



July— August
2010

Summer camp “Apuseni 2010”

Summer, as you would expect came gradually over Romania. Weather was a mixture of boiling hot days followed by rainy days with tremendous thunderstorms. In Arad, we felt blessed and protected by God and felt his hand over us; a large part of Romania was under water. Oaza gave a helping hand to the Red Cross collecting clothes and furniture for the destitute families.



The children and I wished to try a new adventure for this summer. My family has relatives in the Carpathian Mountains, about 300 km from Arad. They agreed to let us camp in their back yard. The group was smaller this summer as some of the parents did not allow their children to join us due to their poor school results.

The expedition into the mountains included:



climbing the mountain, visiting an ice cave, going 100 m underground into a very modern salt mine, visiting a gold mine and learning about how the Romans used to mine, and on top of all that, having lots and lots of fun.

All of us had a fantastic time away and were too sad to leave the beautiful places and return to the city.

Laura was invited to attend an Oaza joint board meeting with Oaza UK. She had the privilege of bringing Claudia along for her very first visit to UK. The Oaza UK board and Laura discussed vision and made plans for the future. We will soon be able to share them with you all, please bear with us. Laura also visited the Welsh charity shops that generously give monthly to Oaza.





Ron Hibbert, who visited in May, returned to Romania with pastors David Shiels, Aran Richardson, Mark Wiltshire and Kirk McAteor with the desire to visit projects and find ways to help.

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Oaza Ministry in Romania

Just recently, my wife Gretel and myself were able to re-visit Romania after a gap of some years and see again the work of God in that nation, both in terms of the growth of the churches and also the development of social aid projects.

It was in 1974, along with my late colleague John Wildrianne that I first went to Romania, making contacts and visiting churches in Timisoara, Arad and Oradea, the three major cities just across the border from Hungary. During our visit we became aware of the real pressures involved for those who served the Lord under the oppressive communist regime, but we also became aware of the lack of effective social programmes and witnessed some of the appalling conditions in the institutions, where people, particularly children, were shut away.

Over the next few years, as John and I were developing the European Work of Assemblies of God Missions, we visited Romania a number of times and we formed a close working relationship with the large Ardeu family who worked in the large Arad- Bujac church. When communism collapsed in 1989, John and I were just about the first ones there, with some food aid and over the following months we were able to take in whole convoys of food and essential supplies. A few years later, I assumed the role of World Missions Director of Assemblies of God and so I was unable to continue any concentration on Europe, but John continued his work in Romania until his home call last year.

By this time, a number of the younger members of the Ardeu family had, of course, grown to adulthood and had developed effective ministries of their own. Amongst these was Laura Andres who had a vision to reach the street children in the city who lived in railway sidings and even in drains and sewers. Laura worked in conditions of great degradation and often in dangerous situations, but her passionate belief in the vision she had received from God drove her forward and enabled her to found the Oaza charity.

The Oaza charity has moved on as the social conditions have gradually improved and this as you will know, has led Laura to open residential homes for those children that she has rescued, thus giving the children under her care the chance to live relatively normal lives, by showing devoted love and giving them a proper education. Her work is fully endorsed by the local authority in the city and she maintains the legal documentation with them. When you sit with Laura, as we did, it is quite obvious that her vision still burns still as brightly as it ever did and she genuinely desires accountability both to leaders in Romania and to her contact churches in the UK. For sure, her work is an open book.

Gretel and I would want you to know that both Laura and the ministry of Oaza has our full confidence and our continued support. We would encourage you to do what you can to continue your own support for this work. Although it is true that social conditions have somewhat improved across Romania, our judgment is that there is still an obvious and continued need for ministries of the quality of Oaza.

Every blessing Ron and Gretel Hibbert Assemblies of God World Ministries

Kids news :

Over the past months Sorina (17) and Voichita (12) expressed their wish to be reintegrated in their mother's family in a nearby town. Sorina chose to spend her summer holiday with her mom whilst Voichita spent the summer with a couple of my friends from church.

By the end of the summer Sorina's wish was granted. My friends came to realise they could and would wish to look after Voichita, so she is now fostered by them.



Renovations update

In the last Newsletter we told you renovations had begun and that we were expecting an English team to come over and finish the work. David Clayton brought a team of 5 over who worked for a week on bathrooms, sewerage and floors. There is still a lot of work to be done on the house so David is contemplating hiring local help to bring it to completion.

Please pray that the money comes together and that the renovations are completed by end of October. We desire to use the house for ministry as soon as possible.

Special Announcement :

Laura will be in the UK in November 2010 and early 2011. If anyone wishes to invite her to speak in their local church or group, please contact Oaza UK : joy@oaza.com

Visitors over the summer



Noel Reader, by now a dedicated friend, joined us for 6 weeks over the summer. He helped with camp and with other jobs around the houses.

Paula Dunn also visited us briefly. It was great to see and spend time with her again.

Helen Harrison of The 360 Trust visited Oaza with the view to learn about ways in which we could work together. We believe it was the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration. Helen brought along her husband and twin daughters. They were a great help to the ministry.

Renata, whom we used to look after, has now joined us as a volunteer for a couple of months. We're delighted to have her over in such a noble capacity.



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We are praying for :

- *Laura, the social worker who left us to have her baby*
- *Appropriate support for everyday running costs of all Oaza projects*
- *Future plans for the ministry*
- *Preparations for the new academic year*
- *2 more volunteers to join the team as soon as possible*
- *Funding for the renovations of the Petru Maior property.*

