

REMM



NEWS FROM THE ROMANIAN EVANGELISTIC MEDICAL MISSION

He Is Able!

Did You Know?

ACCORDING TO WORLD VISION STATISTICS:

- 44.5% of Romanians live below the poverty line
- 58% of children in Europe with HIV/AIDS live in Romania
- The Romanian population is the poorest in Europe
- 70% of schools in Romania are heated with wood or coal
- An estimated 300,000 children in Romania are forced to work
- 45% of Romanians live off of subsistence farming

THE REALITY FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN IN ROMANIA:

- Unicef reports 9,000 children are abandoned each year in Romania.
- REMM receives calls weekly to take in more abandoned children.
- As of December 2005; 76,509 children are currently in the child protection system in Romania. This number is no different than in 1989 at the time of the revolution.
- Under the new child protection law implemented January of 2005, international adoption was essentially banned. Domestic adoptions are uncommon in Romania with only 333 children adopted domestically in 2005.
- In April, 2006, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution that urges Romania to change the law banning international adoptions.

These statistics give a very clear picture of the crisis still going on in Romania today and the ongoing ministry opportunities and challenges for organizations like REMM. It is staggering to think about the overwhelming needs of so many families and children. The hardships hitting the Romanian people also impact non-profit organizations, REMM, included. Heavy taxation by the Romanian government and high inflation due to the upcoming admission

into the EU are just two reasons why the cost of goods and services in Romania continue to escalate, creating struggle for most non-profit organizations in Romania and even forcing some to close. The ban on international adoptions also makes it more difficult to support abandoned children, as some of those adoption expenses went to support existing children in private care. Further, new EU standards and regulations are requiring updates be made to buildings like St. Joseph's Orphanage in order to renew their license (see back). Updates are also required for the medical clinic and RCA building

for future use (see below). In short, REMM has felt a financial strain so far this year but believes strongly that God will provide, as He always has, to keep these ministries going.

The encouraging news is REMM remains fully committed to both meeting the physical needs of Romanians AND reaching out

with the saving message of Jesus Christ. Romania is still one of the most open countries in the world to the gospel. Peter Lucaciu, with support of the REMM board, wants to ensure that evangelistic outreach, which has been at the core of all of REMM's ministries and obviously part of REMM's name, remains a focus in all that is done. Peter believes that reform in Romania starts by reforming people's hearts through sharing the good news of Christ. God's power and grace can transform the hearts of the Romanian people and profoundly impact the future of the country. There is an urgency to avidly share the gospel throughout this next year as it remains to be seen how entry into the EU in 2007 will affect these freedoms. But the Romanians are still hungry for the gospel. At the end of last summer, a large outreach in Beuis was held at the City Hall, organized by Peter and other pastors from the area. The guest speaker was Evangelist Sammy Tippitt. There were over 400 people in attendance from all backgrounds and churches and many accepted Christ into their lives! Peter remarked that it reminded him of the evangelistic gatherings right after the revolution when there was amazing hunger for the gospel. Please continue to pray for REMM's impact on Romanian lives, that they would be transformed through knowing Jesus and his resurrection.

Ephesians 3:20-21
Now unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for Peter to use his gift of evangelism to be used fully in the year ahead. The doors are wide open to the gospel right now and Peter does not want to miss any opportunity.
- Pray for endurance for Ana and Peter. They are busy traveling, fundraising and

planning for future ministry. Romania is a difficult system to work in and requires patience and wisdom.

- Pray for continued funds to meet the monthly expenses for the 38 children under the care of REMM.
- Pray for funding to restore and update the REMM ministry buildings.

- Pray for international adoptions to reopen in RO.
- Pray for the teams that will be traveling and ministering with REMM this summer.
- Pray that many people in Romania will know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

REMM CONTACT INFORMATION:

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BOARD & STAFF UPDATES

• REMM elected a new Board President last fall, **Gordon Meling**. Gordon was a co-founder of REMM and has known Peter from the very beginning. His commitment and service to the Lord through REMM have helped build the foundation of REMM today. Gordon has been a great friend to Ana and Peter as well as a Board member through the years. Gordon is encouraged by what God is doing through REMM in Romania and sees many new opportunities for evangelism and growth.

• REMM also elected two new Board members last fall—**Dr. Rhonda Williams** and **Elliot Forsyth**.

