

**NEWS FROM AURORA CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
VULCAN, ROMANIA – March - May 2014**

“Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified.” Haggai 1 v. 8



Collecting stones from the riverbed for the foundations of house no 2.



→ Taking water to the building site. It has to be collected from the well at the bottom of the village and then taken up by horse & cart.



← Diana & her brother desperately need a new stove (see old stove in background)

→ Ramona, 42, with her 5 year old twins. Ramona needs oxygen every month.



Ongoing Needs:

Bicycles
Prams, Buggies, Cots
Computers (running
Windows XP & above - in
working order)

School Requisites
School Uniforms
Baby Clothes, Bottles,
Dummies, Baby Cream
Children's Clothes

Duvets / Bedding
School Shoes
Simple Medicines
Food
Sponsorship

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God bless you all, our dear friends, supporters and prayer warriors. We are more than sure in these days that "unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it", and that apart from Him and His wonderful daily grace we can accomplish nothing. So all our thanks are to God, who in this time of difficulty we are passing through HAS enabled, and to all of you who prayed so much for us. We are sure that He will enable us to finish the work He has started there in Vulcan as we press on in obedience to Him.

We had to remain a month longer than planned in Romania, as both of us had a 'flu' virus, which unfortunately made Malcolm very ill with bronchitis and eventually affected his heart to some degree. At the moment we are not sure as to the real cause of the problem, suffice it to say that the Insurance doctors would not allow him to fly home until they received the 'all clear' from the Romanian doctors. This entailed many visits to private clinics [the Romanian Health system was not an option, you will know why!!] for x-rays, scans, ECG's, tests, examinations and numerous questions. I [Christine] was so thankful that I could converse easily in Romanian, as this made the whole exercise for Malcolm a bit easier. Anyway, praise God, they eventually allowed us to leave with a medical escort, a doctor flown out from UK to Romania, to be with Malcolm right through the journey, from door to door. An excellent Insurance company, who saw to every detail and phoned us regularly to make sure we were OK! We are so thankful to our Father in Heaven. This was the first time we have ever had insurance and the first time we have ever needed it. Our family insisted, and bought it for us. What a blessing to us and we are so thankful to them and to the Lord for His wonderful care.

I wish we could say that things in Romania were improving for the poor, but at this moment we cannot. The rich are getting richer, and we have seen some amazingly large properties being built, but as the old saying says, 'money makes money,' and 'the poor get poorer'. There is still so much difference between rich and poor and the gap is widening, with little hope of change at the present moment, because there is no infra structure that works, and corruption is rife from the 'top to the bottom'

Our main work with gypsies is difficult, as so many are not educated and have their own culture and way of life. As in all other places where corruption and the bribery system reigns, Romania is no different. We know that only as these dear people, who we love so much, in spite of their deep problems, really meet God in a personal way. We rejoice that this vital change, which takes place in the hearts



A Grandmother looking through our dustbins for food to feed her grandchildren.



View from the top of the Gypsy Village down to the Romanian Village.

of human beings touched by the grace and love of God, is already working in many hearts. The church is slowly growing with those that are 'born from above'.

ACA has two very good gypsy couples in the work force, as well as another 4 gypsy workers and 5 Romanians. It is a good mix and gradually God is really working amongst us all. We have a short devotional time of Bible study and prayer each morning in the canteen, which is a wonderful uniting factor, and really helps us all for the day ahead.

Daily we have a 'programme' time [like a daily surgery] at Casa Betania for folk to be able to come and present their needs and troubles to us. We also make regular visits as much as is possible to the gypsy village. We help as we can with all the various activities that take place on the ACA charity house site, Casa Betel. i.e. canteen, kindergarten, clubs, mothers and toddlers, special needs group, homework club and patchwork, to mention a few!! Irene from Reading, who serves with us, is very involved in these activities, she's a great blessing from the Lord to us and ACA.

David [the Baptist pastor's son], and his wife Iren, are also involved in the work, as time allows them, and are also an added blessing. They actually moved from Cristian [the next village], last June, to a house opposite us in the same street. Just across the stream, over a little home made wooden bridge. God has so wonderfully positioned us all, with the Baptist Church at the end of the same street. Only He could've planned it all.



