

AMEN



Supporting Christian Ministries in
Developing Countries

Romania with Amen Trust

Team Reflections - December 2016



l-r: Richard, Wendy, Simon, Anne, Malcolm, Wayne, Sarah, Jan, Chris, Trish

Our team of 10 volunteers give their thoughts on the December 2016 visit to Romania. We asked each of them to choose a picture or two to illustrate what impacted them.

This Laslea landscape photo reminded me of the carol 'Away In A Manger - No crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus, lay down his sweet head' could Jesus our Lord and Saviour have been born in a place like this?

Without visiting it is hard to imagine the conditions some of the families that we distribute shoeboxes to live in.

Anne





Last winter the family pictured lived in a derelict pig abattoir. This year they had a house built for them by a team that Amen Trust support – David McGuire, Hodu and Christie. We spent time with these 3 guys and saw how they combined practical work in building houses (not possible in winter!) with outreaches in local villages where relationships have been built up over the years.

Personally some of the furniture pictured had been transported out from our parents' house in the UK and to carry it into this new house brought a lump to my throat! Items that could have ended up on the tip in the UK are so welcomed by those who have nothing.

Malcolm

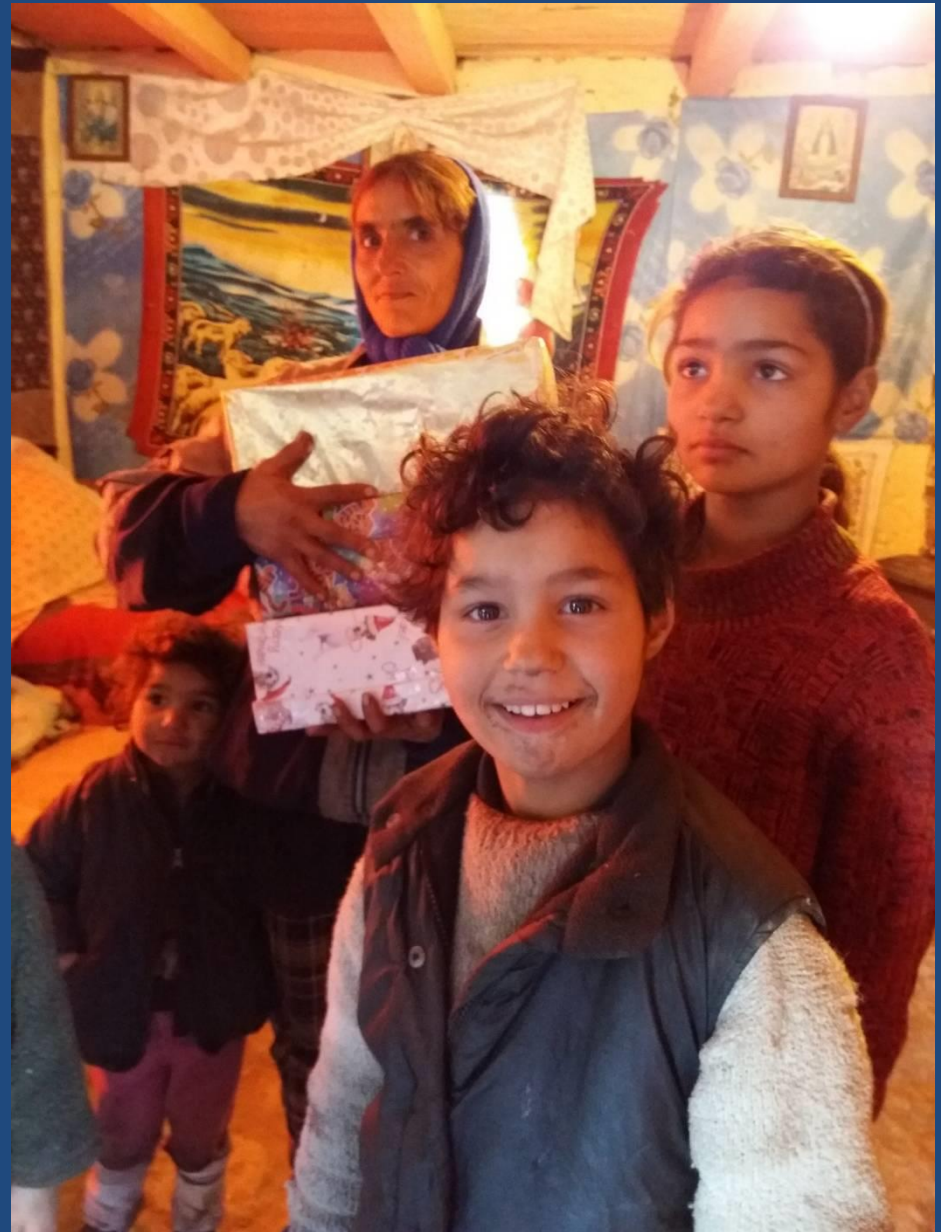
We visited our partner, Tibi, in Petrosani. The soup kitchen, run by the church volunteers, really got to me – over 200 people being fed each Saturday at the Bread of Life Centre, along with further meals being delivered to the homes of those who couldn't go out. When the question was asked as to what happened the rest of the week, the answer was that people had empty bellies. People still going hungry in a European country in the 21st century.

