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"Presenting Christ by all means everywhere"

Dear friends,

It has been some time since we last managed to write to you some news from our ministry. This might be kind of long so make sure you are sitting comfortably. The year of 2008 brought new experiences and a fabulous summer. After my wife Lidia left the ministry in January (she had been teaching Romanian at a local high school), I continued the ministry trying to keep up the same pace. Hence, Delia Mihaltan took over Lidia's job of writing the programs for the children's clubs and also helped very much with the Santimbru club.

We started a new puppet tour in March with a team made up of Corneliu Popa, Delia Mihaltan and Lidia Alexandru. We managed to have over 30 performances in schools and kindergartens in and around Alba. We are still enjoying open doors from all these institutions. The dramatization of the story of Daniel called The Lion's Den was well received by the children and the teachers. I especially remember how delighted the teachers from Geoagiu de Sus were and the positive things they said about the moral message in the show.



We celebrated 5 years of existence with the Thursday club in may 2008. It was a memorable evening with many children and their parents. We all remembered how the club had started and were happy to realize that for the past 5 years we have been spending

Thursday evenings together. Many kids have come and gone, but at the same time many stayed. After five years we are happy about the ones that have been with us ever since the beginning. Adriana Sava, now 10, is one of the kids that have come since the very beginning in May 2003. She still comes every week and this year she won the price for the most reliable kid when it come to being there!



Between the dates 30th June-5th July, 7-12th July, 14-19th July we were away again to our camp in Somesu Rece where we spent 3 blessed weeks with some great children. We had 48 kids on the first week, coming from Santimbru Fabrica (where we run a weekly club as partners with River of Life church) and Sighetul Marmatiei. God touched both the kids and the leaders in this camp. It is a funny feeling how 60 people can come together for a week, some not knowing each other at all, and by the end of the week the entire community becomes a family and it is all natural for the leaders and the kids to open their hearts to each other.

Here are some testimonies from **camp 1**:

Moldovan Lavinia, aged 12: "T`his camp was amazing. The chalenges we did were a great idea. I feel much closer to God. While the leaders were prayig for me and other kids

it just made me cry, I felt something in my body and burst out into tears. I also layed my hands over the leaders. They are Kate, Lore, Cristina, Lidia and Traian. And then I just went back to sit down cause I couldn't stop crying"

Cristea Mirel: "Today was a special day for me. I felt something that I've never felt before in my life—I, who have always been the first to jump into foolishness. But starting today, I've proposed to let Jesus into my heart. And I've decided that I'll try to give my life to Jesus and to live near to God. I felt so good this evening. I felt that Jesus touched me and I'd have liked for it never to end. I was too ashamed to go up for prayer, so I stayed in my seat and prayed alone. This is the way it was tonight and I will try to remain close to God. My heart is almost clean—before it was bad."



Hategan Andreea, age 14: "I felt loads of joy and happiness in this camp.the Lord has changed my heart a lot and on the night oh the 3rd of July I felt him into my heart. I felt him touching me with his own hands. God, please continue to help Traian and Lidia and the cooks. I am not sorry that I came to this camp"



Botac Diana, age 10: "The most important evening. Thursday evening when the Lord Jesus came down and prayed for us, i understood that prayer is not a game. After i

finished my chores, i went out on the field, i wached the stars and i almost felt how the Lord Jesus was coming down and puting His hand over me. My heart was black and now i told the Lord to be with me and i promised to follow Him all my life. I hope that my heart would be clean"



The **second camp** gathered together 50 kids from Alba Iulia aged up to 13. We all went through the story of the flood in an aventure called Challenged to Survive. The Holy Spirit gave us different challenges every day like the one to be different, to listen and know God, to thank him. God's presence was among us and it revealed the sin in children's lives, it gave them the chance to repent and it also filled us all with his power to survive in a sinful world.

Here is what the children write:

Iulia Marcus, aged 12:

i felt God really close and i never want to leave this place.

Sava Alexandru, age 12:

This was the best day of my life. I felt that God touched me through the prayers of the children and of the leaders. I have never cried so much before. I also made some new friends here at camp. I will never forget this camp. I nejoyed many of the games and the great songs.



Flavia Sarmarean, age 19:

"I felt God so close that i knew that if he would leave me i would die. I felt like being a small part of something bigger and i realised how pitiful i would have been without Jesus. I want to stop knowing God just in theory and start knowing him as my life. I told God 'i miss you so much' and He said ' i have been waiting for so long to hear you say that'. I can be myself with Him"

Ninela, age 13:

"This camp represented faith, life and happiness to me. I want for it to never finish because we are doing something spectacular here, we are getting closer to God. I discovered who God trully is. Thank you all who made this camp possible and i know that this camp will never stop happening"



Crina, age 14:

"I felt something completely new this year. I cant put it into words. I prayed with the leaders about receiving power for when i go home since i will run into the same old people that will try to stop me from doing the right things. I know that i will make it this time because there is something very special that happened in my heart this time. Lord, fill my heart with your will. Leadres, thank you so much for all you ever do for us, you are great and we have come to love you like we love our own parents"

Charlotte, 20ani, UK:

"The children were very touched by this evening as they were last week, and so I was. I have really enjoyed camp. It has make me think a lot. I have had a wonderful time & can't wait to come back next year...If you'll have me!"