The front of Victor & Dalia's house.

The 'help build' programme has begun again, and goes well. One family, where father is sick with a severe heart problem, mother is very stressed as witnessed her sister's death a few years ago, [when she was stabbed with a kitchen knife by her husband] two teenage daughters, a younger daughter and a small son, all live in one small room with two beds!!

Their extended family has helped them to build a second room, and ACA has been able to supply the materials. This house will be finished by June, and the family are overjoyed.



Extension to the back & new roof on!

A start has been made on the second house, which will eventually be two rooms, for a family of seven, who have been featured in our newsletters before. They live in a dire situation in terrible poverty. It has to be seen to be believed. This house is more complex as it is a 'start from scratch' effort, and no other members of the family are willing to help! The foundations have been started, but there is alot to do, as all water has to be carried up to the site by horse and cart, and then all cement mixed by hand. Even if we could borrow a cement mixer, there is no electricity!! This place will cost more, as we will have to pay workers to build, as well as buy materials. We hope that this 'build' will be continued in June (photos on back).

A year ago, we started to try to help some families to get their legal documents in order. So many do not have any [i.e. birth certificates, marriage certificates-if they are legally married] and therefore are not entitled to any social help. Often these documents have been eaten by mice or rats, burnt, torn, lost or they simply have never had them. We wanted to help one 13 year old mother with the money for a birth certificate [they don't understand or have never been told that if they register their babies in the allotted time it doesn't cost anything!!] When she went to do this with her mother-in-law, as she was under age, she found that she couldn't do it because her boyfriend of 18 years didn't have a birth certificate or a bulletin [identity cards, which all over the age of 14 must have]. As we then tried to resolve this, we were unable to because the grandfather didn't have a birth certificate either, and so it goes on. Nothing is easy, and no-one knows or understands the law.

This help we are continuing at a slow rate, as we have the necessary finance. Often there are numerous reasons why they cannot claim. One of these is that most families have food debts at the shops and therefore have forfeited their bulletins as security. Many families do not have the money even to pay for a bulletin [£5.00, including bus fares]. Without a bulletin you do not exist and therefore cannot claim anything, anywhere. Another main reason, is that often they have an outstanding local or county tax, that has not been paid! How can these people pay these things when they have NO income at all? The result is that unless they receive help to obtain these documents, their debts just keep rising, and they do not eat! We try to help a few families at a time, so they can claim the child allowance [£8.00 a month] and also the monthly social family help. This is not very much, and one family member has to do some work for the village for 9 days a month to claim it, in addition to producing all the right documents.

There are many very young mothers in the village, as to have a boyfriend [for life] is quite normal [there is nothing else to do!!] and none of them have breast milk to feed their babies. This is a great need, as baby milk in Romania, costs the same as baby milk in UK. There are also some other big families that have 'late' babies, and this adds pressure, especially for the mothers.

Another area we are trying to help with monthly is with medicines, for those on life saving drugs. We have those on heart, diabetic, epilepsy medication as well as two men dying of cancer with no pain killers and two ladies with serious lung problems. One is just 42 years old, with older married children and grandchildren, right down to twins of 5 years old. She has to pay £10 a month for the hire of an oxygen cylinder which she cannot live without. She is a sweet lady and a good mother, but I know her life will be short!

Please continue to pray with us as the work enlarges, as the possibilities are enormous, especially in the realm of education amongst the gypsies. We need much wisdom and we are presently waiting on the Lord for His direction. We plan to put everything on a more solid foundation for the future. All this will need careful planning and financing, for the ongoing of the work. Many of our workers are not sponsored but just give their time and energies voluntarily. This in Romania is a difficult situation, as we are aware that most of them have no income, or at best very little. We help them as we can with food and clothes from time to time, but often feel we ought to do more. We trust God though, in it all, because we know that when He speaks, He will not only supply in every way, but will enable us to press on whatever the situation is.

We are so grateful to you for your love and interest. Your help makes life more tolerable for so many in this dark corner of Europe, where things are hidden from the tourist's eyes, but not from God's. May the Lord bless you richly in your own personal lives, as you continue to help and supply those with such great needs.

Yours and His, with much love, Malcolm, Christine, Paul and Anna.