

GOOD NEWS FOR ROMANIA



Dear Friends,

NEWS FROM BARLAD, ROMANIA – OCTOBER 2006

As usual, the journey to Barlad for Lynda Reid and I was long, but arriving to beautiful blue skies and temperatures of around 24 degrees was lovely, in the next few weeks the temperature will drop to a possible minus 30 degrees! Our aim this visit was to give encouragement to our families and to help them financially before the winter months.

All the children, without exception, were eager to tell us what a wonderful time they had on the camp and all of them can't wait to go next year! Claudiu told us that for these children, being free to enjoy fresh air, good food and beautiful surroundings was fantastic, thank you to anyone who made this possible.

Anna-Maria and her siblings continue to struggle to live in extremely grim conditions. There was no food at all in the house and the house is literally falling down. They told us they had only eaten corn flour and water for over two weeks, trying to imagine them spending a winter there is unthinkable. Their father, who drinks a lot, doesn't want them and is talking of putting them in the orphanage! We were able to give Ana-Maria some money for food, but Claudiu told her not to tell her father as he would take the money for drink, she agreed and was over the moon to have some money to feed her brothers and sisters. The Cristea family, who are caring for Bianca, their younger sister, are trying to get all the children to live with them, but 'child protection', (social services) refuse. They say their house isn't big enough and they don't have enough money. The Cristea family, who love all these children and want to take care of them, should be able to receive money from the state for each child, but Child Protection say they don't have enough money to pay their own salaries so they can't give them any money!!! I am continuing to talk with Claudiu about the possibility of getting involved as Anna-Maria etc cannot possibly stay where they are. Anna-Maria is only 11 and has to continue to be 'Mum', doing everything for her siblings, please pray for them.

Oana and Simona Bagu were delighted to see us too. The roof of their home collapsed a few weeks ago so their parents had to sell the family calf to get it repaired. This still wasn't enough financially to pay for the roof, so they are now in debt. The roof was only repaired over a small part of the house and so all the family must sleep, eat and live in one small room. The rest of the house has no heating, is wet etc so their need is also great. Mum has to work the land herself because her husband has liver problems and coughs up blood, so he can't work, she looked exhausted and very low. We were able to help financially and Mum was grateful but a little embarrassed, by our help.

The families at Dealu Mare were thrilled to see us again. The foundations for the Church there are almost complete and I was able to give them a beautiful banner made by ladies from one of our sister Churches, Barrow Bridge. They were amazed at how beautiful it was and can't wait to see it hanging in the Church. The Rosca family (we thought they were called Stancu!) still live in the worst conditions imaginable. Dad was there this time and he told us he had been working in Bucharest for a month, but didn't get paid, so he had to come back home with nothing! The children were all smiles when we saw them and gave them small gifts, food and financial help. Dad is back at court in 3 weeks for the next stage of getting the children's birth certificates, again, we were able

to help with the cost of this. Having these certificates will mean that they will get around £7 a month for each child (4 of them) which will help a lot. Their house is in worse condition than when we saw it in May, if that's possible. Dad said "when it rains outside, it also rains inside too!"

All in all, the trip went well but it's emotionally exhausting to see such bad conditions that these children have to live in. Claudiu and Ada continue to work with us which is a real God send. We send money whenever we can which allows Claudiu to provide needs where they are most needed. There is still a lot of corruption unfortunately. David, a little boy that Claudiu and Ada are `fostering' at the moment was ill. We took him to the hospital and they saw the top doctor there. He gave David an injection and some medicine and then asked for 50 new lei - £10, half a weeks salary for a teacher!

Some builders here in Bolton are looking at going over to Romania with us, perhaps in the next few weeks, to see if they can help to do some of the properties up, please pray that this will work out, it would be such a help for these very needy people.

Thank you again for your love and support, it means a lot to everyone. We do still need money, particularly for children to go on camp next year, for food, for medical help, (Romica, Anna-Maria's brother had an infected jaw and had no means of paying for antibiotics), schools books/equipment, shoes etc. There is a lot more I could say but space is short. If you would like more information then do speak with Lynda Reid, David or myself.

Thank you again for all your encouragement, we always tell these families it is not us – but you – thank you!
Love

Kath Richardson