



COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

Dear friends

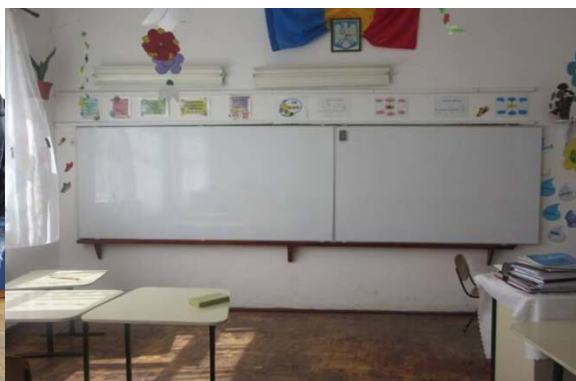
Once again it is a privilege to be able to update you on the charity work in Romania and again thank you for your very valued support.

As always when I sit to write these updates there seems to be a constant supply of good news, sad news and appeals, but let's start with the positive stuff

In the Community

Danny & Sarah Ispas have started a children and young person's club that meets on a Saturday. It has not been running long and already they have up to 25 youngsters attending. Activities like walks in the forest and general games are the focus for building relationships. In the UK we are blessed by so many organisations such as the scouts but in Carand and surrounding areas there is nothing, so this new venture is highly valued

For the Schools in Carand we have been able to purchase lockers for the children to store their coats, shoes, school bags, lunches and materials. Previously most of the children had to leave their things on the floor. Secondly we have replaced the very dilapidated blackboards with brand new whiteboards. *(Thank you Leighton Middle School)*



We have had a generous donation of a Suzuki 4X4 for use in Carand to support the fire volunteers and our team for reaching the remote people covered by adopt a friend.



We have also managed to buy a fire engine (being sold off by the UK Fire service) and are now planning on driving this to Romania where the volunteer fireman in Carand will be trained by UK Fire Brigade personnel. Given the number of fires in Romania and the limited resources we know that this will save both property and lives. The fire engine will be travelling out to Romania at the end of July

The adopt a friend scheme continues to support 35 families on a regular basis with food, medicines and other basic supplies



COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

In the Church



The school room on the back of the church has now been finished with flooring, heating and whiteboards. Sarah continues to run Sunday school activities and teaching for 8 – 15 youngsters from aged 3 – 14 on a weekly basis



Sarah continues to lead and support a midweek women's bible study. This group has been a real revelation and continues to grow. For women to have their own forum to speak up on matters of faith and study the bible is quite against the historical culture but this group is forging a new way and as a consequence developing deeper relationship with Jesus.

Danny continues to serve together with Pastor Daniel in the gypsy community in the village next to Carand they meet once a week for bible study and prayers, and looking after the church in Carand as Pastor Daniel still has other 3 churches to run.

There is a solid house group formed now which meets once a week at Pastor Daniel's house for bible study and for prayers.

This summer they are preparing for a baptism service where several people will get baptised from the gypsy church and hopefully some from the church in Carand as well.

Charity news

We are delighted to let you know that the charity has several new co-opted members of the steering group. Andrew Golba, joins us from Doncaster (Andrew has visited Carand several times and has known Pastor Daniel, Danny and Sarah for many years). Charles and Carolyn Pickford from Willesborough Baptist Church in Ashford and we also hope to welcome a representative from Hockliffe Street Baptist Church very soon.

Later this year (October) a working party will be going from Willesborough Baptist Church to Carand to support the work of Danny and Sarah and undertake a number of projects including wood collection for the winter for the elderly and repairing children play areas.

The Sad News

Whatever our personal views of leaving the EU the immediate consequence of the pound devaluing is effectively those we support have now had a 10 – 15% reduction in support. This means that unless we have increased contributions the salaries of our team are effectively reduced and the adopt a friend food packs to the poorest will more than likely be smaller than the past.

Despite over 20 years of faithful pastoral service in Carand, Pastor Daniel has been made redundant as the 4 churches he directly supports are failing to provide the required income to the church association. The required church income set is unrealistic for the smaller



COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

communities in the poorer regions of Romania. The churches will remain open and Pastor Daniel with Danny will continue to support the gospel activities in each church but will be relying much more donations and the charity (we will be doing a review later this year)

After a number of years where the government supported schools with teaching books, exercise books and materials for children, this has been withdrawn. Parents are now expected to purchase all materials, paper, pens academic books, exercise books, plain paper, craft materials etc. which for many families will be beyond their means. We are currently working with Sarah, Danny and the teachers in Carand to see how the charity can potentially support those in most need.

Appeals

Before making any appeal we want to acknowledge the phenomenal generosity of all our individual supporters, churches and schools without whom little of the work we do would ever be achieved.

We do want to place before you a number of key financial needs

1. Driving the fire engine to Romania is likely to cost £350 – 500
2. Providing the children with educational supplies in Carand Kindergarten, Lower and middle schools
3. More families needing support through our Adopt a Friend scheme
4. Pastor Daniel & Vetuta plus Danny and Sarah personal support

Prayer Requests

While money is important we acknowledge the Lord is our provider so your prayers for our work including the team here and in Romania are really appreciated.

With our grateful thanks from all the Community Action Romania Team in the UK

Roger Edwards, Chairman & Lynn Edwards

Community Action Romania

For more information do visit our website www.communityactionromania.co.uk and stay in touch via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/200681983374737>

Alternatively contact us for more information on email comactrom@gmail.com or one of the UK team

- Roger (Chairman & Trustee) and Lynn Edwards (responsible for 'Adopt a friend') 5 Wilson Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. TN24 0HX
- Evan (Treasurer & Trustee), 134 Sunrise Avenue, Chelmsford. CM1 4JR. tel; 01245 259116
- Mike Smith (Trustee) Maranatha, 26 School Road Barnstaple, North Devon. Ex32 9DP. tel; 01271 345019
- Steve Gardner, 1 Brick House Cottages, Tiverton, Devon.