

NEWS FROM AURORA CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, VULCAN, ROMANIA – September 2021

A quick update on the 2 building projects. They are both nearing completion, although Meralina had a recent set back when the nearby stream flooded after heavy rain, and destroyed a lot of materials she had purchased.

When Nelu recently visited Meralina, he was shocked to see she had 2 solar panels on her roof! This certainly solved her electricity problem, but we were concerned if she had got herself into debt by installing them. Apparently a lady from Brasov arranged this, and paid half of the cost to install them. With a gift received from The Rainbow Project, Plymouth, Meralina has been helped with payment for the panels.

Praise Points:

- * Provision of finances for the continued running of all the ACA projects in Romania
- * Successful Summer camp and re-opening of kindergartens
- * Protection from covid for ACA workers and our friends in and around Vulcan
- * Nearing completion on the building projects at Meralina's & Mariana's
- * We thank God for everyone of you who supports this work in Romania

Prayer Points:

- * Pray for wisdom as we navigate changes in how ACA is run regarding aid etc
- * Pray Irene would settle back into life in Vulcan after a longer than normal stay in UK
- * For the churches—that they would have opportunities to share the gospel at this time

Thank you once again for all your support.
Malcolm, Paul, Anna & Irene

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'But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you' Matt 6:33

'For I the LORD do not change

Mal 3:6

It has been a long time since we last did an update on all the projects in Romania.

Summer Club

During the summer holidays, Nelu & Miki and a team of young people decided to run a residential Christian summer club in Vulcan. They used the ACA facilities for sleeping, eating, activities, outside garden games etc. It was a great success. 18 children attended for 3 days, between the ages of 5-12. Some were from the church, but some also brought friends—there were about 5 children from non-Christian homes. The theme of the camp was 'Fantastic People in History' and they looked at Bible characters like David, Moses and Joseph. Nelu & Miki say this is an easy and effective way to evangelise, to get the Bible into people's homes, and create links with families. On the last evening they had a bonfire and all the families were invited.



Kindergartens

Both Kindergartens have started their new term, with 18 children in Miki's class and 14 in Andreea's.

Before they opened, the opportunity was taken to completely re-furbish the room which is used for Andreea's kindergarten (and also used for other activities—homework club, girls clubs etc). It was painted, new carpet, curtains & benches, furniture & chairs painted, tables covered with new plastic etc. This year Miki has had quite a few families apply to send their children to the kindergarten from poorer families. This is really great. There are also some children this year with special needs. One little girl in particular (who we had helped with baby milk) has severe neurological problems. Miki will have the girl for half an hour each day to see how she gets on. Please pray that the children (and families) would all integrate, and that the families would see the benefits of educational learning.



School Books

Just prior to the children going back to school, Miki and Irene (who returned to Vulcan at the beginning of September), went to see the new school director. They had a good and positive time, and we are planning to support purchasing school books for 100 children again this term. The cost per child has increased from £6 to £8, but Praise God we have enough money to cover the costs for this term. This is an on-going project, if you would like to support it, money can be donated throughout the year.

Canteen

As you may remember, we had to close the canteen because of covid. ACA started producing food bags for the poor families and also the old people who used to get their food from the canteen. This is working fine and we will continue to distribute food bags to those in need. The food can easily be purchased in bulk from the local wholesaler (similar to Makro). We currently have no plans to re-open the canteen. We are currently praying about how we can distribute food to the poor old people in more remote areas.



↑ being loaded at Rora ⇒ arriving in Romania

Lorries and Aid to Romania

In our last newsletter we were still awaiting the EORI export licence to be issued to enable us to send a lorry to Romania. This was duly received and we booked, loaded and sent a lorry of aid to Romania in April. Unfortunately it was fraught with complications (too many to list!), additional customs paperwork and extortionate costs (customs & import tax), threats of the lorry being impounded etc. Nelu had to wait at the customs office in Brasov for 7 hrs. Finally the lorry was released. After much prayer, discussion and deliberation, and also learning that larger charities also had the same problem (one was charged over £6000 in tax alone, and they have therefore decided not to send anymore aid to EU countries but focus on non-EU), we have decided not to send anymore aid to Romania for the time being. Another factor in this decision was that we used to receive pallets of food from local wholesalers which were sent to subsidise the canteen. We are no longer receiving the food (and if we did we would require a whole new export licence!) and we are not currently re-opening the canteen. We feel we have a great responsibility on how to use the money that is kindly given to ACA to support those in Romania and feel the rising costs of sending a lorry to Romania would not be the best use of funds. We will therefore now send money to Romania so they can buy essentials there. As school uniform is cheaper to buy in UK, we are looking at ways to possibly send a pallet of new school uniform only, and will keep you informed of this. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has given or made items to send to Romania over many years.

We recently had a coffee morning and table top sale at Rora, to raise money for ACA. Items were sold that came in the aid but we wouldn't send to Romania, and we raised over £450!! WOW! AMAZING!! What was also great, we met new faces from the locality. We have another sale arranged for 4th December. If you're local, come along, have a coffee and chat. Also if you have any items in good condition that you feel would sell, please let us know. We have also set up a shop on eBay on which we are able to sell suitable items.