

ing a connection to an electricity supply and the digging of a new well. A pump installed in the well gave the family water from a tap for the first time in their lives. We also installed a bath and a flush toilet - things we take for granted.

A team of local men, led by Beni and his father, then prepared the foundations, laid the floor slab and cast the concrete corner posts, ready for the team from south Wales to come to carry on with the blockwork and the remainder of the building structure.

Five of us - Huw, Russ, Rob, Erin and I - came from Wales to undertake the building from the slab upwards, with wonderful support from the local team. We were able to bring some materials from Wales, including doors, double-glazed windows, staircase and kitchen units. A complete bathroom suite was donated by Ceredigion Plumbing Supplies and insulated roof sheets were given by Shufflebottoms Ltd. The rest of the materials were sourced locally, helping the local economy as much as we could. All the roof and timber work was carried out under the expert guidance of Huw, who had come with me in the lorry. Russ, Rob and Erin flew out, financed by funds raised, and their help and support was invaluable.

The new house has a big living room with a wood-burning stove which can be used for cooking, a bathroom with running water, and two bedrooms upstairs which, with another stove and very good roof insulation, can be used all year round.

When we built the previous houses of this type we made the mistake of not providing heating upstairs, meaning that these rooms could not be used during the winter. We now had sufficient funds to install further insulation and fit stoves upstairs in these houses, making them comfortably inhabitable all year round.

I would like to praise God for his provision for this undertaking and thank all those who gave so generously. Many thanks too to all who helped with the construction work, both from Wales and Dorohoi, and especially to Beni with his local knowledge and ability to source everything that was required. It has been a real privilege to work with you all - may you be blessed in all that you do.

I am writing this just as I embark on my 73rd journey to Romania. This is a 21st anniversary, celebrating our first visit in November 1992 when, as now, I was accompanied by a special co-driver, my dear friend Jon Norman. These early visits alerted us to the long-term needs and led to the birth of RoAF and AN.



A New Home for the Andrisan Family

Richard Burgess reports on the provision of a new house for a needy family in Saucenita, north-east Romania.



I first had the pleasure of meeting the Andrisan family back in 2010; Cristian, Mihaila and their lovely children, Andreea, Cristina and Andrei. Cristian had severe diabetes but did not have the facilities to check his blood and consequently could not balance his diet to control his blood sugar levels properly. However, a member of our Church in Lampeter is a nurse and was able to supply us with the testing equipment. Now he is able to control his illness quite well.

The family owned a very old and dilapidated house which was falling down and beyond repair. His sister owned the house next door, which was in much better condition so they have lived there for several years.

In the summer of 2010 a freak hailstorm hit the area, damaging many properties, leaving all the front windows broken and scars on the plastered walls. We were able to bring new windows in October 2010, donated by a window company in south Wales, and had them fitted and the walls repaired before the winter. Job done, we thought.

In December 2012 I helped Beni to distribute the Christmas gift boxes to schools and families. Whilst there, we were informed by Cristian that his sister now wanted to return to her house and that they would have to move; this caused the family much anguish, not knowing where they could live. Being touched by their plight, I said that perhaps we could build them a new house, but could make no promises. I said that I would share their situation with my Church and friends near and far. We would pray and seek wisdom, and try to raise sufficient funds to build a house, dig a well and provide an electricity supply.

Money started to come in, with some significant donations confirming that we were doing the right thing. During my visit in March 2013 we were able to confirm to the family that we would build them a house, making their future secure. You can imagine their relief and delight.

Beni took care of all the many things required by the relevant authorities, and with his local knowledge and organising ability made all the arrangements for the site to be prepared. The first job was for a new access to the site, cutting away a bank and bridging the ditch, then organis-

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