

Great Commission Center International

Highlights of the

2016 “Roma Missions Strategy Seminar”



2016 羅姆人宣教策略會議

Roma Missions Strategy Seminar

羅姆人歸主



Roma for Christ

September 25–28, 2016 Thessaloniki, Greece

Purpose:

Encourage Chinese churches in reaching the Roma

- (1) Reaching out to the forgotten Roma
- (2) Understanding the spiritual needs of the Roma in Eastern Europe
- (3) Formulating effective strategies and cooperation programs



Now that the meeting is over, we were greatly encouraged by the positive responses we have received!



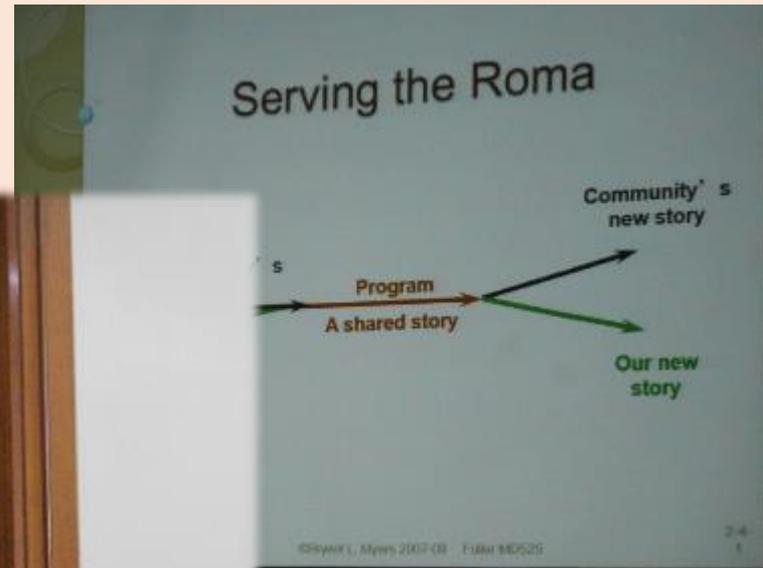
Sponsored by the Great Commission Center International, the Seminar was chaired by Rev. Sam Chan, a member of GCC-Canada Board of Directors



The 6 members of the Roma Networks shared the up-to-date information on Roma missions with Chinese churches



Melody Wachsmuth explained how they approached the Roma



On the last day, members of the Roma Networks talked about their hopes for the future and the ways Chinese churches could help. They also responded to questions from the audience.



A missionary who has served for over a decade in Albania shared his work experience with the Chinese churches and took us to see what he and his wife have been doing.



Chinese churches also talked about their Roma ministrie

Sister Annisa spent a year in Romania, learning how to serve the Roma. Her experiences are valuable for all attendants.



Roma girls are playful, while Muslim daughter-in-laws are obedient. Together they prepared lunch. They have a cordial relationship.



Brother Calvin Chew and Rev. Sam Chan shared about what the Chinese Church in Toronto had done.

In 2016, they provided economic assistance to the Roma in farming, church building and maintenance, and supported several pastors. A follow-up visit was arranged after the Seminar.



Rev. Xing Kai and Deacon Wang Wei-hong of the Hungary Chinese Christian Church spoke

The audience was greatly moved by what they have done, from clothes distribution, support for Roma seminary students, to their latest plan to purchase land for use by the Roma church.



A good example has thus set for the Chinese churches in Thessaloniki and Athens. Both churches sent some of their members to participate in the Opening Ceremony.



The 2 Chinese churches in Greece desired to know more about Roma missions.

United, we all prayed for the Roma and the Roma church workers. May God listen to our prayers.



A Visit to Roma churches and communities in three Balkan nations



Greece

Two churches near Thessaloniki

- The neighborhood is less than ideal, but vibrant
- Cute and lively children



The church came into being with the help of a Korean missionary and the donation by 3 Roma Christians who did not keep the cash they found in a house. The story touched all of us.



These are 2 of the 3 brothers who donated the money for building the church.



This church was also set up by Korean missionaries



Pastor Miki told stories. Uncle Button spread the Gospel through magic performance.



