



## COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA NEWSLETTER March 2021

**Dear friends**

Andrew Golba (Trustee), Lynn and I met with Danny and Sarah to hear how they were getting on in Romania, encourage them and have a time of prayer. This then is a summary of how things are there, it may be a little longer than normal but do read it through and we hope that it will make you smile and give you a focus for prayer.

### **Danny and Sara Report:**

The covid situation continues to fluctuate with major cities currently going into further lockdowns. In Carand there is currently a night time curfew but schools are currently open and people are able to meet if socially distanced. There have been a number of colds in Carand as temperatures have fluctuated dramatically on one occasion it went from +20C to -5C during the day in one 24 hour period. Many with colds are nervous of seeking medical support in case they are told they have covid. Regrettably there appears to be a lot of corruption and the suggestion is that you can pay for the result you want.

Church is meeting but again there are limitations on numbers due to space so they continue to broadcast their services via facebook live ( [\(4\) Biserica Betania Carand | Facebook](#)), which has been highly successful. Danny doubles preaching with leading worship with Sarah. Tobi is now supporting on Drums and Ella has taken up playing the bass. Having said that there are many older people who do not have the technology to stay in touch and they are much on their mind and prayers. With the funds



from the charity this year they have been able to buy some more microphones which has made the services technically more challenging but providing a much better quality output. Regrettably a second hand sound desk sent from the UK is still somewhere in transit and that along with two other packages, we are still awaiting to be delivered. They are now overdue more than a month. Please pray that this is found and delivered soon. This along with the cabling also sent from the UK will enable them to move the sound desk and audio feed to the rear of the church rather than cluttering up the stage area. It will also be a great help in their continuing improvement to spreading the gospel via Facebook on line.

Life being the Pastor continues to be incredibly demanding and varied. There have been three house fires this last quarter (which Danny attended and led the volunteers) and last week a friend called him out during the night to deliver a calf. Yes the vet was there but Danny was one of the few people allowed to travel during curfew as a fireman and it took 4 of them to deliver the calf. Cow and calf are doing well.

They say a big thank you for the personal gifts received after Christmas. This has enabled them to pay their taxes for the last year to the Mayor's office and also paid the last year health insurance for Sarah.

Pastor Daniel had a slight accident while sawing some wood, taking off the top of his middle finger. Danny rushed him to hospital but was caught speeding and despite seeing the situation and blood everywhere still chose to issue a fine. Pastor Daniel needed to have a pin put in the finger to stabilise it but they had to use a syringe needle as that was all they had available. I am glad to say, as I write, he is much better.

There are some encouraging signs:

- People are becoming more open to ask for prayer and anointing. Actually coming to Danny and Sarah for counselling and encouragement.
- The services continue online and in the church with hundreds now reached every week. If you want to drop in and see them live on Facebook you are most welcome. Just remember their services start from 8:30 through to 10:00 as they are two hours ahead of UK time.
- Distribution of food to our adopt a friend families continues but we are unable to go in to peoples houses and social distancing still makes contact and relationships more difficult
- Danny is rewriting the baptismal course to focus on 'introducing a relationship with Christ' as there are a number of people asking for baptism.
- Sarah has restarted the ladies group meeting
- The youth work restarted this year and it has really developed, they now have up to eighteen youngsters who are really starting to become active in the church.
- They have difficulty in starting the childrens work in the church from a space perspective and also Sarah really needs someone else to take this on under her guidance.
- A few weeks back Danny and Sarah became aware of a family about to be made homeless in an adjacent village. A house was found for 15,000 euros but negotiated to 9,000 and the church in Carand created a project 'A house for Jesus'. They stepped out in faith and were overwhelmed when a dear old lady whose income after taxes is about £200 gave them £100. They knew this would take food from the table but felt honoured to accept the gift. They raised 1500 euros to support the family.

Items Danny and Sarah are asking for prayer

- That the sound equipment is found and delivered
- Danny and Sarah find time to rest and be a family. They have not had a holiday for almost two years and work is seven days a week. Pray we are able to bring them to the UK for rest and recovery soon.
- Wisdom for both Danny and Sarah as they continue to lead the church and so many community works
- The new baptismal classes Danny is writing and for the potential candidates as well
- Leaders to step up and jointly carry the load in Romania
- The rewiring of the church and reorganisation of the sound and audio system

### **Now a quick note from the trustees.**

While life has been hard for us all, it has been exceptionally difficult for the church and Danny and Sarah in particular. They have continued the work including outreach, while doing their best to comply with the covid restrictions and like many in the UK have had to home school the children as well. They have not had a break now since June 2019

As you may note from the above Danny and Sarah have been time poor and also financially challenged. Being a small church in a poor rural district they have just sufficient funds to cover building repairs, insurances and occasional outreach. The only income they receive are donations from the sponsors in the UK.

For the last 10 years we have supported Danny and Sarah by donations to the Romanian charity which means that they are able to draw money to cover expenses including basic living costs. This currently equates to about £650 per month (costs of living very similar to the UK). Which in turn equates to one minimum wage, even though they both contribute significantly to the work. This has meant that neither Danny or Sarah has had an employment contract and have not been required to pay tax, They have only been able to pay local housing tax and buy some clothes for the family because of kind 'one off' donations over and above the sponsors giving. While this arrangement can be seen as an advantage it also means that neither Danny nor Sarah are covered for state health insurance or pension or other benefits. The trustees have been reviewing this situation and are asking for your prayers as we consider the options. One option being considered would be for us to work with the charity in Romania to create a formal employment arrangement with Danny and pay at or around the average salary in Romania of between £1200 - £1300 per month. This should provide a net income of around £700 but it will mean that Danny's covered for all the normal social security benefits including health and pension. We also want to cover Sarah's Health Insurance of £20 a month. This is probably our biggest challenge for many years and we would need to raise a further £570 per month or if we can claim gift aid from donors we will need around £450. It seems an impossibility but we are praying and asking you to pray with us too. We are trusting our amazing God to answer. The Trustees will be meeting again in May to discuss this and if you feel led in any way to help or even promise to help, do let me know.

In closing, we want to welcome and thank Amy and Kieran Taylor who have joined us on the committee to help administer and advise the charity. Finally you may notice on the charity commission website that it is reporting we have not uploaded our accounts for a previous year. This is an error that has been reported to the commission and they are looking into their IT system which seems to be in error.

In closing we do want to acknowledge with gratitude your support and that we have an amazing God who constantly surprises us by his grace, mercy and blessing.

Every Blessing

Roger & Lynn Edwards