



CONNECT

November 2008
Romania Special

'To know Jesus and make Jesus known'

Dear All,

This month we will celebrate 133 years of Christian witness in Charlton Kings. Ken Payne will come to speak to us and the service will be followed by a "bring and share lunch". It is wonderful to look back and see all that God has done during that time and to reflect on the commitment and sacrifice of people in the past who have worked and given sacrificially. Today we enjoy the fruits of their labour. Our substantial buildings are an ongoing declaration of their desire to witness the Gospel to our community. Over the week hundreds of people use our premises. Within our walls we offer comfort to the lonely, food and entertainment to the elderly, friendship and fun to young families, training and teaching in our brigades and Sunday Clubs, fitness training for body and mind as well as the essential spiritual care ministered in Sunday worship and weekly Bible studies. God is interested in the whole of our lives and this is why we seek to serve the community by opening our premises to be used for so many different activities.

In the past the church was responsible for many aspects of care which today are run by the government, but there is still much we can do to minister the gospel in very practical ways to our community. It is necessary to not only preach the gospel but to also show it in practical ways. Faith in action.

On 8th November ten people will attend a Care for the Family Conference at Cheltenham Racecourse. The aim is to identify ways in which we can engage further with our community. Please pray for them, and also that our own witness in the years ahead will leave a legacy that future generations will be able to enjoy. So in Paul's words; "let us press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenwards in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:14

God Bless. Sue

Welcome to the HEAL Romania newsletter.

Well, it has been an eventful summer. Firstly Tommy and Simon visited Bucharest and were very busy plastering two rooms that we have found for one of our homeless families to live in. Then my younger brother, James, and I went out to help finish the rooms and visit all of our cases.

Mariana

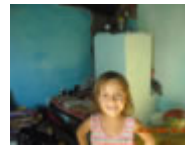
In February we went to visit Mariana who lived with her husband and three children in a wooden shack hidden in a field. Just after our visit, the government destroyed the house as it was built illegally. We managed to find some friends who were willing to take Mariana's family in while her husband rebuilt the shack. However finding them a more permanent home became our priority. Eventually we found a woman who had two spare rooms in her house that were very run down. She agreed that Mariana's family could live there if we made renovations. Tommy and Simon flew out to Bucharest to begin plastering and then James, Simon and I painted the rooms. The rooms were finished just in time as a few weeks ago the shack in the field was set on fire. The family were devastated as they lost all of their possessions, but are grateful that none of the children were inside. Ana Doina (our social worker) rallied around with her friends to gather furniture, blankets, clothes and kitchen utensils. She visits them in their new home every week to take food and medicine.



The shack that was burned down



James and Simon at work



Mariana's daughter in her new home

Sluser Family

There are 7 members in the Sluser family and they all lived in one room. The family slept in two beds and a bucket in the corner served as their toilet. Last spring we bought them bricks so that the husband can build an extra room. They have made fantastic progress and hope to finish the new room soon.

Circiumaru Family

This family consists of a mother and three children. They live in a house made of mud which has no foundations. The roof is about to cave in. The youngest daughter is disabled and the mother has to care for her full time, even staying at school with her so that she can take her to the toilet and feed her. In February we helped this family to buy construction materials to make their house more stable and again they have made fantastic progress since then.



House of rubbish

A concerned neighbour came to our office begging for help for an eighty year old woman. The woman lived among mountains of rubbish in a house that was literally falling down. Ana Doina took her to hospital and then we paid some teenage street children to clear the rubbish from her house, to build her a toilet and began to make one of the rooms clean enough for her to live in.

Fundraising

- On September the 14th Kerrie, Emma, Stu and I ran the Bristol half marathon. We raised over £1000 for HEAL Romania
- On November 14th there will be a skittles night at the Charlton Kings Club

The future

Please pray for:

- The offer of a building. Before the mayor went on holiday he talked of giving us a building, but we have been unable to speak to him since he returned.
- The next visit to Bucharest from 26th-31st October. Six volunteers will be spending time visiting and caring for our families. Please pray for safe travel and a time to make a real difference in Romania.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that has already supported us and who continue to support us. Your help really does make a huge impact on the lives of those in Romania.

God bless you.

Leanda, Megan and Barbara

Services in November

Morning Services are 10.30am

2nd November

Church Anniversary Communion Service
Speaker Ken Payne
6.30pm Prayer Service

9th November

Speaker Nigel Scotland
6.30pm Communion Service with Prayers for Healing

16th November

"The Big Picture" Part 3
6.30pm Study on the book of Job

23rd November

"The Big Picture" Part 4
6pm Songs of Praise at Sacred Hearts

30th November

"The Big Picture" Part 5
6.30pm Advent Service with Cheltenham Baptist Cluster

Church Meeting and Strategy

In addition to discussing the pastorate at the church meeting on Tue 11 Nov, we shall also be considering the "Vision", "Strategy" and "Focus" document which is available from the table in the church foyer. We hope it will help our church prioritise activities in the future. Please take a copy for consideration ahead of the meeting. You can also send comments to KarenH@ckbc.org.uk.

If you would like to:

- advertise an event on this newsletter;
- submit an article;
- tell the world about how God has answered your prayers;

Or

- Receive this by email

Then please email me before the end of the month at mellerina@tiscali.co.uk

www.ckbc.org.uk