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## "Presenting Christ by all means everywhere"

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Dear friends,

There is something different and attractive about Christians who view themselves as number two and others as number one. What strikes you about many people is not their humility - it's their conceit. Will Rogers made the statement, "I always like to hear a man talk about himself, because then I never hear anything but good."

In Philippians 2, Paul addresses the unity that needs to exist among believers. But he makes it clear that the basis for unity is not a method, it's a mindset. He exhorts, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit." Selfish ambition and conceit typify a person whose desire is to promote himself. People with selfish ambition and conceit lose friends instead of making friends. What's the cure? After describing the problem, Paul gives the preventative. He says, "But in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." In one word, the answer is humility. The kind of humility that considers others more important than yourself. In your mind, others are number one and you are number two.

How does that spirit of humility impact non-Christians? You must understand that some non-Christians already feel believers are conceited. Non-Christians sometimes say, "Christians act like they are related to God Himself." Of course we do, because we are! Non-Christians sometimes say, "Christians have the audacity to think they are certain they are going to heaven." Of course we do, because we are! But if accompanying that justifiable confidence we have a humility that focuses on them, not on ourselves, that presents a contrast to most others they meet. We are saying, "You matter to me." There is something different and attractive about Christians who view themselves as number two and others as number one. Source: [www.evangelism.net](http://www.evangelism.net)

We are happy to be able to share with you some of the things that God has been doing lately.

In October 2008 we were happy to attend a baptism where 4 of the people that got baptized were girls that received Christ in OAC summer camps. Here is what they say:

*Oana Onea (aged 16)* Two years ago, in 2006 I attended a camp in Somesu Rece and I only did that out of habit since it was a regular for me to go to at least one Christian camp every summer. I loved everything that happened there since the leaders and the kids were treating each other nicely, we used to have a lot of fun and did various things. All camps used to be the same. They did not have too strong an impact in me. I was expecting this camp to follow the same pattern but I was surprised to come home changed for the better. I was surprised to come home with a

different image of God although I was born in a baptist family and I knew a lot about salvation and God. There was one night during that camp when I realized who I truly was and that I can be more than nothing so I received Him as my Saviour and I got baptized in 2008, October the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Catrinel Francu (aged 15): A few years ago, in the summer of 2006, I first went to the camp in Somesu Rece. I listened to a message there one Thursday night that really searched me and as a consequence I made the best decision of my life. I used to go to church ever since I was little but did not have a personal relationship with Jesus. I used to be moral, but that was not enough because I did not live with God every day. Ever since my life has changed and I started seeing God as a Father.

Mădălina Daniela Filipescu (aged 15) Ever since I was little I used to go to Sunday school where I learned many things from the Bible. When I grew up I started hanging around the wrong crowd in school and they taught me how to lie, to bully those who had different issues and to use bad words. I did not realize that these things were a problem. All this time I kept going to Sunday School where I used to like it because the atmosphere was different, warmer than in the other Sunday groups where I had gone before. They did a camp that first year and God spoke to me saying that He wanted my heart. When school started again I only had contact with Christian once a week so the things that I had learned that summer did not stay with me. The next year in 2007 I went to the camp again and that was when God took over my life. I was more in contact with friends from church; I had a new colleague in school that was from the same church as me so this time I stayed with Jesus.

Alexandra Mureșan: I used to go to Sunday school when I was little and enjoyed it. But I used to be very shy and only went if my mom would join me and rarely spoke to anyone. As I grew I stopped going to church altogether. After my grandfather died, I only went for Christmas and Easter. In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade we had a new colleague in my class that I had met at church before. She started inviting me to all sorts of church activities and I started going to Sunday school again. I was part of summer camp also where we spent the best of days. What really made that camp stay with me was that that was where I received Jesus in my heart. It was magical, indescribable. I remember also praying for my non Christian friends that I might be able to share with them about Jesus so that they can also change.



## The Christmas puppet tour 2008

Last year the puppet play we used was called *Wondering on Christmas* and it was about a boy called Alex who finds out who Jesus is and why he came to earth. The play ends with the song called "Make room for Jesus into your heart" by Christina band Vitamin C. the play was very well received and appreciated by the children and teachers from schools and kindergartens. We had the privilege of having people that intercessed for us all throughout the tour for protection and the searching of the Spirit.

The puppeteers were Delia Mihaltan, Traian and Lidia Opruta (Cetatea Baptist Church), Loredana Jucan si Costel Oltean (Salem Pentecostal Church) and Dave McSween who came all the way from England to do this puppet tour with us. We had 62 performances and reached over 4800 children and over 200 teachers and traveled 4045 km. We traveled up and down the country, north to south, and east to west.

When we were in Timisoara performing, the Christian television Alpha Omega were there and they recorded our play and broadcasted it. You can watch this play and three others online at <http://www.alfaomega.tv/iptv/?optiune=vod>. This opened a new door for us enlarging the ministry and allowing us to reach more children and adults with the Gospel. From now on, our plays can be viewed at any time and by anyone and we are happy to have these productions in the hands of God so that He can take them to the homes that are prepared for Him.





In December we also had a wonderful time with the children from Santimbru on Christmas. The teenagers we work with, the Children from Sunday school and the children from the Thursday club prepared some shoeboxes filled with gifts for them. We had a great celebration with carol singing, puppets and a lot of joy.



Lidia, my wife started a girls group in December 2008 for the teenage girls that we already work with. These meetings are meant to disciple the girls but it is also open to the ones that are still searching. The girls spend a lovely time together learning about how to cook, how to do hairstyles etc and also look in the scriptures. And pray for each other. After only two months Lidia is confident and happy that the girls seem very open. Please pray for them.

In 2009 please pray for:

- ⇒ The children's clubs (Wednesday and Thursday nights) and the teenage clubs (Wednesday and Saturday night )
- ⇒ The puppet theatre. We have started working on a new play about David and Goliath. Ciprian Florea will fly in from England in the beginning of March in order to help with the recordings. Please pray that the writing, recording, painting, costume making and rehearsals all go well.
- ⇒ The time out on the streets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March when we will be out on the streets selling hand made items and hoping to raise funds for one of the summer camps.
- ⇒ The summer programme: camps, open air evangelism, holiday clubs.

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Randul de jos de la stanga la dreapta: Bianca Gradinariu, Delia Mihaltan, Krisztina Ionescu, Tímea Ilie, Lidia Popșor, Anca Moldovan, Loredana Iusan

Randul de sus: Traian și Lidia Oprea, Elena Popșor, Andrei Moldovan, Lucian Lupean, Miriam Sava, Hilda Getzi, Anamaria Ratiu, Dana Craiun, Kate Alexander, Lidia Alexandru, Corneliu Popa, Mihaela Enyedi, Mihaela Moisin, Costel Oltean, Daniela Iuga