

# ROMANIA

## VULCAN - UPDATE JUNE/JULY 2009

**'All things work together for good to those that love God, who are the called according to His purpose'. Romans 8 v 28**

This is the verse challenging us in these days, both here at Rora and in all the work in Romania.



**Thank you**, to all our dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, for all your hard work, commitment and prayer support for all the projects that ACA is involved in.

**There are many strange things happening** in these days, which in all our wildest dreams we would never have imagined possible. We are finding more and more, that God alone is the answer to this dark world's needs. In spite of all the problems all around us, we know that Jesus is on the throne in Heaven, and rules over all. He is coming again soon. May we all be ready, with pure hearts, and sins forgiven, when He comes for His church. Praise God for His grace and wisdom, and the love that covers all things, that is available to us who truly believe, and trust His Word. Jesus is indeed Lord of all.

**Our time in Vulcan** was very busy, with much need for continual counsel for many souls, patience, openheartedness and grace as well as love and discernment. So many are coming continually for help in a variety of ways, not least of all, the increasing number who literally do not have bread to feed their children. The economic downturn has severely affected the already poor in this world, and in Romania there are now serious needs even amongst the team. Opportunities for the gospel of grace are abundant, as many have lost all hope.

**Nelu and Miki** have suffered a great blow, as the big business man Nelu's firm was contracted to, who was building chalets in the ski resort of Poiana Brasov, has disappeared, leaving enormous debts. Nelu built 11 of these chalets, employing 38 men up to this time last year, and he has not been paid for anything since then. Now he has had to dismiss all the men, except for 2 in the workshop, and is left with bank loans and large VAT bills. He is such a righteous brother and this is a big blow for the family. Please pray for them, as they continue to praise God and work for His glory.

**Gary and Nico** have finally managed to finish paying the builder for finalizing the upstairs of their new house in Bran, and hope to move in before September. This will in turn vacate their house next door to Betania in Vulcan, which ACA have bought as the Association base. We will begin furnishing and setting it all up in September.

**Bill and Sue** will return to England in August for approximately 4 years for the education of Matt and Jo. They have let their house to a lovely family but will return there probably for summer holidays, and from time to time, to work, as the Lord enables. They hope to return and continue the work after 4 years. This too is a big life change for them, and they too will need our prayers, as they settle into life again at Rora.

**We have also had to close the canteen** for a few months, as very little food is now coming in from traders, and the money we receive in sponsorships is not sufficient to cover all canteen costs. Food costs in Romania are about the same as in the UK now. We will start again in September, but with a slightly smaller number, and smaller age range, 5-11 years, instead of 3-14 years. So far we have at least 80 children on the books, as well as 20 elderly folk! We trust God to supply for this number.

**The kindergarten** is also closed now for the summer, and when it opens again on October 1<sup>st</sup>, will be in 2 locations, as there are so many children booked in for this year. The 5-6's will be in Bill and Sue's house in the newly renovated schoolroom, and the 3-5's will continue in the Baptist building for now.

**Nicoleta and Sebastian** have been enabled to buy the plot of land, which is a real answer to prayer, and they are SO thankful to the Lord. They will begin building as soon as they have the money for cement and sand. They have already received the blocks. The house will only be one room to begin with, but will be so much better than where they are at present. This couple are faithfully following the Lord and really living the life of Jesus in the world, and we praise the Lord for this.



**Elizabeta's house in Holbav**, which Bill and his helpers have built, is superb, and we are so thrilled for her. This too is an amazing miracle of God's supply, and as a result Elizabeta is now coming regularly to church and seeking the Lord for salvation.

**The Baptist church** that we attend, and where most of the gypsy Christians are members, is really beginning to see growth and spiritual encouragement. There are now a good group of teens and children, and our constant prayer for them all is that they will come into the real life of Jesus, and serve Him alone, in this materialistic world.

**The Pentecostal church** has experienced some really big trials of late, with deceiving, lying spirits at work. The Lord has wonderfully revealed Himself though, in the midst of very difficult situations and threats, and we trust Him for all that is to come. There is such a real sense of 'the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees,' (2 Samuel 5 v 24) both there in Romania and here at Rora, in these days. We want to be found ready to advance quickly when the Lord speaks and goes before us.

