

ROMANIAN UPDATE JANUARY –FEBRUARY 2010

“Therefore as much as you have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith”. Galatians 6 v 10

It is with much sorrow that we have to report that the situation in Romania in the villages, especially amongst the gypsies, is worsening.

There are increasing numbers of families that have no income at all apart from the Child allowance, which amounts to only £8.00 per child per month. This means that many are now almost starving and there are an increasing number of children that are severely malnourished.

There is a system of Social help whereby a member of the family can work for 9 days each month for the council, and receive some money but this is very minimal and still is not nearly enough to live on. It is also very difficult for them, because it reveals the family's poverty to everyone, which is 'shameful' for Romanians. Gossip, criticism and a judgemental spirit are rife amongst most villagers and so many are afraid of what others will say about them.

The situation is so bad now that the main need is just money for a daily loaf of bread to sustain them. Many have debts at the local shops, where they can buy 'on tick' because the shop keepers know that they have no money to feed their children. They allow this until the debt gets too high and then they take the bulletin [identity card] of the individual concerned as security, until the debt is paid. This in turn means that this person has no identity until the bulletin can be redeemed and is therefore in danger of a hefty fine if discovered.



We were able to give over 100 families a small bag of food each, made up from some of the bulk food that we received for ACA. We also gave a few sacks of dried foods to another very poor village, Augustin, where very little help has been given before.

Another enormous problem is wood for fires, as no-one can now afford to buy, and it is illegal to cut down trees or branches from the forest. While we were in Romania it was very cold, and for a few nights the temperature dropped to -34C in places. It is extremely difficult for families with nothing, to keep their children warm in these temperatures.

Leta making up bags of food.

Health issues regarding Cozmina are under control and the process of medical tests and hospital visits has begun. The family are so very grateful for all help received so far, and are now regularly attending church, for which we praise the Lord.

Pastor Tit was so very thankful for all financial help received and we have been able to buy him his diabetic tablets for a year from our wholesale medical supplier.

Sebi and Leta's house building continues well and we praise the Lord that we have sufficient funds to get the roof on in the spring. Our prayer is that we can get it almost finished, at least enough for them to move into before next winter. Leta [Nicoleta] has become my 'right hand' in so many ways and willingly comes every day to help me. She and Sebi also are proving to be faithful, righteous channels through whom we can meet the genuine needs of many. Their lives have been, and are being so transformed by the Lord that through them many gypsies are seeking God.

There are 4 more who have committed their lives to the Lord and at least another 10 that are seeking God by attending church regularly. The Lord is so faithful and we continue to give Him all the glory. There seems to be the beginning of a real reaping after years of sowing.

The gypsy school now has 10 children, of varying abilities and ages. The three ladies that run it work well with the children and with each other. We are so grateful to Hannah, our granddaughter, who spent two months in the autumn setting up the school on an English primary school foundation and gave us a good new start. In addition to school, each child now has a shower once a week and is given clean clothes. We then wash their dirty clothes and keep them for the next time.

The kindergarten is overflowing with 3 – 6 year olds, and there is a waiting list for September 2010. Miki and Carmen are very busy in their respective classes and doing very well.

The canteen runs well with 100 children on the books who are fed one meal a day. All the cooks and helpers there have a good working attitude and work well together. We sent half a lorry load of aid in February, which stocked up the canteen and provided food for many families.



The lorry of aid being unloaded.....and being distributed.

The Pharmacy is now well stocked again ready for summer, thanks to Thelma our faithful nurse.



Thelma sorting out the medicines.



Some of the children in school.

Morning prayers also are well attended by most of the workers, and provide an excellent start to each day. Our new Administrator, brother Ghita leads it well and is a good Bible expositor. Many difficult situations are prayed about during that brief half hour.

We have a lot to praise the Lord for and we are so grateful to you, all our faithful supporters, who pray, give and work so constantly for our dear Romanian friends. Thank you very much.

May God bless you all in all you do for Him and with Him.

Our love and greetings to all in Jesus, Malcolm, Christine, Paul, and Anna.