

**NEWS FROM AURORA CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
VULCAN, ROMANIA – DECEMBER 2011**
With blessings & greetings for Christmas and the New Year

CONFERENCES. Ministering preachers from UK are regular visitors, bringing welcome ministry, by invitation, into many churches in the Brasov area. This is a very real and necessary part of the Work of ACA, building meaningful relationships in many denominations with Christians who are hungry and open for the revealed Word of God.

FUTURE VISION, includes a possible **Charity Shop**, selling at minimal prices, mainly to change the way of thinking that things come always without cost. We are allowed by law to sell 10% of all goods we bring into the country.

Help with renovating or building houses for the very poor, who at present live in terrible conditions.

The 'Second Chance School' which we have been working towards with Dana Jugaru, [Pentecostal minister's wife from Codlea, who is also a member of the ACA Board in Romania]. Dana has a burden for gypsies to be integrated into Romanian Society. This school will be run by the County in the existing school building in Vulcan during normal school hours. It will be for children who can learn, but have never had the chance to go to school, or have begun and then dropped out because of lack of clothes, shoes or finance. [Romanians have to buy **ALL** their own school books and materials, regardless of income levels]. All pupils will be encouraged to do two years schooling in one year and will receive the normal diplomas at the end, thus enabling them to apply for jobs in the future. Currently we have 25 children booked in, starting in February 2012. This is a major victory and we praise God for the wonderful way in which He has led us to this point.

School Uniform is another very necessary part of all that we aim to do in the future. All children should be at school by law, from the age of 7, but many cannot go, even if registered by their parents, because they do not have school uniform, We have managed to buy some, and will try to find a regular source of help from UK in future, as education of children is so vitally important. Colours must be navy or black [trousers in grey are acceptable] with white or blue shirts for boys and girls from 7 – 14 years and jackets for all boys! They also need sports clothes and trainers. If anyone has these things or knows of a reliable regular source, please contact us at Rora.



Thank you so much once again to all our faithful supporters for all your prayers, gifts, helps, and for just 'being there', involved with us in the Lord's work. We so truly appreciate of each one of you, and give God all the glory for all He is doing, and enabling us to do.

The situation for most in Romania continues to worsen, fed by corruption, terrible poverty and need. As always the rich get richer at the expense of the poor getting much poorer. Some things are changing, supermarkets are springing up, roads throughout Vulcan are now properly surfaced, but for many the monthly income will buy just two or three loaves of bread a day. If folk cannot pay their bills they are fined, and if eventually they cannot pay the bill and the enormous fine, they are threatened with prison, regardless of their home situation. For most it is the mother who suffers as she is the one who pays bills and tries to feed her family. Very few have jobs, and there is little or no social help. Winters are freezing cold, down to -30C or lower, necessitating wood or gas heating and summers very hot, up to +35C.

In this newsletter we want to give you a brief overview of all that ACA is involved in and enabled to do in Romania. From small beginnings in 1992, the Work has grown and enlarged beyond all we could ever have imagined. We are so thankful to the Lord for all this and for all the genuine interest and support we receive from so many places.

Nelu and Miki Neculoiu work closely with us in Vulcan and we also have regular fellowship with **Gary and Nico Sims** who live in Bran.

ACA Workers receive a small amount of sponsor money each month through the Charity.

The following is a list of each ministry ACA is involved in Vulcan,

CASA BETANIA is our home in Romania, and also houses a guest room, our personal office, pharmacy and basement storage space.

THE PHARMACY is the place where we keep basic medicines, dressings, bandages and ointments. These are given on a one to one basis, usually with a prescription, as the need arises. **Thelma**, our faithful nurse from Peterborough, comes to Vulcan twice a year. She sorts, fills bottles, and dispenses tablets into plastic envelopes. As well as making up packs for newborns and doing emergency first aid as necessary.

CASA BETEL is the Association [Charity] base of ACA and is used as 'home from home' accommodation for those wishing to help for short or longer periods in the Work. At present **Irene** who is from Brookside Church in Reading is living there. Irene is our new Gypsy school teacher. The last few months have been very busy for us with visiting preachers from the UK and other regular visitors who help with sorting and distributing aid and maintaining the property.



