

REMM



NEWS FROM THE ROMANIAN EVANGELISTIC MEDICAL MISSION

Traveling Mercies

A Team Testimony By Pastor Rick Iglesias who has traveled to Romania 40 times.

It was Sir Winston Churchill who once said, “To every man there comes in his lifetime, that special moment, when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder, and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents.”

For the past 14 years, groups of individuals from churches, youth groups, schools or ministries have made a commitment to significantly impact the area surrounding Beius, Romania. Mission teams converge in the mid-size Romanian town and seek to make a difference in the spiritual lives of those to whom they minister. The winter of 2006, was no different!

Although a small team by summer standards, seven dedicated individuals from across the country came together for 10 days to share the love of Christ in tangible ways.

The team consisted of four ladies from Wyoming, three of whom had already been to Beius previously; a nurse from Michigan who had been to Beius many times; and a pastor on his 40th Romanian mission and young adult layman from Minnesota.

The team lived and ministered out of the the completely finished **Bridge Coffee House** in downtown Beius. They prepared for the all of the different ministry events during their stay from this wonderful ministry location.

A typical day looked like this: A great breakfast and lively conversation, Bible study, devotions, and prayer—to get spiritually ready for the rest of the day. The remainder of the day was filled with a variety of activity.

Mornings were spent in the elementary school. Going from class to class, the team shared the love of Jesus through a one-hour Vacation Bible School (VBS). In all, 15 classes were visited over five days. It was a wonderful time as the team was able to encourage the teachers, engage the students, and share in tangible ways how special each child is to Jesus!

After VBS, the team would walk over to the Clinic and enjoy lunch.

After lunch, the team would tend to split up. Several would head over to Josef’s House Orphanage to play with the children, help the care givers with projects that needed to be finished, or to give a needed respite to those who faithfully care for the littlest of lives there. Others would go on Agape Runs. “Whats that?” you ask?

An Agape Run is this: pack as much clothes, food, and love as possible into a van (along with a driver and several team members) and head to remote areas to meet the desperate needs of single mothers, the elderly, and the infirmed. This is an eye-opening experience—catching a glimpse of the dire conditions in which people live. These people are all incredibly appreciative for the gifts and prayers that come from the hands of the team members.

A return to town brings the team back together for a wonderful dinner at the Clinic.

After dinner, the team would go to a local village church for an evening church service. Team members prayed, sang, gave testimony, and preached. Team members might also choose to stay in town and meet up with people who wanted to know more

about Jesus and the Christian life.

The day concludes as the team regroups at the Bridge Coffee House for talks over awesome desserts and coffee with local townsfolk, teachers, town officials, and teens. This informal ministry yielded many hours of spiritual conversations and budding friendships during their stay.

After ten long and fulfilling days in Romania, the team headed for a fun-filled evening in Budapest, Hungary. We flew out the next morning for the long journey back to homes, families, churches, and jobs. A little tired, a little poorer maybe, but decidedly richer for the awesome experience of being an instrument in the hands of a loving Savior to a desperately needy part of the world.

They are already talking about when to make a return trip!

Under the direction and leadership of REMM directors, Dr. Peter and Ana Lucaciu, the team invested their waking hours by seeking to encourage, equip, and enter into the lives of children, youth, and adults wherever they found open doors.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN & WOMEN

Circumstances of orphans and abandoned children in Romania

A LETTER FROM PETER LUCACIU
A few weeks ago on television, ABC Nightly News, Good Morning America, and Nightline showed the deplorable conditions of government-run institutions that many Romanian children *still* live in. In stark

contrast to this, REMM, for many years, has taken in abandoned children, given them the best available care, and provided a loving Christ-centered environment with the hope of finding a permanent, godly home. Presently, REMM has 24 children in

foster homes and 14 children in our Casa Josef Orphanage in Beius. It costs REMM approximately \$250 a month for each foster child and \$300 monthly for each child at Casa Josef.

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A Ray of Hope

BEIUS, ROMANIA, JUNE 7, 2006

Casa Josef is visited by Mr. Voicu. This visit to REMM's orphanage is one of his first official visits as the newly nominated Minister of Government. This new role puts him in high leadership in Parliament. In the Parliament, Voicu is a member of the Commission with Social Protection and Religion (which includes the state's orphanages). Mr. Voicu is a very visible and influential public servant. Please pray for his boldness and sensitivity to the needs of Romania's orphans.

