

Picking apples and planting churches in North Macedonia

Transform Europe Network (www.ten-uk.org) are based in Bristol and work across Eastern Europe. In this article they report on the creative church planting of one of their partners.

North Macedonia is a small country in South Eastern Europe. The Evangelical Church in North Macedonia has a big vision of planting 100 churches across the country, focussing on the towns and villages with no evangelical presence. Dragan Manev is one of the pastors faithfully taking this vision forward and he needs our support!

For ten years Dragan Manev served as pastor of the Evangelical Church in Veles, North Macedonia. He is a graduate of theology. In 2017, the family moved to plant a new church in Resen, a town in the south west of the country near to the Albanian border. A small group of new believers now meet together in their home and he is developing one room as a Hope Centre for the community. Dragan is married to Biljana and they have two children, Daniel and Maria.

Resen is a small town of about 20,000 residents. Its main 'industry' is apple growing with many local orchards. Apples are picked and shipped abroad or sold to the town's juice factories. For the last two autumns, Dragan has volunteered to help pick and pack apples as an intentional way of reaching the locals and some of the seasonal Albanian workers.

For Dragan and Biljana, sharing the gospel in Resen and the surrounding villages is their top priority. He regularly distributes food and clothing to the poor.

Dragan receives no income from the church plant (pastors in Eastern Europe rarely do). If you would like to support Dragan's ongoing work in prayer or finances please contact Melanie Griffiths at the TEN office on melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org or 0117 961 5161.