Albania

Elbasan

- A British sister got acquainted with a Caribbean brother during a short-term mission trip.
- She felt led by the Lord to stay behind.
- They were married and now serving together.



There are people who prefer to be spectators



But many are willing to serve and have been successfully trained. The youth on the left is now in college and will become an English teacher one day.

Durres

A team sent by the Pentecostal churches in Switzerland and Germany has been hard-working in a Roma village for 20 years, helping out in pre-school and after school programs.

A large crowd soon gathered to listen to Uncle Button.



- We were all moved by the talk given by a Roma with a master's degree who now works as a local government advisor for Roma affairs
- The Nehemiah Center run by the same team will soon move to a more spacious location, ready for greater activities. The work on the new building is finished, the move will soon take place.
- May God make full use of this team to train even more Roma



Macedonia

Skopje

- **Pastor Sokrat's church was our first stop. The church just encountered problems in its expansion plan.**
- **Next we visited a Roma village on foot since it is not tour bus accessible. On the way we met a number of Roma who had finished high schools. We thank the Lord for this progress.**



- The villagers came to listen to Bible stories given by Rev. Grover Crosby.
- The balloon performance by Uncle Button was captivating, and he used it to convey gospel messages.



- At evening, we arrived at a large Roma community with a population of 67,000, with most of them as Muslims.
- In a small church, we worshipped together with the Roma brothers and sisters, and listened to their testimonies. The message given by Mrs. Yvonne Chan brought us great encouragement.



Veles

- On the mountains of this small town, Roma lived side by side with the Macedonians, quite a few of them are Muslims.
- 7 years ago, a Serbian girl met a Roma from Macedonia. Following God's guidance, together they settled in Macedonia and served the Roma people.
- A brother was willing to rent out his property to be used as a church.



Prilep

- A church in the residential area
- Pastor Edijan shared his plan with us.
- Pastor Tefik from a nearby town also came to meet us.



Along with the visit



Greece

Ancient City of Thessalonica



The Aegean Sea can be seen from the castle on the mountain top



A church built in the 5th century A.D.



An ancient castle by the sea



A Roman era plaza



An old mosque in the city

Ancient sites of Philippi



The Greek Theater



Road built by the Romans



The small river where Lydia was baptized is still in use for baptism

Albania (Illyricum, Romans 15:19)

Durres



Concerts are still
being held in this cave

Summary



- **Positive responses received at the Seminar: Burden among the Chinese Christian churches for the Roma has increased!**
Thank the Lord!

- **But more works still need to be done:**
 1. **Increase the participation of those who already know the need**
 2. **Let those who do not know the need become aware of it.**

- **May God fulfill our wishes!**



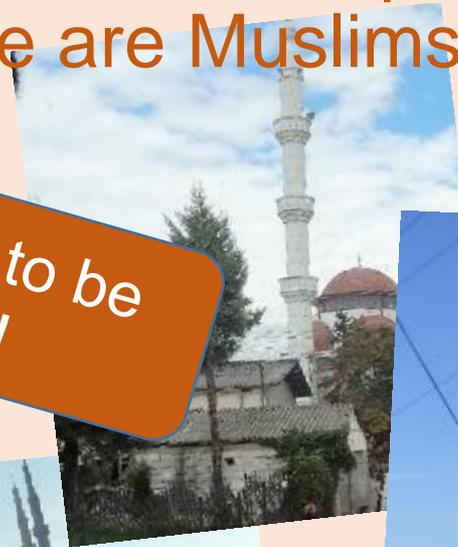
- **God loves the Roma people!**
- **He sends missionaries to the Roma to care for them and help them to improve themselves.**
- **Many Roma are now awakened and accepted the Gospel, and are willing to study hard to better their lives.**
- **There are clear signs that the Gospel can truly change the Roma.**
- **Roma need the Gospel!**

Roma's hope is Jesus Christ!



- The spiritual battle in front of us is enormous!
- Mosques are now being erected in many of the Roma villages!
- Considerable number of mosques of various sizes dotted the roads we travelled.
- A plan is in the making to have a mosque in every village, whether or not there are Muslims there.

This is going to be
a fierce battle!



We would like to see more Christians
joining us as God's soldiers!

This is our prayer!

