



CENTRE OF HOPE – GLIA

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION



Reaching out to the poor and oppressed by

“Providing practical Help, Comfort and Spiritual Encouragement for the people of Romania”

October 2026

Newsletter Nr 102

Dear Friends

As I start this Newsletter I am sitting at the Centre and there is the lovely sound of children from one of the classes from the local school playing in the playground – after a long summer holiday which started in mid June the schools started back on the second week of September!



When I arrived the daytime temperatures were around 30c and it has been very warm up until the past few days when it has started “cooling”

down which is expected this month as September is the transition month from Summer to Autumn. When I arrived the Sunflowers and Porumb (Maize mainly for milling or animal feed) were nearly ready for harvest and yesterday I saw them combining the Sunflowers and it looks as if they will soon harvest the Porumb!



Christmas Goodie Bag Appeal...



As we approach October it is time for us to start preparing for Christmas and as in the past we ask if you would help us to be able to provide for those in our programme to receive Christmas gifts, which we buy here in Romania, by making a donation using the details at the bottom of this letter.

More than a food bag or meal...

During my time here it has brought home to me something that Ovidiu reminded me of when I arrived, and that is that it isn't just a meal or food bag etc., we provide. For many – especially the Elderly or those caring for others – there is a “pastoral” element - it is the chance of a conversation about their situations, - perhaps the only conversation they have with someone - but also the knowledge that someone cares and an opportunity for us to pray with them.

Petronela and Ana-Marie....they joined our programme last year and Ana-Marie has complex psychological issues and hardly speaks and has periods when she is violent and can be very destructive in the house. At the moment the only conversation that she has with her mum is to say yes or no. She has not been eating and her mother is so grateful for the meals we give and at the moment she is managing to get Ana to have the soup and a mashed up banana. Because of her daughters condition Petronela hardly gets out of the house so when the meals are delivered it is probably the only time she talks to anyone.



Gabriella.....her youngest daughter who is about 14/15 is epileptic and is also autistic which is making schooling very difficult as there is no allowance made for her and she often comes home distressed because she is not allowed time to “catchup” with the other children. Again because of looking after her Gabriella feels isolated and as with Petronela and others that we help, they have to cope with the situation on their own.

Carmen...who I mentioned in our last Newsletter and is diabetic but unable to pay for any medication. I'm happy to say that we are now helping with that and she is now having regular medication for the diabetes and she said that it is making a difference. When I visited her cow was suckling her calf which she will sell to have some income.



We have many others that we help that not only are grateful for the meal and/or food-bag but also appreciate the knowledge that someone cares about them.

During the Summer there were some organised activities at the Centre –

Music Group.....This is Helen's music group from the Church, and they spent a week at the Centre learning pieces of music all with a Jewish theme and learning about the Jewish history of Romania. There was quite a big Jewish population in Dorohoi from about the mid 19th century and they played a quite an important role in Dorohoi up to the time of the War when they were taken away by train! They were responsible for bringing education by building the school that later became the Girls Orphanage and is now restored back to a girls school. It wasn't all learning as there was fun time and food and on the Friday night they had a sleep over in the Anex – which I'm sure was fun!!! The climax of the week was them putting on a concert in the one surviving Synagogue in Dorohoi.



The Memorial Plaque at the railway station



They also sang for our neighbour and visited others as well and also they went to the Siret History Museum – Holocaust Memorial of the Jews in Bucovina!



The “English” Club..... I mentioned this in our last Newsletter. Mellisa who is a lovely American Christian based in Suceava and helped by Helen comes to the Centre with a group of State teenagers for games etc., but also some spiritual input. In June they came and had a great time showing them some of the differences between the American English and British English!! Oh, and games and food!



Minigenius..... During the summer holiday we had a group called “Minigenius” meet at the Centre for three weeks – they came last year and re-hired for this year. It is for children and they do engineering tasks using Lego etc but also have a fun time in the playground.



Time to prepare for the winter.....

Late August and September is the time that we buy lots of vegetables, peppers, cauliflowers, carrots, parsnips, celeriac, courgettes and herbs, and we – well Ana – prepares them for the winter by pickling or freezing so it is a busy time in the kitchen! We also take delivery of Potatoes and Onions – adding to what we produce at the Centre



A Social meeting.....

As I’ve mentioned before, a few months ago we started a social meeting when people could come, have a coffee, tea, squash and biscuits and sit and chat. We started this because since the pandemic we have not had “sit-down” meals, which means that we have lost the social aspect of the meals. Whilst there during September – I am now home – we had one of these meetings and had 18 come and some lively conversations! I sat next to a young lady who used to come as a child to the playground – we help her mother who has dementia. She was heavily pregnant and told me she was due a couple of days later! Whilst there she was having very frequent contractions – and I was thinking back to my farming days just in case!!! I suggested that she should go to the hospital or get in touch with her doctor which she did and gave birth to a baby boy – Lucas – during that night.



Spiritual...God touching a family...

Whilst in Dorohoi I visited a family that we started helping before Lesley and I received the call from God to work full time in Romania. They live just down the road from the Centre and were a family of nine living in one room and we were able to bring into use a second room that they were renting from the State. When we opened the Centre three years later the seven children virtually lived in the playground and the family came for meals, showers etc., for many years. I'm happy that the family are all working and very supportive of one another. I heard that the youngest son was Baptised recently and is actively reaching out to his brothers and sisters and parents especially as his mother Brandusa is seriously ill with cancer.



....our monthly meeting....

Whilst I was in Dorohoi we also had one of our monthly Bible Study and Prayer and Praise meeting led by Pastor Iosef - and although we don't have large numbers come it is a special time!



..children's Christian Library...

Helen has been putting together a Children's Christian Book Library at Dorohoi Golgota Baptist Church and it was opened while I was there and all the children queued to take out a book! It is in its early stages and we have donated some money towards "growing" the library.

Prayer

- Please continue to pray for the Lords Work in Dorohoi, for our amazing Team there – Ovidiu, Costel and Ana.
- Please pray for all those we help – the elderly, the lonely, those living in challenging situations, those that have come through the orphanage system and have so many problems and the children – those that come to the playground and those in our education programme – that they may all know the Love of God and His salvation.
- Please pray for Brandusa and the family that they may all know God's presence and His Love and comfort at this difficult time.

Thank you for reading this newsletter - if you wish to know more about the work or to stop receiving this newsletter please contact us using the information below.

Peter, the Trustees and our Romanian Team

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