



**bethanie**

mission + formation

MOLE



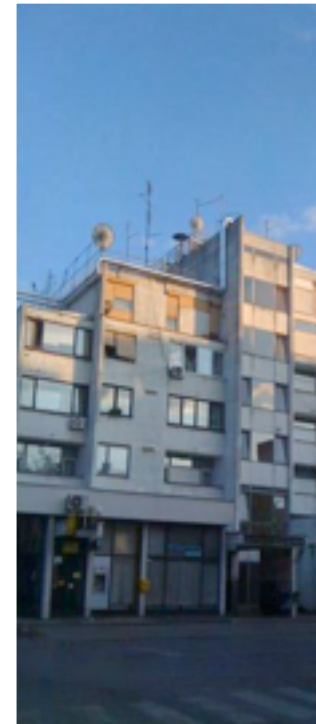
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**vision**

“Raising an army of servant leaders”  
“Shaping the heart of a generation”  
“Investing in the future of Europe”

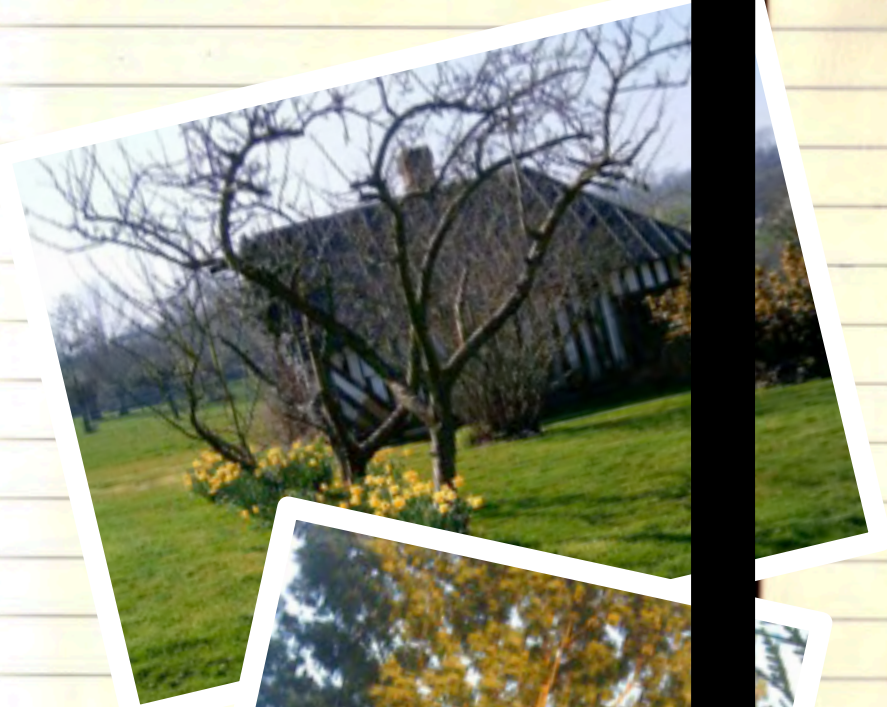
The Bless Network offers young people the opportunity to grow through missional experience on mainland Europe. Working in and through local churches, our students learn what it is to *live for others* by serving local communities. All three partners in this relationship - young leaders, the churches they serve and the communities in which they are found - reap long-term benefits from even brief periods of cross-cultural service. The creation of a *centre for missional formation* in Northern France is the next step in our goal to see significant numbers of young people impacted by this movement.



We have negotiated the purchase of Bethanie Christian Centre, a residential centre near Lisieux in Normandy, France. Our intention is to develop this centre to provide facilities for the training and personal development of our programme participants. We have long-standing placements with churches in France (Lisieux and Perpignan) and Croatia (Slavonski Brod), and new opportunities in Spain, Germany and Bosnia, and the young people joining our programmes have come from the UK, France, the Netherlands, the USA and Australia. Bethanie will provide a dynamic hub for this growing network, resourcing the training and prayer that are essential to effective mission.



Our goal is not the creation of a training facility for its own sake - it is the releasing and equipping of a generation of servant leaders. We believe that young people who have learned the meaning of servant love have an enormous contribution to make to European society: as much in the home cultures they return to as in the places they serve. Our centre at Bethanie is not the end we have in view, it is the means to the greater end of a new missional movement for Europe's future.



# endorsements



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“Gerard & Chrissie bring unusual passion, commitment and imagination to giving birth to this Missional Centre to share the good news . I am looking forward to seeing how they help a new generation unleash their imagination in creating new ways to make a difference for God’s kingdom in these turbulent times. “

**Tom Sine,**  
*author, The New Conspirators*

“The church needs innovation and inspiration as never before – I thoroughly endorse this imaginative vision.”

**Al Hirsch**  
*author, The Forgotten Ways*

“There is no challenge more pressing for the churches of Western Europe than the rediscovery of missional imagination. This project will make a major contribution.”

**Chris Stoddard**  
*Director, RUN Network*





“Europe needs strong churches. Churches need motivated young leaders. Leaders need quality resources. Bless is working towards all three: please join with us.”

**Rt Rev Pete Broadbent,**  
*Bishop of Willesden*

“A knowledge centre for the churches of Europe; a L’Abri for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This is an idea whose time has come – and bless are just the people to do it.”

**Jim Saker,** *Ford Professor  
in Retail Management,  
Loughborough University*

“This is a thrilling new project from an organisation with a proven track record. I cannot recommend it highly enough.”