Chris



I love this photo of this boy - it shows the joy and excitement of having a shoebox delivered, by the team. This family is quite large and they live in a very small house in a very poor community. It is just wonderful to bring a little joy and Christmas love into the life of a child living in severe poverty

Trish



Part of our trip was enjoying working alongside Romanian partners and friends. Here we are pictured with Mia Mihai who manages Casa Vietti (House of Life). Mia's work includes caring for single mothers and also visiting local schools to give educational talks about family planning.

Wendy





People value prayer. We set up this stall by the entrance to the open market offering teas and coffees and a cabbage based take away purchased from the shop opposite. We had 3 chairs alongside and when we offered many people came forward to sit down and be prayed for. So simple but so powerful.

Richard



We visited many villages handing out shoe boxes and food parcels but also taking part in church services. We were privileged to attend an evangelistic event organised by one church but with help provided by churches in other villages. Many people were touched by the words of the speakers and a number became Christians. I had met this man in the village a year before – a quiet, humble character – but when he spoke it was powerful. ‘It was the Holy Spirit’ he told me afterwards.

Richard

When delivering some of the shoeboxes and food parcels with Dave McGuire I was invited, with Wendy, into one of the gypsy houses in the village. The house was typical of many we had been in before. There was an open stove in one corner and right next to it was a large couch which doubled up as a bed. Sat on the bed were two young children, both filthy dirty, and alongside them was an elderly lady, probably the grandmother. The walls were black with damp and soot from the stove. Wendy pointed to another couch on the other side of the room and we saw this tiny baby, as peaceful as could be, keeping warm under the blanket. If you look closely you can see the stains on the bedding and dirt behind the babies fingernails.

Wayne



One of my goals for December 2016, after visiting the orphanage the year before with Pastor Pilu and his wife Hadasa, was to buy each child a onesie for Christmas. To watch them opening their present, and hear the shrieks of delight when they realised what they were, how they put them on, and that they fitted them, brought tears to my eyes and warmth to my heart. They looked so gorgeously cute! Knowing that we were leaving the children happy, cosy and hopefully with a feeling that they are loved and thought of, gave me the greatest blessing.

Sarah





Firstly the outreach and the prayer chairs. I found it a real privilege to pray for these people. At one point when praying my hands were red hot I just found it an amazing experience



Second was being reunited with Carmen again at the orphanage - such a privilege to be able to go to the orphanage and the connection I feel with Carmen is very strong, breaks my heart leaving her.

Jan



Every morning during our stay in Romania we took it in turns to lead devotion. I remember on my turn sharing some thoughts on the Bible reading of the feeding of the 5000 with the 5 Loaves & 2 fishes.

I've been going to Romania for a number of years but we went to a village that I hadn't previously visited. Beforehand we brought some loaves of bread with potted meat & butter not forgetting ketchup and prepared the sandwiches (about 150) at the church.

It was a very cold day with snow on the ground when we visited this village. The sandwiches to us may not have appeared that exciting, for them it made a huge difference in not having to struggle to get food for themselves that day. I feel privileged to be a part of this, that we can help in some small way and show Jesus's love to them.

Simon



Thank you for all your support in making this happen!
Team of 2016