

GOOD NEWS FOR ROMANIA - AUGUST 2005.

Having been to Romania twice this year, it has confirmed to me that there are many changes going on there which unfortunately, are not all good. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Lots of new buildings are going up, but I was told that these are mainly for business people, the poor families we support, along with many others, are still living in very difficult conditions with very little money. There is however, a large amount of money going into Romania through the E.U, so children are being taken out of orphanages and placed with foster families, social housing is being built, the quality of the roads is improving and many good things are happening, long may it continue!

Our work is with the street children and poor families and for them; life is still a very big struggle. Isobel and I received a wonderful welcome though and with the money raised, we were able to provide 3 large tents and equipment so that the children can have regular holidays (we will only need to provide money for food and transport), and the tents can also possibly be used as accommodation for children who have nowhere to sleep. School books and equipment were also bought for the children to continue to attend school and the children were given games, clothes, sweets etc. Financial help was also given to our families in need and you can be sure that everything was very much appreciated. Andreea, who had an eye operation paid for by G.N.F.R. looks well but doesn't always wear her glasses, so we had another talk about the importance of this and hopefully she will take notice, she is a child!!

We also visited the children's hospital with some equipment that was donated and this was gratefully received. There are still many needs in the hospital, the doctor was telling us that unfortunately, there is still a lot of corruption 'high up' which in turn ends up with the patients and staff suffering. It seems Romania has a long way to go before they will be eligible for the E.U!

A big encouragement was seeing Relu, who not long ago lived on the street, now living in a tiny village house with his Mum, whom he adores. He gets occasional labouring work for a building company which of course helps him financially. He is a credit to Claudiu and Ada who have worked very hard to encourage him to get his life back on track. Unfortunately, Bogdan, Alexandru and Romila still live on the streets, stealing to buy food etc. They do visit Claudiu's home regularly for a hot meal and encouragement. and Claudiu continues to talk to and help them as much as he can with the support of funding from G.N.F.R.

Maria with her children Bogdan and Oana continue to have a difficult time. Maria was very ill on our first visit as she was in a great deal of pain with what she described as a hernia. We suggested she may need an operation but we were told she had had 5 already which didn't help, so she would suffer it. We returned two days later to find that she was much improved and was really happy to see us and grateful for all the help we took for them.

Dana's daughter Catalina continues to have problems with her skin and has to make regular trips to

Bucharest to see the specialist (G.N.F.R. provides the money for this). It seems it is a rare condition which could turn cancerous, a great worry for them all. Dana continues to have a difficult life with her three older children still in care. She is very strong though and has decided to go back to 'school' to gain some qualifications in the hopes that she will be able to get a job and get her family back together again. We had to laugh though, on Saturday evening, Dana made some bread for the communion at the Church the following morning. When she got up, little David said "Mummy, I don't need any

breakfast today, I have eaten, you don't need to worry about me," when questioned, Dana discovered that he had eaten the communion bread!

One of our best experiences was going to a tiny village around 2 miles out of Barlad. We went with Claudiu to one of his village Churches (he is an evangelist) where a small group of people meet in one families humble home as there is no Church in the village. We had a lovely time together and then we were shown a piece of land given by this family for a church to be built on. They have already started making bricks and have bought some roof tiles, but seeing the Church completed seems a long way off. Around £2300 will be needed to complete the building, if you feel you can help, please do contact us.

While a barbeque of chicken and freshly caught fish was being prepared, the fun and games started. We got the face paints out; no one had seen anything like these and everyone had a great time, then we produced two footballs, seeing the children's excitement when they saw them was certainly a humbling experience, our children here take so much for granted! I had also taken some scoubidous with me, (these are plastic `strings' which are plaited together in different ways to make bracelets, necklaces, keys rings, etc, all the craze in the UK), well..... everyone, children, men and women, young and old, were sitting making them; they had great fun and had something to keep too, a much treasured possession. I was also able to borrow a large play chute which everyone thought was fantastic, I don't think any of us have been so hot and laughed so much, it was great to see everyone having so much fun. This family (The Munteanu family), have 7 children and barely a toy to play with; our time together certainly gave them, and some of the village children who came and joined in with us, a day to remember.

As everyone was so generous with donations of new clothes, shoes, pencils etc, a large consignment of goods have just been sent overland and should arrive in Barlad around the 16th September. Everything will bring a lot of joy and is certainly a big encouragement for everyone there, thank you!

Please continue to think and pray for all the families we support and for Claudiu and his family as they work tirelessly to help in so many ways. They have just taken 15 year old Petronela who has aids, into their home as a foster child; they really do give their all! Overall the trip was good; the weather was kind to us even though other parts of Romania were still suffering from bad rain and floods. Our main aim was to spend the money provided, take the goods donated and give encouragement to these needy people, all that was done! We were told that this love and encouragement means more to them than they can express, it really IS worthwhile. Your support is very much appreciated, as we have said many times before, we couldn't do it without you. If you would like any more information, or can help in any way, then please don't hesitate to contact us

THANK YOU FROM EVERYONE IN BARLAD!

Thank you also from David and I, your love and encouragement to us means a lot.

Love and thanks,

Kath Richardson.

Ps. We had a real shortage of new clothes for slim, teenage girls and boys and money to pay for some goods to go overland in-between visits, can you help?

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2005



Fun and games for everyone with the play chute and face paints!



Little Samuel was very shy, until he got the ball that was!
Samuel and Elisei had great fun.



Doing scoubidou was fun for every age!



Success, we put the tent up, very easy
when you read the instructions!