Left to right: 1st 3 windows, Nelu & Miki's house, shared gateway, next 2 windows Casa Betania. House on right hand side, Casa Betel. These front windows are the canteen.

Irene writes about her recent involvement in ACA.....

“THE GYPSY SCHOOL was re-opened at the beginning of October 2011. It took a few weeks for the children to settle into a routine but this term there have been 6 children attending in the morning and 7 in the afternoon. A few children had previously attended school but the majority of them had never been to school before. I have had to start at the beginning with them, focusing on social skills, learning manners and turn taking, as well as learning numbers and how to write. The children have learnt a lot in a short space of time, all apart from 1 child, can now write their own name, and all of them are learning the letters of the alphabet rapidly. They all have a natural aptitude for maths and can count and do sums well, but writing is much harder for them. The children enjoy art activities such as painting, cutting, sticking, and also playing games. All of these activities have helped to develop the skills that they will need for a further education. I have started visiting the families to update them on their children’s progress, this helps the **parents** to understand what the children are learning. The visits also give me more insight into the problems each of the children face at home, helping me to support them more.



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. I visited in the summer with Christine and we found 3 children in the gypsy village with special needs, from very poor families. I have been visiting them in their homes every 2 weeks to work with them and their families. I take crayons, puzzles, toys and play with them using this equipment. I also do simple physical exercises or massage with them depending on their needs.

Sami is 5yrs old; he has Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus, (which is fluid on the brain.) He is a lively, happy boy who enjoys playing simple games with me such as peek-a-boo and hiding objects from me. He is weak down his left side and is benefiting from massage on his left hand.

Damaris is a 4 yr old girl who has changed so much in the last 6 months. As yet she has not had a diagnosis due to lack of finance. We visited her in the summer

and she could not walk, or talk and was really frightened by visitors. She would scream when we were there until a family member took her outside. Now she can walk holding onto a hand, she is trying to talk and is such a happy, joyful child. When I last visited her she was jumping and dancing round the room as she held onto my hand. We truly believe this change is down to the power of prayer and thank God for what he is doing in her life.



Miruna is a 14yr old girl with Downs Syndrome. She has had no education, but is really friendly and eager to please. When I visit her I try to teach basic things such as parts of the body, colours, numbers and do activities such as drawing, and colouring.”



DELIVERIES of AID. A truck holding 100 cubic meters is packed and loaded at Rora about 3 times a year, and delivered to the ACA base, in Vulcan. This normally includes food for the canteen and extremely poor families, clothes, shoes, bedding, kitchen utensils, pots, pans, cutlery, plates etc, furniture [specified] mattresses, bicycles, prams and many other requested items, as available. This is distributed according to

need in our ACA minibus, by horse and cart, hand cart or individually.

THE CANTEEN runs five days a week in term time and provides a hot meal for approx. 80 children and 20 old people daily. The workers there are **Rica, Felicia and Nicoleta [Leta]**. They come at 8.00am and leave around 2.30pm. The children come in shifts from school from 11.30 – 1.30 pm, as both primary and middle school are in one building, Years 1-4 in the mornings and years 5-8 after lunch.



THE KINDERGARTEN is in two groups in two separate locations at present. It is held every weekday in term time from 9am -1.00pm. The junior group 3-5years, [about 20 children] is run by **Carmen and Magdalena [Lela]** and the senior group 5-7years [also presently about 20 children] is run by **Mihaela [Miki] and Marioara.**

THE OFFICE is manned by our excellent administrator, **Gheorghita [Ghita]** who oversees all the work in our absence, pays bills, sorts out all maintenance, supervises the children in the canteen, is responsible for distributing monthly sponsor monies, and leads morning prayers for the workers, just half an hour each day. Sometimes this time is spent in just discussing a problem or reviewing the work, as well as praying about the coming day.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT. We work with many churches, but belong to a small Baptist church at the end of our road. This is where we feel really at home, and is also the place we can bring ‘our’ gypsies when they begin to really seek the Lord. The leadership is Romanian, even though there are many gypsies in the church. The Lord is working mightily by His Spirit and many are receiving Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and are being baptized. It is very wonderful to see the marvellous change that is taking place in the hearts and lives of the gypsy population. The Work of ACA, and all help given has one ultimate purpose, which is to open the hearts of the people to the goodness of God who gives all things.