Pastor John at Zerenjanin. On Sunday we worshipped and had Holy Communion together with Christians of different culture. Great cross-cultural experience.



We headed south after lunch, reached Leskovac in the evening, attended a service at the largest Roma church in Serbia and had another meal with the Roma. It was a church established by the Serbian church, the chief pastor cares about the Roma as well as the Chinese, he welcomed the Chinese to congregate there too.



The Roma Christians need pastoral care and prayer for peace and joy with our Lord Jesus.



At Jagodina, we visited a children's center, an institution sponsored by missionaries for Roma children. It has a church of its own, led by a Roma shepherd, Pastor Miki.



The institution recently bought a huge camp ground with great potentials for events for the Roma. It was opened for use last summer.



Back to the town of Zerenjanin, we came to know the Roma ministries of Pastor John.



He encouraged the Roma to run a fruit and vegetable wholesale business and to pass their management skills to other Roma later.

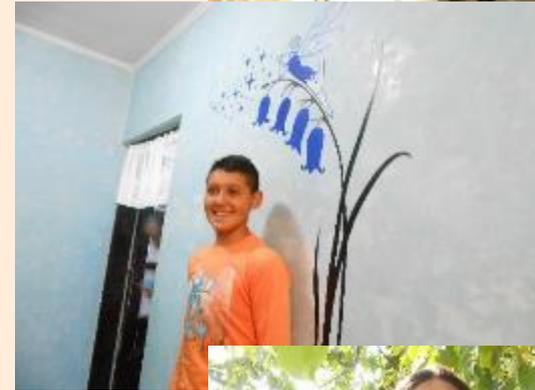
Some of the Roma-operated fruit stands in the nearby market also served as good examples for others to follow.



Another colleague of Pastor John mobilized resources to encourage families to farm to supplement their meager income



A good example of positive life style, keep the household neat and clean, work hard in school and live in peace.



We were received warmly by the household. Their grandson is now in high school. We gave thanks to the Lord!

Pastor John also supports another small church where the congregation includes Serbians and a considerable number of Roma children.

The place rented by this church may no longer be available due to inheritance issues. Please remember them in prayers.



The work of Pastor John, converting the Roma, is a huge and difficult task.



Can you imagine living in this condition?

Five daughters, an unemployed father and a sick grandma in dire need of medical care.



Outdoor



Indoor



Unthinkable!

Three households crowded under one roof!

The clothes piled up on the outside were meant for use as fuels for cooking.



開飯用的大盆！

We came to know another colleague of Pastor Tibor at Subotica

Care for the lonely and needy by giving out bread and other goods



This couple is now being helped. The man works in the big field next to their house, and the woman is helping out in children's work.



Another Roma village under the care of Pastor Tibor



The unemployed and the kids who dropped out of school and being abandoned. All need assistance



Houses in need of repair

Admirable Pastors

None of them are Roma, but all of them love the Roma. Their families join the work of serving the Roma.

Their churches are small and can only provide limited support.

What can we do to help? Which area are you willing to help?



What the Roma need is “opportunity”

Are you willing to provide jobs for the Roma?

If you are a Chinese business man, will you be willing to hire Roma for work?





If you are in business, are you willing to help market the fruits and vegetables grown by the Roma?

If you own a plant, you might even help in processing their fruits and vegetables into canned products to be exported.

This will cut off the middleman's profit.

The Roma have long suffered from incorrect values of family and marriage. Are you willing to share to them the lessons you learned from the Bible?



A picture taken in July, 2015 during a short term mission for the Roma in Hungary

Are you willing to lead the Roma children to play games, learn handicrafts or help them prepare for schools?



Another picture from the 2015 mission

The next short term mission for the Roma people in Eastern Europe is waiting for your participation.

Hungary



Romania

Serbia