**Ian Coffey,**  
*Director of Leadership  
Training, Moorlands College*



the centre

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Developed from a 19th Century cider farm, Bethanie Christian Centre was founded in 1993 to serve Catholic and Protestant believers in France, the UK and beyond. Known to many as a place of prayer and personal growth, Bethanie has been developed from a six-bed farmhouse to a 20-bed centre, with meeting facilities for around 50. A dedicated prayer room keeps prayer at the very heart of the centre. With the addition of youth dormitories, office accommodation and further meeting spaces, we will develop the centre to its full potential as the vibrant hub of an active missional network: offering Bless participants new opportunities for missional formation and personal renewal.



As the mainland hub of the Bless Network, Bethanie will be:

- *The home of a resident missional community, living out a rhythm of life and prayer and with hospitality as its heartbeat.*

- *A training base for participants in programmes, setting their missional experience in the context of spiritual formation and personal learning.*

- *A permanent centre of prayer for Europe, resourcing creative, informed and inspirational prayer*

Through personal development and encounter with God, we are raising a servant generation, ready to love and serve in urban settings across Europe.





about bless

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Founded in 2003, bless is a missional network established to train and inspire young people to 'live for others'. Our Founding Directors Gerard and Chrissie Kelly have over 20 years experience of ministry in Europe and have served in the UK, France and the Netherlands. Our UK-based Board of Trustees is chaired by Rt Rev Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden. With offices in the UK and France, bless works through local churches in France, Croatia, the Netherlands and Spain. Our work is built on relationships with **Participants**, **Placement** churches and the **Partners** who support and pray for us. We believe that the use of Bethanie as a hub for training and prayer will greatly increase the scope and impact of our work.



**bless vision:** To be a centre of excellence for prayer, mission, training and research and a bridge for the global church into mainland Europe.

**bless mission:** To transform the lives of people in Europe by empowering Christians through prayer, personal creativity and strategic partnerships to live for the service of others.





feedback

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“It’s been very challenging at times: but I’m going back changed!”

**Lee, UK - go2bless Croatia**

“bless has stretched me in many ways. I’ve been able to step out in the gifts God has given me. I learned again that God has a distinct plan for everyone.”

**Iris, NL – go2bless Croatia**

“It is so great to see how bless really empowers and trusts young people. You learn so much from doing mission. I am so thankful.”

**Stefanie, NL- go2bless Croatia**

“This year has been crucial for my spiritual development. It has been a turning point that will be with me for the rest of my life...”

**Jonathan, UK - year2bless France**

“I had expected to be changed a lot by God while I was here and that has definitely happened. I expected I would learn a lot of things, which would be painful but definitely worth learning, and that’s exactly what happened.”

**Naomi, UK - year2bless Croatia**

“God has done so much - in me, in others and in Slavonski Brod.”

**Ruth, UK - go2bless Croatia**





next steps

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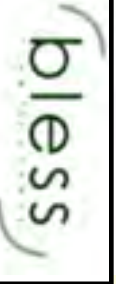
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We are seeking partners and investors for purchase and set-up costs, totalling €426,000

In September 2009 we were able to pay the €40,000 deposit needed for the purchase. Our deadline for the remaining €386,000 is June 30th 2010.

Once the purchase is made we will be raising ongoing funds for expansion and development of the property. We are also building a long-term prayer network to support Bethanie and the ministries we will base there. This project is a huge step for us - the biggest financial commitment Bless has made to date - but we believe that God will call others to stand with us as long-term partners in this challenge. For all further information please e-mail [gerard@blessnet.eu](mailto:gerard@blessnet.eu)

**The Bless Network**  
**Chawn Hill Church Centre,**  
**Chawn Hill, Stourbridge**  
**DY9 7JD**  
**United Kingdom**



Ltd Company #5156475  
registered in England,  
UK Charity #1105173  
Member of  
Global Connections,  
the evangelical network  
for world mission.

**Trustees:**

Rt. Rev. Pete Broadbent,  
Bishop of Willesden;  
Gerard Kelly; Chrissie Kelly;  
Marguerite Eccleshall;  
Martin Thomas;  
Prof. Jim Saker;  
Tom Gwilliam

Donations can be made by cheque to our office address or by transfer into our bank account.

**Bank Account:** The Bless Network,  
Co-operative Bank, Sort Code:  
08-92-99, Account No: 65149362

**International transfers:**

IBAN: GB39CPBK08929965149362

BIC: CPBK GB22

**Online donations:**

(credit and debit card)

<http://www.justgiving.com/blessnetwork>

**Regular or one-off tax deductible gifts (UK):**

Stewardship, PO Box 99,  
Loughton, Essex, IG10 3QJ

email:

[enquiries@stewardship.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stewardship.org.uk)

web:

[www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

We can also receive gifts through CAF and similar foundations.

For donations from the Netherlands, we are registered with the Dutch organisation Stichting Nederlandse Gemeente voor Wereldevangelisatie (NGW), Krimweg 74, 7352 AW, Hoenderloo.

Donations made through NGW are tax-deductible in the Netherlands.

Donations can be paid to the NGW bank account: 48.63.80.335. Please be sure to reference The Bless Network.

# links

[www.blessnet.eu](http://www.blessnet.eu)

<http://ihardlyknowher.com/35758559@N05>

more pictures of Bethanie

[www.liveforothers.eu](http://www.liveforothers.eu)

collaborative blog of Bless participants

[www.centre-bethanie.fr](http://www.centre-bethanie.fr)

archive site of Bethanie Christian Centre

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thank-  
you...

... for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions, comments or observations .

[gerard@blessnet.eu](mailto:gerard@blessnet.eu)