• **BIG NEWS:** Ana and Peter's daughter, **Anca**, and son-in-law, **Dumitru Toderic**, have committed to serving for a year in Romania with REMM! They will be helping in all aspects of the ministry and with youth outreach. This is a direct answer to prayer to have a full-time ministry contact in Beuis that knows Romania, the REMM ministry, and can help host teams who are serving REMM. They will be in Beuis starting mid-May. Praise God!

SUMMER TEAMS TRAVELING TO BEIUS:

We have several short-term mission teams coming to Beius this summer including teams from Pella, Iowa; New York City, NY; Maine; Washington DC; Tulsa, OK; and several others. Thank you!!!

Are you praying about traveling to serve with REMM this summer?

Space is still available for individuals and teams. As always, contact Ana Lucaciu at alucaciu@aol.com



Tom Williams

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be the one-year anniversary of the passing of **REMM Co-Founder Dr. Tom Williams**. As you know the clinic was renamed the Dr. Thomas E. Williams Mission Center, and Tom's wife Rhonda is now a REMM board member. Although Tom is no longer with us his work of glorifying Christ in Romania lives on.



SUMMER EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITIES:

This summer, as always, there are many projects on-going for teams to participate in. REMM is so thankful for the teams and the gifts they bring. Here are some of the foreseeable projects for summer 2006. But always know that if your team has unique gifts to glorify God in Romania, contact Ana Lucaciu and see how these gifts can be put to use!

- Spending time with children at Joseph's House
- VBS in local villages
- Christian Conference for Romanian Attorneys (August)
- Outreach to gypsy communities
- Visiting and encouraging believers in local churches
- Youth gatherings at the Bridge
- Outreach and evangelism in the Public Schools in Beuis and surrounding villages (May/June)
- Medical work with the gospel message to local villages
- Construction/building projects
- Other team-specific projects

REMM MINISTRY PROJECTS:

REMM will require special funding beyond its general operating budget to fund these new projects. Please pray with us that God would faithfully provide the necessary funds to complete the following projects. We are ever-thankful for each of you who support REMM financially, and for those who pray fervently for REMM. If you feel God's call to help support any of these special projects, please contact REMM.

A new boiler for Joseph's House.

Due to new EU regulations, REMM was recently told they need to update and relocate the main boiler for the orphanage. The boiler needs to be in a new, safer location before any children or adults reinhabit the large orphanage building, either from a living standpoint or potentially for the Christian Preschool.

The heating system will be more economic as well by changing from using diesel to using wood and adding new pipes.

A few new registers will be added at the orphanage building and the heat will also be piped to the front house.

- This is estimated to be a \$24,000 project (materials = \$20,000, labor = \$4,000)
- No special funding has been given yet to this project.

Romanian Christian Aid (RCA) - ACDR building repair and renovation. Since the beginning

of REMM, this building has been a pivotal asset to REMM's ministries. The RCA house was originally purchased by a Christian aid ministry in 1990 immediately after the Revolution for the purpose of helping needy families in Romania. They used the building as a distribution center to deliver aid packages to needy individuals, hospitals, churches and other organizations. In 1992, the aid ministry moved to other locations in Romania and donated the building to the Baptist church in Beius, whereby REMM purchased the building with a purpose to serve the needy people in and around Beius. REMM still uses the RCA building to support 100 of the area's poorest families with food, clothing, and other essentials. The property is also used for greenhouses that grow food for the ministry. The building is currently in dire need of restoration because it is old and the roof is falling apart allowing water damage. Peter and the REMM board would like to see this building continued to be used for the Agape (or "poor family") ministry and potentially many other outreach programs. The plan is to renovate the building as follows:

- Replace roof with new wooden roof that is lighter, more efficient
- Repair exterior wall that is buckling
- Lower the ceiling, yet add height to the attic space (easy fix as part of the roof replacement) allowing possibility of another dormitory for team lodging
- Replace 3 front windows
- Move front gate back onto original property lines
- Plaster exterior walls of building
- This is estimated to be \$40,000 project (materials = \$25,000, labor = \$15,000)
- A special gift or \$10,000 has already been received to start this project, leaving approximately \$30,000 to complete it.

This is a long-term investment that will benefit both the Agape ministry, yearly volunteer housing, and more. There is urgency to this project for two main reasons: first, over the next year the cost of building materials is estimated to double as Romania approaches entry into the EU. Second, if the structural problems are not addressed soon, the property will continue to deteriorate, even risking collapse.

REMM is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) which focuses on board governance, financial transparency, integrity in fund-raising, and proper use of charity resources.