The **third camp** had the purpose of serving the kids from Sunday school and the ones from the teenage club. 54 teenagers were put together and they managed to find the way to establish meaningful relations with each other and also made sure that us leaders were not having too much of a quiet and peaceful time. Some of them were in contact with Christians for the very first time. They were a bit skeptical in the beginning when it came to worship or teaching times, but then the attitude in their hearts visibly changed, some of them were touched by God and received Jesus.

We also had a meaningful time with the leaders especially during our devotional in the morning. God has made us aware of the dangers of working for God out of other reasons than our love for the Savior.



Here is what some of the children say:

Totoian Iuliana, age 16:

This week meant a lot to me. I spent so much time with you Lord! I have learned so much, I have heard so much, I saw people change. I want to stay with you my Lord. Give me strength to obey you. I had a special smile on my face these days: it was your smile! I am sorry that I was too ashamed to pray out loud. Help me stop being ashamed. Come over me, enlighten me with your strength. Help me take home with me all that I have lived here.

Ps: please make sure there is room for me to come again next year!



Ioaniciu Daniel, age 16:

This week represented a gateway to another world. I never thought I could see, listen or do in this camp but I did it and I enjoyed it. Sayind and doing what the leaders were saying up front. I wish I could stay close to Jesus when I'm at home and stay with you guys forever. I went from human to the spiritual in a very profound way. I managed to do that more and more as the days were passing. You make it all look so simple

Metter Andrei, age 14 :

I felt all the evil in me comig out through every tear that was dropping down. I felt loved and I knew I wasn't alone. At first it all seemd aqward, I was scared but I understood everything as we moved on. I am amongst you for the vey first time and its great.



Once we were back from the camps we went to Canterbury, England being invited by the local church. 12 people, leaders and teenagers that we work with, spent 10 wonderful days in which we were given the opportunity to see some lovely parts of England. It was very exciting since most of the team were outside Romania for the very first time. The last 5 days were spent at Soul Survivor together woth other 11.000 young people. In spite of the terrible whether, the team had a blessed time as God's presence was resting over the camp. The big meetings were held in a huge tent where we could worship God with many other teenagers and also some powerful messages were delivered.



We led two holiday clubs in Blaj when we came back from England. It is a ministry that we started 3 years ago and we work there with 2 schools. We ran one club in the

morning and one in the afternoon and had 100 children every day in each of them. The school head teachers were extremely excited and they sent teachers every day to make sure all goes well. And they heard the Gospel! It was all extremely tiring but we were still excited to watch God touch children that were never before in contact with Christians. We spent the week playing games, praising God, listening to Bible stories and praying. The doors are still open for us in both schools. And the great thing is that we realised that in these two villages where we ran the clubs 90% of that generation was touched in a week, we reached 90% of the children attending school in the villages, aged 7-15. Praise God! Who knows what that may lead to in future years!



The last week before children start school we organised a holiday club at our Baptist Church in Alba Iulia. Accompanied by a large team of 30 people we ran the Wild West Adventure for 6 days every night for three hours with 150 children every day. In a western setting with cowboy costumes and all the right music we called on the presence of God once again as the children were born again, received power from God, healing and also the desire and ability to be fishers of men or heroes for God. We learned that we were all born to accomplish great things and we are all heroes for God when we learn to live for His glory every day. Each night children came up front for prayer. We ran the Giving House, raising money for the poor children of Thailand, the Power House, a big tent in which children received prayer, and the Testimony house where children wrote every day of the amazing things that God was doing among them. Many of the leaders that helped are part of traditional churches and being there, worshiping God in a free way and not being judged for the way they want to experience God was one of the highlights of the year for them. Another great thing is that some people from this team are now seriously interested in working with us every week in the clubs. Praise God again for that!



At the end of the school year God started talking to Lidia about coming back in the ministry so she was with the team for all these summer projects and since the 1st of September she has come back on board as a full time worker. The months she spent working as a teacher of Romanian in a highschool were just the kind of break she needed and used the extra time to concentrate on solving some negative conditions of the heart and also hearing from God for the future. This autumn she is going to start a discipleing group for girls that are part of the teenage club but still need extra help in growing in their faith. She is also going to teach the leaders in the team English every week.

Please continue to pray for us two and for the team that we work with and for all the projects that the organization that we are in run. The first week in October will be the start of another year of kids (2) and teenage clubs (1), the start of the puppet tours and the office routine on top.

Thank you for your interest in this ministry. Prayers, financial support, encouragement were and will be most welcome in the future.

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

