

GOOD NEWS FOR ROMANIA

VISIT TO ROMANIA – 30th March-5th April 2011



Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to be in Barlad and see friends again, but we both had those feelings of 'what are we going to see this time' in our minds. It's hard to put into few words but we will try!

ADA – We visited the hospital with Ada for a check-up appointment. Unfortunately, the Dr she had seen previously was not there and the new Dr was very unprofessional. She upset Ada & Claudiu greatly by 'rubbishing' all the tests and treatment Ada had received and saying that the results from the PET-CT scan would only say there was no cancer there 'on that day' and in fact the next day, the cancer could have spread! How can the cancer spread when there is no cancer there? We then went for a scan of her lymph system and Praise God, she was clear! Claudiu & Ada were grateful that we were there as they would not have had the money to pay for the scan, it was good that they got the scan done quickly for peace of mind.

ROMICA – It was good to see Romica again, he was happy now the weather was warmer and was clearly thrilled to see us all. His father has got a job caring for the Mayor's ill father which helps a lot, but their house is in a very bad state and living conditions grim. We were able to help with money for food, shoes etc and school uniform for Romica.

BIANCA – Bianca is a single mum of Bianca 5 and Alexandru 3. She was violently and sexually abused by her husband and had to escape the home. Her ex husband is now forbidden to go near her and she is now living in a secure apartment (access is only by security on the door) and Claudiu & Ada help to pay her rent. The apartment is spotlessly clean and sparsely furnished mostly by old furniture from Claudiu's house. She is a lovely Christian young woman and is a good Mum but unfortunately she has a spine problems caused by carrying water from the well when she was very young. She also earns a bit of money by painting peoples nails, plaiting hair and making floral decorations to sell. Her daughter Bianca is a very talented artist already and both she and Alex are gorgeous, loving children. Good to see!

ALEXANDRU & BOGDAN NEGOI – These young men who live on the streets, are currently serving 7 years in prison in Vaslui for stealing! We were able to visit the prison, (not a nice place) and leave clothes, food and supplies for them. We couldn't leave a comb as it may be used as a weapon or toothpaste as they could water it down to get alcohol!

MARIA, BOGDAN & OANA – Visiting Maria in her tiny apartment was a sad time as she told us that she has breast cancer. She was told 9 months ago that she had 3 months to live, so for her, each day is precious. Bogdan arrived on a short visit while we were there; he is now a fully fledged Monk, Maria is very proud! Unfortunately, Oana was not home.

SIMONA & OANA BAGU –As we arrived in the small village of Ghicani, it hit us how grey and empty the place was. We don't know why, but just being there was depressing. The home is much better now with the new roof on, but life is still a struggle. We were pleased to see that they had a cow and two small horses which would help with ploughing the fields etc, but Mum told us that the small amount of money that the government gave them was now reduced because they had the animals – how sad that they try to make life better and this happens! Simona is due to go to High School in September so Claudiu is working hard to get her into the school in Barlad. The Head Teacher of the primary school has to give permission for this to happen, if he won't, then Simona won't be able to go to school at all, we pray this won't happen. Bianca has agreed that if Simona comes to Barlad then she can live with her, she is amazing! If this happens, GNFR will help with costs of food etc. Simona especially had a great sadness about her; she hugged Kath for ages and was fighting back tears for most of the time we were there. She told us that she can't wait for camp this summer!

DEALU MARE VILLAGE

We were delighted to see stand pipes alongside the road of the village, so the villagers now don't have to go to the well for water. Claudiu told us that there were lots of nitrates in the well water which was making children ill, so the water is now piped up to the village, making life easier for everyone there. We enjoyed being in the Church at Dealu Mare on Sunday morning, where the

small building was full of mostly young people. Each child there had been on camp previously and was eager to tell us how grateful they were for this opportunity to 'get away'. This is essential for all the children, but especially for **Catalina** (14) who found her Dad hanging and **Florea** (13) who Claudiu has just found out is being abused sexually by her two brothers. Claudiu & Ada must now prayerfully decide what to do about this problem now to try to help her, she had a 'scared' look in her eyes and looked very unhappy.

NATALITA, GIGI & 4 BOYS – As usual, the home was spotlessly clean and all the family work extremely hard to have as good a life as they can. They do struggle financially but are always so positive and smiley about everything. A long time ago, Gigi's ex girlfriend poisoned him with mercury so he is suffering health problems, but again, he keeps as positive as he can. He came to the hospital with us for tests on his heart which was all clear, he now awaits tests on his major organs as there may be problems there, we pray this is not the case!

THE ROSCA FAMILY – This family are in a real mess! If it is possible to say, their home is in a worse condition than every. Dad was axed in the head a number of years ago and was also knocked down by a car, so is not in good health, but unfortunately, both him and his wife drink heavily. The children are not clean and are very thin, but they always have a big smile for us. They are helped regularly by GNFR (as the other families are) and Claudiu believes this help of food and clothing is the only thing that keeps these children going...and of course camp, they told us they can't wait to go again in summer! **Tiberius** 5, proudly showed us how he used the family axe and chop wood – scary!!

THE PETCU FAMILY - This family of Dad, Melu and 5 children, 7-14 years of age, are from the remote village of Fruntiseni, Mum left the family 6 years ago to go to Italy and hasn't been heard of since. Their home is tiny but clean and warm. The sad thing is because Dad has to work the fields etc, Cristina 14, is 'Mum' to the other children. Ada spoke to Cristina saying that she must go to school, but Cristina's eyes filled with tears as she is worried about who would care for the children if she wasn't there.

ANDREEA – In 2002, GNFR paid for a bad turn to be corrected in Andreea's eye. She is now 15 and when we saw her, it was apparent that she had problems with her eyes. We took her for an eye test and new glasses, only to be told that she had no vision in her 'bad' eye! The optician thinks it is the lens in her eye and she may need a transplant. This was a shock; we now have to try to get an appointment for her to see a specialist. Her new glasses made a massive difference to the vision in her good eye and she was delighted. Please pray about this problem that it can be sorted for her.

GINEREICA - one of the street boys, was at the side of the road sniffing glue, we gave food.

SOME FACTS:

- if you have to go into hospital, you must pay the equivalent of 15p to get be admitted
- if you are a visitor to the hospital, you must pay 25p!
- in hospital, all medication, dressings etc must be paid for but often, the staff have stolen these so patients must contact family to go and buy the things needed for them
- elderly people who are ill get no extra help financially or otherwise
- in Barlad we saw lots of street children sniffing glue, one as young as about 6 years old
- we saw many people, particularly elderly people, rummaging through skips for food & drink
- there are lots of wealthy people in Romania
- fuel costs around £1.20 per litre
- average teachers salary is around £200 a month

Arriving back in the UK after a 15 hour journey, although tired, made us realize just how fortunate we are. Claudiu, Ada and all the families thank everyone for all the love and support given to them. We provided financial, medical and practical help to all the families in need. The cost for each child to go on camp at the end of June is going to be around £50 each, please do get in touch if you feel you can help. If you feel you want to help with medical costs for Andreea, then please do let us know, your help is very much appreciated. WE could not do this work without you, so THANK YOU ALL!

Love and thanks for ALL your love and support for this work.

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