Even though the government's policies are currently not in favor of Romania orphans and abandoned children, Mr. Voicu has brought hope to the dire situation and has promised to help Casa Josef—including financial aid with 200 million lei (about \$6,700 U.S.). Wow!

Mr. Voicu asked me to thank our American friends for their help and continued generosity. What a great day! Praise God!

Mr. Voicu's pledge is a one-time gift. However, the needs outlined in this newsletter are both on-going and immense, but we are grateful to God for this encouragement and blessing!

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.



A Letter From Peter Lucaciu cont'd

Though rising consistently for several years, the cost of care has dramatically increased over the last year. Diapers, milk, food, supplies, and worker's salaries are just a few of the monthly expenses. In addition, the government requires REMM to hire an accountant, economist, doctor, nurse, psychologist, and guardian at night; *and* pay high property taxes on the building as well as other taxes. It is noteworthy that, even with deplorable facilities and care, the Romanian government spends *much* more per child in a State facility than REMM does providing the very best care.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

With 38 children total, our monthly expenses just for this ministry are approximately \$10,000. Over the past four months, REMM has received only \$10,800 *total* (25% of what is needed). Last December, REMM received a large gift to purchase a big event tent with tables, 300 chairs, and a transport semi trailer for evangelism and outreach. The gift was also designated to replace the roof on the RCA warehouse, and to

REMM MINISTRY PROJECTS:

A partial list was included in the Spring newsletter. The following items are additional projects and their needs.

Clinic Upgrades: Many building upgrades have recently been done due to necessity, but REMM hopes to recover funds taken for the general operating budget for these upgrades, which include:

- Changing all of the heating system (elements, pipes, etc.) in the clinic
- Replace or repair some of the fixtures (toilets, sinks)
- Changing the electrical box
- Painting inside (rooms, doors and window)
- Two new doors for the balcony (3rd floor rooms that have a balcony)
- Replacing the front door of the clinic
- Paint the clinic outside.

This is estimated to be a \$16,000 project (materials = \$12,000 for heating system, painting, replace or repair fixtures, 2 new balcony doors, electrical box), labor = \$4,000)

Approximately \$14,000 has been borrowed from the general operating fund to proceed with this project

Christian Kindergarten:

Currently, REMM is praying about transitioning a portion of the larger orphanage building into a Christian kindergarten. This would meet a new need in the community and is seen as another possibility for outreach and evangelism, as well as an option for educating children at Josef's House.

replace the heating systems in the clinic and the orphanage to comply with new code requirements. But, for the past four months, REMM has had to reallocate the gift just to cover operating expenses for foster care and the orphanage.

Peter and Ana continue to receive requests to take in more abandoned children almost weekly. However, with international adoptions closed and REMM struggling to support the 38 children currently there, they cannot possibly welcome any more children to Casa Josef or place them in foster care, for the time being.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION

We believe the Lord will provide all our needs out of His great riches and glory in Christ Jesus.

On the evening of May 8th the REMM board met and every board member decided to pledge to raise monthly support for a child in foster care and a child at Casa Josef. Peter and Ana pledged to do the same. This means that we still have over 20 children left to raise monthly support for; let alone REMM's



Pray for God's direction and vision for this new ministry opportunity.

Special Opportunities for Giving:

After 14 years of ministry use and with new EU specifications, REMM needs to maintain and update the properties they own. REMM would like you to consider giving to the following projects and continuous needs they have.

- Building renovations (RCA building new roof/total renovation and Joseph's new boiler)
- Monthly support for 24 foster care families, and the 14 children and staff at Joseph's (\$250 each child per month)
- Agape Ministry (Staff salary, food packages and fuel for delivery)
- Outreach events at the Bridge including recreational equipment and bible study materials.

Web Site Update:

The REMM website is still under construction and will be up and running soon. This task has been a bit bigger than we expected.

The little ones need your support.



other on-going ministries, Peter and Ana's monthly support, and support for the REMM office. This is a daunting task, a seemingly impossible mission in just a short period of time.

THE REQUEST

We are asking each one of you to prayerfully consider supporting REMM on a monthly basis to meet these specific needs: support for an abandoned/orphaned child at Casa Josef (\$300 month) or a child in foster care (\$250 month). We realize this is a large monthly expense and encourage you to seek partners to share the cost. For example, 10 people giving \$25.00 per month for a foster care child or 12 people giving \$25 per month for a child at Casa Josef would provide care for a child.

We thank God for each of you and thank you all for your continued prayers and support. We have faith that God can "move mountains" so we can support our current children and hopefully provide for others in the future.

May God bless each and every one of you in Christ.