**We are still supplying aid** to the most needy, and have been able to give two electric wheelchairs to young men with serious disabilities, in the last few months. Both of them are so grateful to be able to move around so much more freely now.

We have been able to give some double glazed windows which we received free, to some of the folk in desperate need in the village. We do praise God for this provision

**There have been some very difficult situations** to deal with in the village, with lies, alibis, partial truths, accusations and gossip amongst those we love!

One incident concerned a young mother, Cristina, who needed baby milk for a premature baby. We felt that the need was so great, that we started to buy and give her one box a week. After a while the ladies in the Bible Study Group asked me why I was giving her baby milk! I explained, only to be told that she didn't have a baby, and that her youngest was about a year old. She's lying they all said! Ask to see the baby's birth certificate. I did, only to find out that the 'baby' was a year old. This dear girl, who already has 6 children in addition to this one, repented, and told me the whole story. She said that the baby was born by caesarian at 7 months, a year ago. At one year old, he was so small, that she was ashamed for anyone to see him, and thought the authorities would take him away, so she asked for milk for him. She actually did tell the truth, but **I had assumed** that the baby was newborn. She said that she knew that if she had told me his real age I would not have given her milk, which of course was true. He is now much healthier and bigger and eats solid food, which is great. She really was sorry, so I told the ladies in the study group that it was their chance to receive her, forgive her, and win her for the Lord, instead of the usual gossip and malice that is so common in the gypsy village. We'll see. Please pray for Cristina and her husband Dan.

There is another extremely poor family that really desperately needs help. The young parents have 3 boys and a baby girl. The oldest child has TB, and all the others are suspect and have had tests. (I don't know the results as yet). The baby girl is almost two years old, is very backward, cannot crawl or walk, and has a serious heart problem. These children and the mother are so underfed, and the whole family has no income, apart from the child benefit of £8.00 per child per month, and some social security money monthly. For this, the father has to work nine days in every month, serving in the local community. This amounts to a maximum of £40 approx per month for a family of four.



Another sad situation we encountered on return to

Romania, was to find that a young girl we had started to help, had run away with an older man (also a gypsy, but from a rich tribe) and left her baby with her mother. Baby was crying all the time, as suddenly had no breast milk (such as it was), and the grandmother was already struggling to feed another 5 grandchildren, and a younger daughter. Such is life in the village!!



The little boy born with a lump of 'brain' on his neck, Sami has now got a place once a week at the Hospice which is run from UK, in Brasov. He can now go for play therapy once a week. This is a great blessing to the mother and to us, as there is a possibility that something may be able to be done medically for this dear little fellow. He is now 3 years old.

**Trying to find correct information** as to incomes in the gypsy village is very difficult. As generally they are all so poor on the whole, and those who are better off also hope for help, often tell half truths to help their case!!! We need to be ruthless, and find the poorest of the poor. One example of this, is the big family of 15 that I thought lived on only £35 a month, I now find that they have quite a bit more, as the

husband has a regular job and a reasonable salary, even though the wife still denies it!

**We hope to be able to send a lorry** again in September, with whatever is available. Our stocks at Rora are low now, but we still don't want to send what is not needed as that is a waste of transport money.

**Real pressing needs are:-**

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| 1. 2 electric sewing machines   | 7. Regular sponsors for canteen and ACA workers |
| 2. Prams, buggies, push chairs  | 8. Adult & Teen bicycles in working order       |
| 3. Mattresses, duvets, pillows  | 9. Children's and babies clothes                |
| 4. Good wardrobes, chests of drawers (not flimsy as fall apart by the time they arrive) | 10. Bottles and dummies                         |
| 5. Washing machines, spin dryers,   | 11. First Baby milk                             |
| 6. Kettles, toasters, CD players, only those in good working order please.              | 12. Regular sponsors for family food boxes      |

**A special regular sponsor** is needed for a dear gypsy pastor who is diabetic and sick. He has lost everything, but still carries on without an income at all.

**Thank you all SO much** for all your continued, loving, generous support for our dear Romanian friends. One day, we trust, we will all meet in Heaven. Their salvation is our aim and is the motivation for all the work. May Jesus fulfill His word in the hearts of all that receive help and you are praying for. He is eternally faithful. With love and blessings in His precious name, Malcolm, Christine, Paul and Anna