



Our Visit to Romania, August 2017

In early August, a team of 15 - a group of our church youth and some accompanying adults - left Reigate Baptist Church to work with the young people of Dorohoi. For many of us, this was our first experience of not only mission work, but also of Romania.

What first strikes you is the injustice of societies when there is such a juxtaposition between rich and poor. Of course there is such divides in wealth here in Britain but in Romania, the divide is stark and vast. Many of the houses are perhaps just one or two rooms to a family and have outside toilets, - we visited a family of 10 that were, within days of our visit, about to become a family of 11 - in this exact situation. Truly shocking in a European nation.

I am writing this as someone who has for the past year, been helping to load lorries taking aid from West-Sussex to Romania every three months or so. This made this a very personal trip. Seeing where items go and how much of a difference simple things like a slow cooker, new bed or fresh coat of paint can make to someone's life is phenomenal.

In order to fund our short time in Romania and enable us to have the funds to support individuals we would be working with, we held many events at church from a silent auction to cake sales. This saw us raise an amazing sum that through the work of the Holy Spirit and ICWT we were able to give generously to several groups and families supported by RoAF, AN and other smaller charities that are assisted by them.

Our Youth were such great ambassadors for Christ, for our church and the UK. All of them have wanted to either stay in Dorohoi or go back at the earliest opportunity and very quickly developed lifelong friendships.

Each and every one of us that went on the trip have been touched to the core by our experiences and continue to praise God for what the opportunities he has given us.

Like the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and the young boy who gave his lunch of just a handful of bread and fish - we gave God the meagre offerings of ourselves and he used us to multiply his works with plenty left over that has seen us

return to the UK and continue to work towards supporting those we met while in Romania.

May we all pray for the people of Dorohoi, for Beni, the children of Dimacheni, the Star of Hope [Downs Syndrome support group], the young men at Casa Neemia and the GLIA Centre of Hope; that God continues to provide for them, watch over them and fill them with his spirit. Pray also for our group and all those here in Britain who give their time to the work of RoAF.

- *Elliot Ashley, Reigate Baptist Church Romania Trip, August 2017*



Vlad and Florentina, whose house we helped to refurbish



Barbeque at Casa Neemia - the new home for ex-orphanage young men.



Some of the team outside the office of Asociatia Neemia in Dorohoi



Members of the team, with our local hosts, enjoying a day off.

The Romanian Aid Foundation and **Asociatia Neemia**

Working with Romanian people to bring help to the needy, hope through the Christian message and co-operation through joint ventures.
UK registered charity 1060828

