

NEWS FROM AURORA CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, VULCAN, ROMANIA – August 2020

Praise Points:

- * Provision of finances for food bags etc during COVID-19
- * Ruben & Jo being able to get married in UK and then return to Romania
- * Further renovations at the ACA base in Vulcan
- * Protection of ACA workers and our friends in and around Vulcan during this crisis
- * Continued progress on the building project at Mariana's
- * We thank God for everyone of you who supports this work in Romania

Prayer Points:

- * Pray for protection during this time with the Coronavirus and to enable people to stand against fear
- * Pray for good health and safety for Jo during her pregnancy
- * Pray for Sister Marioara following the death of Brother Ionica
- * Provision of finances for on-going sponsorship, school books & medical
- * Pray that Nelu would be able to continue to resolve all the legal paperwork regarding the land at the back of the ACA properties

Thank you once again for all your support.

Malcolm, Paul, Anna & Irene

On-going Needs:

- Household size packets or tins of food
- Babies, children's, and teens clothes
- Baby milk powder, baby bottles, dummies, sudocream, calpol, teething gel,
- Soup or cereal bowls, large plates, mugs, cutlery
- Good saucepans, NOT too small
- Prams, Buggies, Cots
- School Requisites
- School Uniforms
- School Shoes (sizes 10-7)
- Simple Medicines (Paracetamol & Ibuprofen)
- Sponsorship (canteen, workers, school bus money etc)
- Toiletries

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The LORD sits enthroned as King forever. May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace. Psalm 29 v 10b-11
Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 26 v 4



We have all been affected one way or another during this time of COVID-19. We thought we'd give you an update of what's been going on in Romania and specifically with our projects in Vulcan. Romania went into lockdown slightly earlier than the UK (& a stricter lockdown!), and currently has the 2nd highest number of new cases in Europe.

First a report from Irene: *Life during Lockdown in Romania*

Hi everyone,

I thought that you would like a brief update on things here in Romania so that you know how to pray during this time.

The government in Romania acted swiftly to prevent the spread of Covid 19. Here is a brief timeline:

11th March – Schools, Kindergardens and Universities closed down. Students studied at home either online or given packs of study materials

16th March – State of emergency was declared

25th March – A nationwide lockdown was declared. If people wanted to leave home they must have paperwork stating the reason for leaving home and the police would check the documents. Reason for leaving home included – work, shopping, caring for someone etc Same as in the UK people were encouraged to work at home if possible. Many factories closed then slowly reopening changing shift patterns so that less people would be at work at the same time. Many people have lost jobs and the number of those claiming unemployment benefit has risen dramatically.

15th May the state of emergency ended and we entered a state of alert. This introduced some relaxations. Dentists, hairdressers and some non-essential shops opened. Masks must be worn on public transport and in enclosed spaces. Churches were allowed to meet outdoors as long as masks were worn and with social distancing.

1st June – More relaxations, restaurants and cafes can serve outside on their terraces as long as social distancing. Also outdoor theatres, zoos and outdoor museums.

15th June- Shopping centres were open and churches were allowed to meet inside.

What is happening now? Since the new number of relaxations the number of cases of Covid 19 in Romania have started to rise rapidly. The government were supposed to announce further relaxations on the 1st of July but have not due to the rise of cases. Currently Romania has the 2nd highest number of new cases in Europe.

Everyday life. Since the schools closed we closed down our canteen, kindergardens and afterschool projects. We have been using this time to do all the jobs we have wanted to do but never have time! We have been sorting cupboards, store rooms and been doing lots of cleaning.

There have been many changes onsite as Ne-lu is making an access road going from the main street to the back of his property where he has his workshop. So a small section of the A.C.A garden has been used for the access road with some of the neighbours garden as well. It will look amazing when it's finished.

[new fence & access road →→]

Also in the street they have dug up the pavement and ditch to make new drainage. So it's very dusty here at the moment but can't wait for it to be finished!

Going forward. We are in the process of looking at the rules in place for kindergardens and after school projects. We have not made any definite plans for the future at the moment but hope to be able to use time in the summer to prepare so we can restart some activities in September. Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers. Irene

[new drains in main street ↓↓]



The Baptist Church is currently running prayer meetings every evening on zoom and meet on Sundays in the church building, as they are able to do so safely. The Pentecostal Church has also been running Sunday & Tuesday evening meetings in the church building. One sad piece of news is that Brother Ionica Dragoi, who was a deacon and stalwart of the Pentecostal church, passed away on 7th July, he was 72. He will be greatly missed. Please pray for Sister Marioara, she will continue to work with Miki in the kindergarten when we re-open.



We are going to continue to support school children with purchasing books required for schooling, for the new academic year, as although the schools may not be open, the pupils will be required to study on-line. We currently have 83 children on the list, but are planning to help 90, as a few more may register before school starts. ACA contributes £6 per child for the books, and ask the parents to contribute the rest. If you would like to help with this project, please let us know. When the children have to attend school again, we will also help kit them out with school uniforms, shoes, back packs etc. We collect and store all these items throughout the year, so we are able to distribute them in September. If you would like the list of current uniform needs, please let us know, as Irene has produced an up to date list.

Another on-going urgent request we have is for proper incontinence pads for Eugenia, the old lady who had a stroke and Sami Gradinar, a boy with severe special needs. The cost of this would be approx. £10 each per month.

Some exciting news is that Ruben & Jo managed to get the last flight back to UK from Romania in March and were married at Rora on 21st March, 3 days before lockdown! The wedding had been planned for 18th April! As all flights to Romania were then cancelled they spent the next 4½ months at Rora, working with us there, and Ruben continued his studies on-line. They were able to return on 1st August, and are now settling back into life in Vulcan. More good news is that they are expecting a baby.



The building work at Mariana's has continued, although sometimes there was difficulty getting materials. There is enough money to get the roof on, which will hopefully be done before the bad weather. There are yet more complications trying to get Meralina's paperwork in order, so we can start to help that family, as a lot of the official offices were closed during lockdown.