

Aurora Christian Association
NEWS FROM VULCAN, BRASOV, ROMANIA
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2009

“Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory”. 1 Timothy 3 v. 16.

We send our love and greetings to all our faithful supporters and wish you a very blessed Christmas, as we celebrate once again Christ’s coming as a baby to earth. May we understand anew the great love of God, shown to us in sending His Son, our Lord Jesus to this earth, giving us the opportunity to be saved and have eternal LIFE.

Casa Betel



These last months in Romania have been extremely busy for us as we have moved into our new Association premises in Vulcan. This house is next door to and backs onto Casa Betania. We have named it Casa Betel, and our hope is that in every way it will live up to it’s name. Genesis 28 v. 16 – 19.

It is a very pleasant house, facing south, so is much warmer than Betania. It has a large grassy garden and smaller rooms than Betania, but is spacious enough for the work we hope to do there. This house will provide accommodation for volunteers to stay, and also visitors staying short term to ‘see’ the work. It will NOT be a holiday home!!

Already it is in use, as the canteen is situated at the front end of the house, in its own yard, and the gypsy school is in the ‘upper room’. This large room will also be used for conferences, Bible studies and teaching classes as necessary.

School

The kitchen is also already in use for the ‘break’ for the gypsy school (none of the children eat before school – no food at home). We buy bread daily and they make their own sandwiches and they have a drink. They are learning how to wash up, wipe the tables and sweep the floor. This is all part of their education as no-one has ever taught them anything before. All these children have either never been to school or have only completed one or two years of schooling. Their ages range from 10 years to 16. They cannot read or write when they first come, and most cannot count. We also give them each a loaf of bread every day, to take to their families.

These six constitute but a minute part of gypsy children not at school. The reasons for this are varied, but are mainly because they do not have clothes, shoes, or food, and then the other children laugh at them and teachers ignore them. Most of their parents cannot read or write either, and there are no conditions for homework at home as often there is no light in the evenings as the electricity has been cut off because they cannot pay the bills. We are hoping to take another 4 children into the school in January, if the finances permit.

Our granddaughter, Hannah, who is a qualified teacher, kindly came for two and a half months to really set up the school in Betel, and has laid a very good foundation. The school was previously started by Bill and Sue and held in their house in Vulcan. As they have now returned to UK for the education of their children, we decided to continue as we were able. Simona and her mother in law, Geta, are now in charge and so far managing very well.



Claudiu and Bi



Back Row: Simona, Hannah, Dana
Front Row: David, Denisa, Christine, Ana-Maria, Bi (Claudiu is missing!)

There is now an added reason why children do not go to school. The local council, and possibly the State, have ruled that ALL children must have uniform, and if they don't they will be put out of school. This has already happened in Vulcan, and as there is no social help at all for the poor, many more children have dropped out of school. This is another impossible expense for most. Uniform costs between £15 and £40, depending on age and size, and then there is bus fare money needed for them all into the city!!

Of course the law requires an education for all children between the ages of 6 and 16, but many cannot have it, due to these impossible circumstances. As a result of this we had to help all our workers to get school uniforms for their children. We felt that this was a real need, as they only receive minimal sponsor money from ACA.

All the other work of ACA, the Kindergartens, Canteen and Aid distribution is running smoothly, for which we praise the Lord. There is a real sense of oneness amongst all the 'workers' and a genuine desire to serve the Lord and help the people.

We have now appointed an Administrator, Gheoghita, for all the work of ACA in Romania. He is presently working with minimal sponsor money because he feels called by the Lord to do the work. He has already proved himself invaluable in every way, and is easy to work with, wanting not only to please us, but to please the Lord and be involved in all that God is doing. He is an older brother of 60 years and a mature Christian, able to lead the daily prayer time of ACA and oversee all the canteen children and the workers. We feel we can confidently leave all the repairs, payment of bills and daily decisions in his hands in our absence. He is a gift of God to us all.

Local Churches

God is moving in the local churches we attend, and this is the most exciting and ongoing part of all the 'work'. The Baptist church saw four young people baptized a month ago and now there are four more also being prepared for baptism. For us, personally, this is a great joy as they are all gypsies whose lives have been radically changed.

At the Pentecostal church we also witnessed an amazing baptism of four more folk. Two of them were young people and a married couple. The church was full, and all the Baptist folk were there as well. The unity seen between members and leaders was incredible and it was genuine. They all supported one another in ministry and nothing was forced or superficial. We believe it is the beginnings of a real move of the Holy Spirit and are excited about all that God has in store for His church in Vulcan.

The Ladies Bible Studies in the gypsy village continue weekly. The false idea that freedom and democracy will change their lives is now seen to be a deception and many are seeking the Lord in sincerity.



Sebi & Nicoleta's house, in October (left) and as we left at the beginning of Dec '09 (right).

Sabina and Nicosor.

Buildings etc

Another building project is almost finished, and a third house is now well on it's way. This is for Nicoleta and Sebastian, and their three small children, who at present live in dire circumstances. Nicoleta has already become a real blessing in the Lord's work, and Sebastian is now 100% the Lord's and waiting to be baptized. We hope to finish this project before next winter.



Our dear gypsy pastor friend Tit asks us to thank all those who have helped him. He is still unemployed, diabetic and very poor. His need is ongoing, and really he needs a regular sponsor to help him survive.

Cornel and Lenuta too are so grateful for all help received both for his hearing and his house. They have insulated the roof, and put boarding under the eaves, as well as brought in an electric line from next door!!! Now, all that remains to be done is to put a door and a roof on the outside toilet.

We would like to thank all of you, on behalf of all our dear brothers and sisters for all the help received for all these projects.

Needs

One other outstanding need remains to help a very poor family. This mother, Delia, witnessed her sister murdered by the husband about four years ago, a result she has been very traumatized. She has four girls aged between 15 and 3 years of age. During the summer Delia's husband, aged just 39, had a serious heart attack. He is now unable to work at all, and his pension of £60 a month only covers all his medicines. Their only other income is the children's allowance which is £8.00 a month per child. The grandfather died from heart problems at 29, and now the second daughter, Cozmina, who is 12, has been diagnosed with a similar problem. We feel that we are to help this family with regular support, and possibly with the operation and all that Cozmina will need.



Delia and her family, Cozmina is the one in the purple top

We would also like to say a **BIG** special thank you to all our brothers and sisters at South Kent Community Church, the Anglican Church in Peterborough, Blythswood Trust, all our dear Norwegian supporters, all who provide for the transport of aid to Romania, and all you local folk from Ilsington who are constantly so supportive. There are many more of you who for space sake must be nameless, but who are just as faithful. God bless you all with His richest blessings in Christ. To mention but a few of you who support us so regularly.

The needs everywhere are so enormous, that apart from just giving food and bread as we are able it often seems an impossible task. We could easily be overwhelmed but for the grace of God. The real vision and purpose of all the work, SOULS, must remain uppermost in our hearts and vision
We praise the Lord for His continual enabling, wisdom and health, that enables us to be His hands and feet in this helpless third world country in the EU!!!!

Every blessing to you all at this Christmas time. May you know God's love in a new way as we draw near to His return.

“For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can take nothing out.” 1 Timothy 6 v. 7

Our lives are like grass that grows up one day and tomorrow is gone. May we use our time and goods wisely before the Lord, in these last days of time.

Our love and grateful thanks to you all,

Malcolm, Christine, Paul and Anna.