



Nottingham GB

3 Spencer Close, Ruddington  
Nottingham NG11 6DQ, England  
Tel: 0044 (0)115 914 7123

E-mail: paulwakefieldoac@hotmail.com  
juliewakefieldoac@hotmail.com

Alba Iulia Romania

Str. Marcus Aurelius Nr. 26  
Alba Iulia  
Cod 510137

Jud. Alba  
Tel: 0040 258812851

Web page: [www.oaci.org/romania](http://www.oaci.org/romania)

'Presenting Christ by all means everywhere'

Feb/March/April/May 2010

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.  
1 Cor 15 v 58

What started out as a March newsletter has taken me longer to write than I first thought and so we are into May and you should finally have something to read.

The OAC European conference for National Directors was once again held in the OM base at Zaventum near Brussels. I elected to drive as the flight from East Midlands was going to cost £460 return. One of the main issues at the conference was training as each country actually does its own thing. At next years conference we are going to look into this issue further.

The OACGB Prayer Conference in March was one of the best I've been to. I spoke about the months leading up to my minor stroke. Some of the things I spoke about were familiar to some of the evangelists. In my situation it was about the busyness of ministry, the lack of personal bible study and the feeling that God needed me to do it. At past conferences people have tended to share superficial things about themselves and situations. We all need to be real with God, not superficial.

Something I learnt early on in my Christian life is that Gods timing is different to mine, not all the time but most. I want to get things done quickly....like do it now. In 1998 we laid the foundations for a new building at Bethany camp and at the end of 2009 we have received enough money to build it. 11 years of prayer finally yields results. I guess we are better equipped to handle it all now, in fact I know we are!!



The picture on the left shows the bottom of the foundations and with Cristi standing in the hole you get an idea of the depth. We have had to have a strength test on them because of the length of time they have been laid. We also have had tests of the land and buildings, all three tests were positive.

The visit to Bulgaria was an amazing experience of God bringing people together. I received a telephone call from Kevin & Anne Luck whom I last met 14 years ago when Cristi & Traian first came to GB. Cristi & I stayed at their house in Oxford. They heard God calling them to Bulgaria and have moved there. They organized a conference and before I knew it I was sitting in a circle containing people I didn't know. God moved and I came home with 2 contacts wanting to know more about OAC and open airs in particular. I will be returning to Sofia to meet with them in the near future.



Group photo and John & Jayne from Canada receiving prayer

John & Jayne have a similar ministry to OAC's in Bulgaria and the southern part of Romania. They have been to Draganesti and know Raul & Anna who are missionaries there from Traian & Lidia's church in Alba Iulia. They have also

met Clay Hudson who planted the River of Life church in Alba Iulia, apparently he told them all about us. (and yes they still want to meet us again!!!)

I flew to Romania planning to spend time in Cluj with Cristi, Cristina & Lois before moving on to Alba Iulia. The plans for the new Bethany camp building needed to be chosen. Timmy, the architect had drawn four possibilities. We chose the simplest and cheapest and yet the most practical to do the job for us. These need to be submitted to the local planning office. Pray that they will have a smooth passage through the Romanian planning system. The pictures of the new building will be put onto the Bethany camp page of our website.

Cristi and I also went to the camp to level the new pathway up the hill and to raise part of the playing area which until now has flooded now and again. Both tasks were completed.

I also went with Cristi to a small church he is working with. The children came in during the service and sang and I preached/told my testimony. We were invited to someone's house for a bbq afterwards and all the children came too which was great because more than half of them are not Christians!!

I also spent some time in Alba Iulia with Traian & Lidia. Traian & the team are currently involved in a puppet tour of schools. The puppets have opened many 'school doors' over the years enabling thousands of children to hear the 'real' gospel instead of the 'alternative' gospel as told by others. I always like to see the children's faces as they 'marvel' at the puppets and as they answer Traians questions at the end. Please pray for strength for the puppeteers, those of you who might think it is easy are welcome to come to Romania and 'have a go' I spoke to Traians Sunday school group and at Tuesday's team supper and went with the youth group for a day out to see a cave...except no-one told me I would have to climb 30,000 feet up a mountain to see it!! (I guess the last sentence is a slight exaggeration) I never did get to see the cave but apparently it was full of bats. I did get to climb some hills though and saw some amazing views. Pray for the youth work in Alba, a lot of these teenagers that come to the various groups are not Christians.

Our financial situation continues to deteriorate, we have seen a decline in the amount of 'one off' gifts we have received. Please pray and give if you can as we have to raise 100% of our income. We do not receive any finance from

OAC the organization.

If you would like to sponsor a trip to Romania they each cost about £300, this includes flight, coach fare or parking, fuel and hosting gifts.

I am in Romania again at the end of May as Traian and I are going to drive to Sofia, Bulgaria for a meeting with the two guys who are interested in Open Air work in Bulgaria. I have told them a small part of the history of OAC and they are still interested!! Could this be the beginning of OAC Bulgaria, please pray.

From there I go with the Alba Iulia team for an outreach event near Craiova and then I'll divide my time between Alba and Cluj before coming back to GB for the start of the World Cup!! (Well, there's not going to be much interest in Romania is there!!!)

The family are well, Julie's childminding is underway, she is enjoying it but it's tiring. The amount of paperwork that goes with it is huge.

Andrew has settled into his new role as manager at Cattles and seems to be enjoying the challenge. He is also continuing with his driving instructing which leaves little time for family life.

Diane has started back at Cattles and is struggling with leaving George Rebecca has been promoted to team leader and had an interview for a managerial position within Cattles and she will know if she has been successful in the middle of May.

(Cattles PLC will probably cease trading in 2 years time)

George has gone to his new childminder's (which happen to be his Grandma and Grandad) for 4 days a week while spending Monday's with his other Grandad. He seems to be enjoying it but hasn't actually said anything yet! He now has his first tooth and is crawling, great fun!

I'm fine looking forward to developing the ministry more, pray for God's guidance and that He will lead me to the right people.

Blessings to you all, thank you for your prayers.

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Reg. Office: OAC Ministries, P.O. Box 187, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE12 6WF, England.

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