

*Reaching out to the poor and oppressed by
"Providing practical Help, Comfort and Spiritual Encouragement for the people of Romania"*

Happy New Year!

Already we are two weeks into the New Year but hope that it is not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year. The Centre is now back into full swing providing help for those in need – particularly now that there has been some snow and temperatures are into minus figures with the average at the moment being -13°C. The temperatures at the moment make it even more important that we help with Gas Bottle refills and wood as most of those that we help have no other way of cooking or keeping warm than on gas rings or wood stoves, and they do not have insulated dwellings.

Following the Christmas card that we sent out, we would like to bring you more news from the Centre.

An update from Christmas..



You may remember from the Christmas card that we sent that we were unable to give shoe boxes this year but Ovidiu and Costel spent time



putting together some "gift" bags (left) including fruit, cakes, sweets, and some toys, for the children of the families that we help at the Centre. The children and parents came to the Centre on Saturday 15 December, and although they were aware that they would not be receiving shoe boxes everyone came and were all very pleased with what they did receive. As usual they sang carols and heard the Christmas story and then were given their gift bags.

Education...

As you know we are helping 35 children and youngsters towards their education whether it be help with transport costs, help with University costs or help with training, such as nursing etc costs. It is always encouraging to get some feedback and we received the following from one of those that we help (we have kept just as she wrote it:-

Hello!

I am Tabita, student at Emanuel University in Oradea (a Christian University), department of letters (philology) Romanian and English, 2nd year. I am extremely pleased to be able to study in such an environment, and I am thankful to the Lord for this opportunity.

Emanuel University is an unique school in Europe. It is different from all the others through the fact that it is dedicated to the development of students both in the spiritual and academic field, focusing on the developing a healthy character in the students lives but also being the only conservative accredited university in Europe.

Besides the academic part, I serve in different churches, being part of a mission group; I am also involved in a group called „The Little Evangelist”. This group aims to preach the Scripture. Every week we go out on the streets, in parks, squares, commercial spaces, to approach people and discuss God, based on a series of questions. In this period of Christmas, we are going to the hospital patients, people who suffer of grave diseases as cancer and who don't know if they will open their eyes the following day.

I write these as a way to thank you wholeheartedly for your contribution to my studies through financial resources. I pray that God will reward you for this.

Thank you! God bless you!



Saturday night Youth Group..

The group that meet at the Centre every Saturday night go out carol singing on Christmas Eve. They start the evening at the Centre with a warm drink and then go out singing and quite often it goes on until midnight or even into the early hours of Christmas morning (obviously to people that they know and are expecting them!). This year after meeting at the Centre they went to two Peoples' Homes (for elderly and disabled people) and then on to the Children's wards at the Hospital.

Other groups...



Occasionally other groups ask if they can use our facilities and just before Christmas two charity groups that help people with disabilities have used the Annex for meetings on a Sunday and we are hoping that they will want to use the Centre more. We have very good facilities that need to be used and for these groups we make no charge.

You may also remember us mentioning the Christmas meal for the "Elderly Ladies" group and the older men and ex-orphanage men. We have a young man who we have mentioned before, who came through the orphanage system and has severe learning difficulties who comes regularly to the Centre for a shower, shave, haircut and meals and lives in a stable with two horses. He is also very shy and came a bit late to the Christmas meal but wouldn't come in as there were many people there, so he sat in the garage to have his meal as he is not comfortable with other people around.



Please Pray....

- For the work of the Centre as we start this new year – that through the help and love that is shown, all may know how much they are loved by God.
- For the young men who came through the Orphanage system, live rough and have a fear of being institutionalised – particularly at this time of the year when it is so cold.
- For all those that come to the Centre that they will always be made welcome and know the Love of God enveloping them.
- For our Romanian team – Ovidiu, Costel, Anna, Ami and Madelina – also Raluca who although on maternity leave is still very much part of the team. Pray that as they carry out their work that they may be demonstrating **God's Love In Action**

Once again Lesley and I, on behalf of the Trustees, the Romanian Team, and all those that are helped through the Centre thank you for your continuing support, and prayers for the work in Dorohoi.

Peter and Lesley

If you would like to know more about the work of Centre of Hope GLIA, or to arrange a talk, please use the contact details at the foot of this page.

Our monthly costs are between £7-8,000 to do what we do at the Centre – if you would like to make a donation towards the work, our bank details are –

CAF Bank; Sort code 40 52 40; Acc number 00011331; Acc name Centre of Hope GLIA

If you are able and wish to Gift Aid your donation please use the contact details below and we will email or post a Gift Aid form to you.

You can also donate on line @ www.justgiving.com/centreofhope

If you are an "online" shopper then many of the online stores make donations based on your purchases without any cost to yourself. check out

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/centreofhope>

If you are an Amazon shopper then use- <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1100325-0>

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