

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



Dear Friends,



Here we are again – in spite of the pandemic we have reached the time when preparations are made for the coming winter, and Anna and Ami have been busy again freezing and bottling vegetables for the meals during the coming winter. Costel has been busy in the garden and has produced a very good crop of onions that should see us through the year. Unfortunately the weather has been very wet lately so as yet we have been unable to harvest the potatoes for the winter.



We have had a young lad helping us for a short time each day during the school holidays in order to give him some skills and a bit of "pocket money" each week. He has been very helpful, and we thank him for his help and hope that he has enjoyed his time working at the Centre – now that he is going back to school he will come to the Centre occasionally to play in the playground. In the photo he is helping Anna and Ami with mincing food for the winter.



We are still providing about 60 3 course "take away" meals four days a week for the time being and these are still very much appreciated by those that receive them. We also continue to give out food bags. We are continuing to monitor the situation in Romania and when we deem it safe to do so we will start to open the Centre for the activities that normally take place in the building which we are hoping will be in the next couple of months.

Christmas is coming!!!

I know this seems early to be thinking about Christmas but we are now beginning to prepare for Christmas



time. You may remember from the last couple of years, that we used to receive Shoeboxes but unfortunately the people who used to supply us are now not able to. Last year we made an appeal to enable us to provide "Goodie Bags" for the children and the response was so good that not only were we able to provide bags of goodies and

A typical small family Christmas food box



fruit for the children but we were able to give them to our ex-orphan friends and the elderly and those living on their own. Sadly due to the pandemic last year we were not able to have everyone come to the Centre as we normally do to sing carols, have a short talk about the meaning of Christmas and receive their gifts, and as yet we are not sure if we will be able to do that this year, but each gift was so gratefully received. We also provide additional items in the food bags for Christmas.

To find details of how to support this appeal and more information go to www.centreofhope.org.uk and click on the Christmas Goodie bag tab.



There are many such as those in the pictures that we help at the Centre who will receive little or nothing this Christmas, and it is so good to see the reaction as they receive their gifts, so we are planning to do the same again this year and would ask that if you would like to help with this by contributing towards the cost of putting these bags together, please use the contact details at the bottom of the page.



From the archive....

Twenty years ago we wrote this in our 4th Newsletter in November 2001 – “In mid-September we took a lorry out, Lesley’s first visit since January, and visited the Centre (which was still under construction). We were left speechless - the Centre, externally, was virtually complete - the roof was on, the windows and doors were in and the internal walls were rendered - it looked magnificent!!

As we excitedly walked around the Centre we really sensed the presence of God and could see that Gheorge and the team have built a building honouring to God.”



Please pray –

- Giving thanks to God for all that has been achieved in His name over the past twenty years and for all that will be achieved in the future. Thank Him for those that have given their hearts to Him over that time, and pray that many more will know how much He loves them and ask Him into their lives.
- Give thanks for our Team that have kept the meals, food bags etc going through these difficult times, and continue to uphold them in your prayers that they may be light to a dark world.
- Give thanks for those that we have helped through difficult times over the years and who are now able to be in a better place. Pray for those who find life hard whether it be through financial difficulty, health or just struggle with life.
- Continue to pray for wisdom and guidance as we start to look at opening the Centre for some of the activities – especially that we may be able to restart our Wednesday night Bible study and prayer and praise night, and that more people will be encouraged to attend.

As always we take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and support – we cannot do what we do without your support and prayers – so you are all very much a part of the work of Centre of Hope GLIA!

Peter, Lesley and the Trustees

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