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"Presenting Christ by all means everywhere"

"I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while leave it and come down to you?" These were Nehemiah's words to Sanballat and his friends who were trying to stop him from rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after the return from the Babylonian slavery. This Scripture verse has been a landmark for a long time for our ministry. Ever since it all started in 2000 as a full time ministry the year 2007 has been the most challenging one by far. It's been a year with many unexpected turns, surprises and changes. We were oftentimes one step away from feeling discouraged and leaving the ministry altogether. But it's been going on still, praise God. God is faithful and he has provided for all our needs. I know it has been a long time since our last newsletter. A lot has happened since, so please make yourselves comfortable before reading about our experiences with God this spring and summer of 2007.

I remember to this day the burden I felt when I last wrote to you about Ciprian Florea. I was worried because I didn't know what would become of the ministry since one of our main men was now gone. Just a few days after he was gone God gave us Corina Fat as a puppeteer. Corina joining us behind the puppet stage was yet another clear evidence of the fact that God is directly involved in this work that we are doing. We started training Corina and rehearsing the play and two weeks later we started the puppet tour in schools and kindergartens. I told Corina as a joke that I wanted to change her name into Manasseh (*forget*, he was one of Joseph's sons) because her joining the work has made me forget all the sadness and the worries I had about the ministry once Ciprian was gone.

We had the puppet tour all through March, April and May doing the story of Joseph and his brothers. We had the opportunity to go to many locations to present the Gospel using this tool and according to our calculations we got to approximately 40 locations in the country and reached around 2500 children with the Gospel.



Joseph and his brothers puppet show

We were telling you about Anamaria Ratiu, one of our volunteers, in our last letter. She has decided to follow Jesus and we attended her baptism on the 15th of April. She is a great joy for us. Please pray for her.



Ana Maria on the baptism day

We started preparing for the summer camps in May. We ran three camps of 6 days each and had 133 children in total. There was a substantial growth compared to the previous year when we had 92 children. This year's theme was 'The competition for the heavenly prize' and we discussed what Paul meant in his epistles when he spoke about the heavenly prize. We want to thank you for your prayers that have meant so much to us. God has done a wonderful work in the children's lives and we wish to present to you some of their

impressions after the camp.

Camp number one in Somesu Rece, 24-29 June 2007 was organized for the children in Santimbru Fabrica and for some children from Sighetu Marmatiei from Baptist Church number 1. Here is what the children say:

Moldovan Daniel, 12 years old, says "The leaders prayed for me to cross the finish line and to be with Him until I die. I am very sorry that I beat up many kids and said bad words at them and I killed many insects that God created."

Carmen Vlad, 12 years old, "My prayer was 'Lord please come into my heart, help we finish the race a winner. Please correct me when I am wrong. I give you my whole life. Amen.' I felt the Lord come into my life tonight and searching me."

Ardelean Larisa Iulia, "I prayed to be with God, that He would come into my life, into my heart, and be the Lord of my life, my King, my Father. I asked him to forgive me for the way I treated my parents, my friends, my colleagues, and people in general, I asked him from my heart to forgive me."

Ivanciuc Madalina "Lord, forgive me if I wronged you, I know I did and I want You to come into my heart and thank you for taking care of me and my family, for giving me good health and strength to praise You. Thank you for giving me good friends. Help us to learn more about you so that you can continue to feed us your spiritual food. Thank you for the leaders that have taken care of us and have taught us about you. Thank you for loving me. Amen."



Camp 1

Camp number two was organized for the children in Alba Iulia and being part of the clubs that we organize in town. The children were up to 13 years old and the camp lasted from 1-6 of July. Here is what the children say:

Crina Constantea, 13 years old says "The lesson about "The surprise test" was an impressive and emotional lesson. All the prayers have got to my heart... I changed a lot tonight. Now I know I want to run, to fight for the prize. I prayed with Lidia that I would not wonder away from God and that all these prayers would stay in my heart. This is all I can say, I am really speechless. I was truly impressed in this camp. Now I know where God belongs - in my heart. I wish to congratulate all the leaders. You are great! If I did anything to offend you, please forgive me."

Artur (leader, 22 years) "What did tonight mean to me? This is the night I realized that when one person gives his or her life to God they throw the biggest possible party in Heaven. Although I am absolutely shattered physically and spiritually, I rejoiced today with God and his angels. I really feel alive in these moments. I really do. This is all I want. To be at the center of God's will. What did the camp mean to me? An opportunity to serve, to grow, to come closer to God... to fight my negative sides".

Bortes Daniel, 13 ani, "It's been a blessed week, full of surprises and joyful things, and it ended beautifully and God touched all of us, of that I am sure. Although many of us shed tears, me included, nobody cried out of sadness. I like to think that we did two things in one tonight: we cried for joy and we laughed with happiness. It was great although I had to say good bye to some of my good friends. I can hardly speak right now. My heart talks to Jesus."

Anca Opruta, cook, 30 years old, "I was happy to have the opportunity to serve again. We spent a wonderful time with the girls cooking, although it seemed harder than last year. I believe that if you serve with your heart and don't forget that you are here for these wonderful children then it all seems a little easier. I was very

impressed with the children again, some of them were so touched by the word of God. I believe that the seed that was sown into their hearts will bear fruit. I appreciate very much all those that are investing in these children and that have faith in them. They have the vision that God can do great things for them may God bless all these that I am so happy to have met".



Camp 2

Camp number three was one for teenagers aged 13 and upwards. We had 52 teenagers and here are some of their thoughts:

Daniela Iuga, aged 15, "I felt God closer than ever tonight and I felt that every tear coming down represented my tears. And when there were no more tears I knew that my heart had been made pure. I felt that God loved me very much and I decided to be with Him for ever."

