



# CONNECT

April 2008

*'To know Jesus and make Jesus known'*

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that Easter has come and gone and that this Sunday we will be fast forwarding our clocks onto British summertime. All around us spring is bursting into life, daffodils, snowdrops, baby lambs, bringing with it that fresh hope that comes when we see new life.

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full." He died on a cruel cross and then rose again to a new life in which he invites us to share. Yet as we look at our circumstances and the world around us it is easy to feel discouraged and to ask the question, "where is that new life?" or "how do I receive it?"

Last month nine members of CKBC went to Romania to help bring hope to street children, both practically and spiritually. They came back transformed, overflowing with inspiration and passion that came from a life lesson that it is better to give than receive. Their whole perspective on life had been challenged and changed. They now have a distinct purpose to help the children and families that they met and to raise money to build a hostel where the children can sleep safely. Their focus has changed from caring about self to caring about others. They believe they can make a difference and this has brought new life into them. It is thrilling to see.

So, "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:18. Maybe we can all get involved in their projects, share in their cause, and in return experience some of that new life that's bubbling up in them.

Sue

In 2001 I began to plan a year out after university. I wanted to go somewhere hot so looked at volunteer work in Africa and South America. At that time I met a girl at my church that ran an orphanage in Romania and wanted a teacher to go out for a year to help the children catch up on school work. I agreed to go. It wasn't warm but it seemed worthwhile! Each day on my way to the orphanage I would walk past an underground station where a lot of street children begged. I began to get to know them and would buy them food. Just giving food didn't seem enough, so I began to pray for a way to help them in a more permanent way. Just as my year in Romania was ending, the social worker at the orphanage (Ana Doina) came to see me. She wanted to become more involved in helping street children and asked if I would help her. What an answer to prayer! I came back to England and founded a charity called HEAL Romania. Barbara Rainbow and Megan Hozier joined me as trustees and we set about raising money. Meanwhile Ana Doina was busy setting up a sister organisation in Romania, that I was also a board member of, called 'Impreuna la Scoala'. HEAL Romania is responsible for raising money and overseeing the work in Romania in partnership with Impreuna la Scoala.

In terms of helping the street children, there are a series of steps that we take. Firstly we establish a trusting relationship whereby we get to know the child or family through regular meetings over several weeks. After a few meetings we begin to provide food and clothing and in return the child or family begin to tell us their story. We make contact with orphanages, foundations and family members to establish a full picture. After a few months of working together like this we begin to discuss more permanent ways in which we can help. One example is Aida. After establishing that she could be trusted, we found her a room in an apartment block as a temporary housing situation. Then Ana Doina travelled to her home town to establish contact with her father. We arranged several meetings between Aida and her father to help them to overcome the reasons for her leaving in the first place. Aida has now been back living with her father for three years.

Jan was another of our cases. Jan's mother came to find Ana Doina because of her good reputation in Bucharest. She was worried about her son who had run away from home and was living on the street. He had made friends with street children and preferred to stay with them. He had stopped going to school because the other children teased him. Ana Doina arranged for Jan to move to another school and to come to the Muraldio foundation. This is a large building with offices, including the HEAL Romania office, plus after school activities and teaching staff to help with homework. Jan is now doing much better. Since we took his case on he has never run away from home and has made new friends that keep him away from the street.



Jan



Ana Doina at Muraldio with Ion

If you feel that you can help us please visit our website [www.healromania.org](http://www.healromania.org) or sign up to sponsor Simon in the church vestibule.

God bless, Leanda

## HEAL ROMANIA

HEAL Romania is an organization that works with poor communities in Romania to aid children that live in poverty. Romania has an estimated 6,000 plus homeless children living on the streets, most having run away because of family abuse. Many children are forced into prostitution as a means of survival.

### My Trip to Romania

Little did I know that when I booked a trip to Romania how much it was going to change my views, perspective, and outlook on life!

I went out as part of a team organized by the charity to Bucharest. We visited many families and children and provided them with food, clothes, toiletries and toys and also made ourselves very busy, by painting and decorating for some of the families. To start with I asked myself “what am I doing here?” It’s only when we started visiting these under privileged children that a daunting reality really hit home. There were children as young as ten years of age sleeping the streets at night. Some kids had no idea of their age, where they were from or even their own names. Some were lucky if they had jobs, and were even luckier if they were attending school. Other unfortunate families were living in wooden shacks or one room houses. I had never experienced first hand poverty this extreme in my whole life. Not only was I changed from within, but also deeply inspired to make a difference, and this is where my sponsored cycle comes into play.

### The Sponsored Cycle

Having returned from Romania, together with a couple of my work colleagues, we decided that we would like to help Heal Romania and raise money for the charity.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May this year, we will be cycling from John O’Groats in Scotland, all the way down country to Lands End. The total mileage is just over 1000 miles.

### The Vision

Together with your help, our charity vision is to build a youth hostel in Bucharest for street children. Although this project will not provide a permanent home of residence, it will help provide food, water, and a place to sleep at night. We need to raise in the region of £5,000. Please sponsor us as much as you feel willing to give. Remember, individually it is very difficult to make a difference, but together we can make the difference. Bobby Kennedy once said ‘***Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... Those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.***

By sponsoring us, we can help send these tiny ripples of hope to those children living on the streets in Romania. Thank you for reading. Simon Woodley

In next months edition—125 years of the Boys Brigade, by Peter Gunn

## **Services during April**

### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

8pm Revive

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am Communion Service  
"The Way of the Cross Part 1"  
Luke 24:46-47

6.30pm Transform your Marriage/Relationship  
Prayer Service for Partners

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am Preacher Karen Haden

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am "The Way of the Cross Part 2"

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am "The Way of the Cross Part 3"

6.30pm "Open to God"

### **Week of Prayer**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Prayer changes things.

A detailed schedule will be published in the weekly newsletter and posted on the church notice board.

If you have any inspirational ideas please call Sue on 233351.

### **An Important Date for your Diary**

Sunday 11 May 10.30am

### **Victory Outreach**

If you have ever wondered where God is today and what he is up to - don't miss this opportunity!

Young ex-offenders share how God has changed their lives. Taking their brokenness, their addictions, and abuse and giving them back lives worth living. Sure to be an inspirational time.

[www.ckbc.org.uk](http://www.ckbc.org.uk)