

life romania

Dear Supporter,

In this newsletter I want to update you on our summer activities and the way that we are developing the holiday club format for different communities as well as some exciting new directions that we are exploring as a charity.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the work of Life to Romania Fund. All support is valuable to the work, whether it be prayer, giving or conversation with others about our work. We have found that the most effective way to engage people in our work is through personal witness and commendation so please do keep talking about us!

Pastor Gavril Covaci will be in the UK and may be able to visit your church or small group in the first two weeks of September 2017. We are also happy to visit churches throughout the year to talk about mission in Romania. Just contact us at the addresses below to discuss the possibilities or book a date.

Over recent years, in addition to our regular Children's work, L2R have received donations in support of various projects which we have been happy to support. I want to especially thank those who have given towards these projects. God really has multiplied your gifts into joy and blessing: Children who received a Christmas gift for the first time, a family able to provide for the needs of a disabled child, the roof of a mentally handicapped children & parents support



group repaired, a new Christian community able to eat through the harsh reality of a Romanian winter, a new church born and 30 people baptised. Thank you for your donations. Praise God!

Since our work started in 1991, we have found that churches greatly value our multi-voiced, creative way of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our unsophisticated use of drama, story, music, craft and games to engage the children in the story of God in the world is, even now, seen by them as revolutionary. Many thousands of children have been able to engage with the Gospel for the first time by the work God has done through Life to Romania Fund and thousands have invited Christ into their lives and started on the path of discipleship in their local churches.

Today many pastors find it difficult to stimulate and engage children and youth against the growing attraction and availability of internet and find it impossible to retain those who would become children's workers because of the lure of education and work opportunities in other countries. One of our aims is to encourage churches and to inspire young people to engage in creative children's work. This year we

have been blessed with well over thirty Romanian young people who have joined teams and found that they *can* lead activities and teach the children.

Each year Life2Romania invites volunteers from UK churches to join teams in Romania for one to three weeks. For the volunteer, God often reveals hidden gifts and abilities as they step out of their comfort zone. Many find that, as they volunteer, God does something unexpected in themselves that guides their next steps of Christian life.



SUMMER 2016

As I write this I am in Romania, over half way through our Summer programme working in towns and villages in Transylvania and the North-West as well as Constanța county in the South-East.

In each of the last three years God has given us 18 UK volunteers to work with children in Romania and this year we have been able to run 6 weeks of activities through July and August.

This Summer we have again led activities in both Romanian and Gypsy communities.

We are very happy to have developed three new programmes for this year:

“God of WOW!” is a holiday club programme that uses many Old testament stories to give a growing appreciation of just how “Wow” God is - without beginning or end, The Creator, three-in-one, all powerful, all-knowing, omni-present and in control.



On its first outing in Negomir God used this programme powerfully and deeply touched both the children and the volunteers.

The new **“Health, Hygiene and Gospel”** programme was first used last year and has now been developed further for a different community this year.

The health and hygiene element is led by a nurse and raises awareness of issues and self-care techniques that we in the UK might take for granted, or may learn about in school or from medical staff. Information is given on hand hygiene, nutrition and also health during and after pregnancy. Biblical examples are used to support the practical teaching.



“Youth Alpha” has been successful all over the world for many years but this year L2R used it for the first time in a five-day holiday club format. We had expected 10-15 teenagers who had recently become Christians. In fact we saw 18-22 young people at each session through the week.

Having seen an enthusiastic response from the young people during the week the pastor has been inspired to start a

regular weekly young people's meeting and encourage them to take a greater part in the life of the church, something that has always been difficult to achieve in the past.



The development of new programmes has come out of a real sense that God is leading us into more diverse areas of Romanian community. Work with both urban and rural churches continues to be at the centre of our work, but our work in Roma communities continues to develop with adapted programmes to overcome particular barriers within language and culture.

We continue to work with larger churches, supporting their summer programmes, working with their young people and providing discipleship and mission opportunities for them.



PROJECTS

Christmas Shoeboxes: L2R Volunteer, Maria Carvalho was deeply touched by the needs that she found in the community of Tinca in the Summer of 2013. Many households in this community live at or below subsistence level. And so Maria started the "Shoebox Project". Over each of the last 3 years Maria with her husband Tony and a small band of helpers have made up over 280 boxes and L2R have helped with their distribution to Tinca and other disadvantaged communities in Oradea County. We are very grateful to the churches and individuals who have given their support in so many ways.



The boxes contain a selection of age-relevant gifts: warm clothes, toiletries, a fun item or toy and a Christmas card. This has been a great blessing to the communities that have received the gifts and has helped to build relationships with the church. If you or your church would like to make up boxes or contribute in any way towards this project we would be happy to receive your support.

Vășad church and community building: In June 2015 Pastor Gavril Covaci went to a little Roma community in the village of Vășad, Oradea. The poverty he found there shocked him. Even though he himself came from a poor community he had not been prepared for the poor living conditions that he found in Vășad.

He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the community and many of them came to faith. Since then Pastor Gavril has travelled the two hours to Vășad every Sunday to lead service in the open air - a church was born.

That Summer L2R visited for one day during a week of running holiday clubs elsewhere and 60 children and their parents met under a makeshift shelter for an impromptu children's programme.

In September generous donations from the UK enabled Pastor Gavril to erect a building within the community so that the church could continue to meet through the winter. Through January Pastor Gavril learned that families had no food and no means to get food and, with generous support from the UK, he was able to provide a hot meal each day for 25 families through the winter.

During 2016 L2R is helping Pastor Gavril to establish a sustainable pig-rearing project that should provide the income needed to feed the community of Vășad through the winters to come and also provide some income to support the mission work of his church.



How can I Support Life to Romania Fund?

Volunteer! Preparing Summer programmes and sourcing, packing and dispatching resources is a major task each year. If you are able to help in any way please contact us.

Join a team! We would invite you to prayerfully consider joining a team for one to three weeks next year. Please see our web site at www.life2romania.org and contact us if you need further information.

Pray! Our work depends on prayer for God's provision, protection and guidance. We would value your regular prayers for the volunteers and mission of Life2Romania.

Donate! All of our mission and projects are funded by donations. If you are able to help financially please send a cheque to 'Life to Romania Fund' to the address below or make a direct payment to our account sort code: 60 06 06 account number 58008322 with your name as a reference. If you are willing and able to Gift-Aid your donation please let us know your address so that we can send you a gift-aid form.

Shoe Box! If you or your church are able to make up a batch of shoeboxes, contribute items towards them or help with the cost of shipping them we would love to talk to you! We will be happy to come to your church or small group to share about this and other work in Romania.