

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

## **Happy Easter!**

**We would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and Blessed Easter**

As we all look forward to the arrival of Spring and the warmer weather so it is for those in the north-east corner of Romania, where this winter has been as hard as it has been for the rest of Eastern Europe and for a while here in the UK! Temperatures here have mostly been about freezing although in some places it has reached -14C. In Dorohoi, from the beginning of 2018 it has been very cold with snow and, at times, temperatures dropping to -22C at night and -11C in the day.



These very cold temperatures present problems for those that we help at the Centre as many of them struggle to keep warm or cook, so we do want to thank those who have donated to the wood and gas bottle refill fund enabling us to help many of our families who heat and cook with bottled gas – always having to remember that the gas will only last for

a short time.....for some of the older rooms or houses that have a wood burning stove, we have been able to provide wood for part of the time.

### **Good news...**

Our aim at the Centre is to help those in need but not to do it in such a way that they become dependent on the help we give – there is still such a lot of poverty in the Dorohoi area and very little work and we are always pleased when those we help reach a point where they are able to manage on their own. Just recently we have been able to take a couple of families “off our books” because they are now in a position of being able to support themselves. We do keep in touch with them, however, to make sure they are managing OK.

As we have mentioned before, our education programme is aimed at enabling youngsters from poor families who struggle with school or university costs to complete their education and eventually get a job that will enable the family to break the poverty cycle.

### **An afternoon to look back...**

For some time now we have wanted to have some sort of event for the elderly, many of whom live on their own and do not have family near. Earlier this month we held a social afternoon for the elderly ladies. Nineteen came and had a drink and cakes (they are into Tea and Cakes!) and spent the afternoon reminiscing about their youth and childhood and



about better times as well as hard. It was very successful with them saying that it was good for them to be able to forget their present sadness and problems. We are hoping to develop this into a regular meeting with people coming in to talk about problems that are relevant to their situations.



### **A Treat....**

The children who come to our Saturday Club were taken to a local Pizza restaurant for a treat – they thoroughly enjoyed the treat. For most of the children this is something that they would not be able to do. The next treat is already being planned for Spring and will be a trip to the mountains which again will be somewhere that none of them have been. They will visit a monastery and end up with a meal before returning to the Centre.

### **Getting on....**

The Centre pickup (Papuci) is getting on in years and has given many years of good service but is now becoming less reliable so we are looking for another and our thoughts - particularly with the previous 2 items in mind – is to get a small Mini bus.



### **Important information**

May 25<sup>th</sup> sees the introduction of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) in the UK and we are currently ploughing through a lot of documentation to see what we are needing to do to comply with the new regulations.

We would at this point like to inform you that all the information we hold, ie email addresses, addresses, phone numbers – is only held to keep you informed about the work of Centre of Hope – GLIA and Asociatia Centre of Hope (the work in Dorohoi). It is not passed on or shared with any other organisations. Gift Aid information is held as a legal requirement of HMRC and other than ourselves they are the only ones that have access to it. All personal data is kept in a locked filing cabinet and password protected computer. You can ask to be removed from our mailing list at anytime by emailing us at [peterbutcher@centreofhope.org.uk](mailto:peterbutcher@centreofhope.org.uk) and your records be destroyed if you so wish.

As we continue to work through this process we may need to pass on more information.

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### **Prayer items**

- Give thanks for all that is being achieved and for those that are now able to support themselves.
- Give thanks for our Romanian Team who are doing such a great job, and pray that they will continue to seek God's leading and guidance in all they do.
- Please continue to pray for those that we help through the Centre, that they will not become dependent on the Centre and that they may know how much God loves and cares about them.
- Pray for all of those that are involved with the work – our Romanian Team, our Trustees, and ourselves as we continue to discern God's plan for the future of the work.
- Pray that we will find a suitable multipurpose vehicle for the Centre at a reasonable price.

*Thank you Peter and Lesley*

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