Dan Moisi, aged 13 "It was a divine night for me. I really enjoyed seeing many kids come back to God. I believe I was closer to God than ever tonight. I was strengthened in my spirit and I had the privilege of being corrected so that I can run the right way. You don't see things like this every day. I really enjoyed it and hope that every day will be the same. "

Samy Clapa, aged 14 "I felt God's love tonight and I want to be a believer and then he will prepare a place for me in Heaven. Before coming to this camp, I was going totally the wrong way. I have felt something ever since I came, but tonight the Lord has showed me the right way and I am very happy about that. I promise I will get baptized and be a child of God."

Hilda Getzi, aged 13 "This camp always refreshes me. It makes you a new man. This is where I met Him in July 2006, and today 12th of

July I have laid my life in His hand because I realize that there is nothing without Him. I absolutely adore Him, He means more to me than I can put into words. I ADORE HIM. He is my life, all that I am, actually I belong to him with everything that I am, not a single hair belongs to me, but to Him".

Raluca Iosif, aged 14 "This Thursday night has met the greatest need that I had lately. I admit that every time I came back from a camp I was changed... but it did not take long and I would become my old self again. I BELIEVE that God has a great plan with my life and will help me change the wrong things in my life. Many times I used to call on God for help when I had a problem or needed something, but when everything was fine I would forget about Him. I want to change and I want God to be pleased with me."



Camp 3

We sat together me, my wife Lidia, and all the leaders that were involved in organizing and leading the camps. It all lasted three weeks, but it felt like three months. We were challenged physically, spiritually and emotionally. But we want to thank God for the wonderful privilege of being able to invest ourselves in these wonderful children. We were protected from accidents and serious injuries. God provided for everything: from resources, to people, finances and children's salvation. Thank you, Jesus.

Since we were talking about the camps we would like to ask you to please contact us if you have a fridge, a washing machine or a cooker that are still working and that you can spare. We need them for the camp; the ones that we have got are not covering the need. Thank you very much.



Me and my wife Lidia were part of Grapevine in England and were very surprised at the great number of people being part of it again. There were over 12.500 people. We were part of the Powerpack team that works with 8 to 11s. We were part of a team of 50 serving over 600 children. This year's theme was "Shine from the inside out" and we spoke about the Lord's Prayer for 5 days. We experienced God's presence among the children. One of these days we spent time in small groups with the children and asked them: "If you saw God face to face what would you ask him?" and one of the children in Lidia's group said "If I saw God I would ask Him if there was such a thing as everlasting diet Coke and everlasting flavored chewing gum."

When we came back we organized a holiday club in a village near Blaj called Tiur from 4-7 of September. God opened a door at the school in Tiur where the school principal was very open and gave us a classroom to use and the playground. We had an average of 100 children every day and a maximum of 123 children on the last day. We spoke again about the heavenly prize and us having to give our best in order to win the prize. The children had the opportunity to make a commitment and many of them did. Denes Anca, ages 11 says: "I was very happy to meet you. The four days that I spent with you were amazing, fantastic..." The school principal asked us to come back the following year and invited us to run a similar program in the village of Manarade. So praise God new doors are being opened. Please pray that God finds people that are willing to work with these children every week on a regular basis.



Blaj Holiday kids club

The following week was a new experience for us; our church asked us to run a holiday club in our church building. We were very nervous about it and it required intensive preparations to set it all up. Still we were extremely happy to see an average of 130 children coming every day. The theme was "Mission possible". It is extraordinary to see a crowd of children worshipping God and wanting more of Him. Please pray that many of the children that have come and that are not from church keep coming to Sunday school or the clubs that we are organizing.



Mission Possible

Another pray request refers to the children's clubs. God willing we will start again in the first week of October. There will take place two clubs at the same time on Wednesday night: one for children at 6 o'clock in Santimbru Fabrica and another one for teenagers at the same time at the OAC headquarters. We will run a children's club on Thursday at the Baptist church and another one on Friday at the Salem Pentecostal Church. Please pray that God brings the children every week and that He gives us the finances and the resources to organize these clubs. A special prayer request refers to the Santimbru club which will be run by Artur Ille this year. He is one of

our volunteers and we ask you to pray for him to be the right man in the right place.



Artur Ille

We are ready to start the puppet tour in schools and kindergartens. Accompanied by Corina Fat we will continue to take the Gospel in public places until the end of October, after which we will start preparing for the Christmas puppet tour which will start on the last week of November. Please pray that the teachers will be open. Please also pray for Paul and Julie Wakefield, our ministry leaders from England who have also been through a hard year. Their greatest problem is the financial one which has prevented them from coming to Romania. For the first time in 13 years Paul spent his summer in England instead of coming to Romania where His heart was. Please pray that God solves this financial crisis and strengthens their hearts.



Paul and Julie Wakefield OACGB

We keep being amazed at how God opens new doors for ministry. Last week I was shocked to receive a phone call from Ikea asking us to go to Bucharest in December for three days and run puppet shows for their clients. They expect 12.000 clients every day. It will happen just before Christmas so people should be more open

than throughout the year to hear the Gospel. Please pray that He works through us as we have this sharing opportunity.

Thank you very much for being part of this ministry and for supporting us prayerfully and financially. Please pray for me and Lidia as we run the clubs and perform puppet shows and also for our 24 volunteers (4 new volunteers starting with this month) that are working with us. Stay strong in Christ and persevere in His work.

In Him, Traian and Lidia Opruta, OAC Ministries, Romania <><

