

NEWS FROM VULCAN, BRASOV, ROMANIA JUNE/JULY 2010

'Teach me your way Oh Lord, and lead me in the smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me and such as breathe out violence. I would have lost heart unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord, in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait I say on the Lord.' Psalm 27 v. 11-14.

As I begin this newsletter to you, all our dear faithful supporters, I hardly know where to begin. To really explain to you the situation here at present is impossible, and my heart is constantly overwhelmed with the terrible needs of human beings, our fellow Europeans, here in Romania.

'Extreme Poverty'



Since our last letter, all government salaries in Romania have been cut by 25% and pensions have fallen. VAT has risen from 20% to 24%. This literally makes most folk well below the bread line. The result will inevitably be a rise in prices on ALL commodities. There are no exceptions here in Romania, and virtually no State help for those who literally have no income. The middle classes, a few of the population, will get poorer. The poor will become extremely poor, and the lowest in society, the already extremely poor, will literally starve. Up to now the only way they survive is by continual debt at the local shops, just buying necessities, bread, oil, onions, potatoes, rice or pasta. Always meals consist only of soup and bread and the occasional dish of pasta (without a sauce) or fried potatoes. The shopkeepers (not the owners - who are richer) take pity on the young girls trying to feed their children and let them run up debts. Then when the children's allowance comes (£8.00 a month) or the measly salary £80 a month (if there is one), it goes directly to the shop, and so the debt grows until finally they lose their identity card, which is taken as security. What is the answer?? Only God and His mercy and grace.

We do as much as we can, but even the needs of our trusted friends and brothers and sisters in the churches are more than we can handle now. We need great wisdom and more of God's abundant supply than ever before.

Alongside all this is the constant corruption, especially in the medical profession, people with bad teeth constantly in pain and with infections, cost of medicines, whole families with TB, and young girls always pregnant, adding to the burdens in families. Wood is needed for fires in winter and for cooking in summer, and is expensive to buy. There is no money for school uniforms and therefore children are banned from school. There is constant injustice for all those who cannot fend for themselves. Claiming help for anything is too difficult, as so much paper work is needed and people are sent from office to office, from town to town, but have no money for bus fares. The gypsies especially suffer, as they have no rights and are left in the queue and not attended to. They are too afraid of authorities, and a lot cannot read or write. !! No one can claim even the minimal help for school expenses, and pupils have to buy their own exercise books and give gifts to the teachers!!! No help is given for medicines to anyone who has not had a work permit for at least two years during their lifetime.

Those who have never been able to get a job or have had families to care for are entitled to nothing, they have no rights. Many are dying for lack of medical care and nutrition. Children are thin and badly proportioned, and usually much smaller than they should be.

Many folk do not have birth certificates or identity cards as have no money to get them. If children reach 14 years of age and cannot buy their identity card, they receive massive fines, which increase weekly until paid. If there is no money for bread, there is certainly no money for all these things. It is so tragic to see the worsening suffering first hand.

There is great news though. Many are really seeking the Lord very sincerely, and calling on His name. There is no other help. God is near and is hearing their cry. The numbers in church are growing and many really exciting things are happening, in spite of all the need. We just continually pray that through all these difficulties, there will be a real openness to the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ, and many will receive Him as their Saviour. Without Him we can do nothing, but with Him, all things are possible.

In Romania the summer holiday is 3 months, therefore the Kindergarten, Gypsy school, and the Canteen are now all closed for the summer. There is a waiting list of 35 for the Kindergarten for the autumn. God is really blessing the work, and there have been many contacts for the Lord through all that is done for the children.

There are at least 100 children on the list for the canteen for September aged from 5-12 years, and 14 booked in for the school, with ages between 7 and 12 years. None of these children have any chance of State education. Unfortunately we have just heard that our teacher has found a full time job and will not now be available in September. We do need to seriously pray about this, as the gypsy school is a very fruitful ministry.

Leta and Sebi's house is slowly taking shape, and we have been able to get the roof on and a fence round the whole property. They are so thrilled and thank everyone who has so kindly helped them. We trust to get the doors and windows in, and floor and ceilings done, as well as plastering, in at least one room before winter. It is an essential, and Leta is becoming more and more a real worker and distributor for the Lord with us. She is invaluable! Sebi's job goes well, and his boss is training him to drive a pallet truck! His salary is still only £90 a month!

There are many other minor building needs, which are equally essential, and we hope to be able to help various folk with, smaller items i.e. leaking roofs, earth floors, rats in the houses because of holes and many more really basic needs in the gypsy village, such as cement, plaster board and wood.

'Building Projects'



Thank you so much to all who have helped Pastor Tit and Cornel, they are so grateful, but their needs are ongoing, especially with winter coming on.

Ancuta's debt has been paid and we would like to say a big thank you to those who have offered to regularly sponsor her to enable her to buy food. Apart from our/your help she has nothing. There are others with similar needs, the main ones being young men who have found jobs, and earn £60-£80 a month, but then have to pay £30 a month for their travel! None of it makes sense, but these are the facts. We have two such lovely young men, with sweet wives and two children each who we want to help on a regular basis with the season ticket for travel. They are Ovidiu and Razvan.

The children who needed glasses are now fine, and the child with a heart problem is doing well, thanks to your gracious support and prayers.

Now we have two more very pressing medical needs. One is a little girl of 4 years old who has a tumour/cyst on her kidney (at least that's what they told me). She is very sick and also has a cyst on her eye, and a large one in her mouth. The second case is a little boy of 3 years whose legs are completely deformed. He should have had an operation soon after birth I think. He cannot walk, and consequently, if nothing is done, he will never have a chance in life. Handicap in Romania is not understood at all.



'medical needs'



The Association House, Casa Betel, is now well in use, and we praise God for it. Eventually we would like to get all the work of ACA under one roof, thus eventually saving on time, fuel and other resources. Unfortunately, in June, the night after the lorry arrived, the Aid Store was broken into. Thieves had forced the metal door and padlock, and entered in at the back of the property. All the men's, shoes [5 boxes] and a lot of new clothes were stolen. Everything was pulled off the newly stacked shelves, boxes ripped and turned upside down. They obviously worked in a hurry. We will now have to add a loud alarm to the sensor light system!

Please continue to pray with us and help us. We cannot do any of this without you, it is too big a job, and is growing rapidly. Thank you so much for all your support thus far, it is invaluable.

Once again we thank you all for all your ongoing support, and love to us and for the Lord's work in Romania. We are indeed 'workers together' for Him, and we all need one another. With our love in Jesus name, Malcolm, Christine, Paul and Anna,

Ongoing needs are:- bicycles, prams, buggies, cots, mattresses, good beds (not divans, they take up too much lorry space!) good chests of drawers or wardrobes with shelves, not too heavy but neither too flimsy as they fall apart by the time they arrive. Children's clothes (all ages) sheets, duvet covers and pillowslips, towels. Big saucepans, soup type bowls, mugs, knives, forks, spoons. Good plastic containers with lids (stops the rats eating the food!) Any toiletries are always acceptable.