

## Amen Romania trip – December 2019

Thank you so much for all the shoeboxes that you lovingly put together, for the poor in Romania

We had a very busy schedule of delivering shoeboxes and working with our partners, ministries and churches. We went around villages, to the homes of those who were living in severe poverty and gave out shoeboxes, accompanied by people from a local village church who knew them. Your gifts were really appreciated.





As well as taking shoeboxes, we made up food bags for the poorest families, made up of basic foods such as flour, pasta, etc. The food bags are in the Christmas carrier bags (see photos below).





## **Some updates from AMEN Ministries in Romania**

### **Perspective ‘Investing in The Present, Changing the Future’— run by Liviu and Elena**

Perspective is a very well run and organised charity – they have a real heart to help children, young people and widows.

They run a lunchtime club for children from a very poor area. The aim of the afterschool club is to help children to stay in school (and not to leave the education system) Many of the parents living in poverty are illiterate. The afterschool club also gives the children a hot cooked meal and they share the love of Jesus with the children.



**Photo of children’s club**



**Children in the village**

### **Educational sponsorship program**

We met one of the young people, who was on the sponsorship program. She had been given support to continue her schooling, as children from Roma backgrounds are often discriminated against and discouraged by teachers. Both her parents are illiterate, but they encouraged her to stay in school, as they wanted a better life for her. She is currently doing further education, with support from Perspective and her future aim is to become a doctor. She currently volunteers with Perspective doing children’s work

### **Children’s programs**

Liviu and Elena, run children’s programs. On this latest trip we were invited to go to one of these children’s clubs, where the children have fun, play games and hear stories about Jesus. About 160 children came the week we were there and we gave out shoeboxes, blankets, sandwiches and fruit to all the children.



## Community Centre – Building Project



Perspective are in the process of building a community centre. This will be mainly to run children's and youth programs and other ministries to help serve the community.

## Widows program

This group was started on the request of a widow in the village who recognised there were many other widows in the community and this would be a way to bring them together for fellowship and mutual support. Elena and her team meet weekly to facilitate this. It was a privilege for us to join with this lovely group of ladies for a truly special evening. We spent time sharing together making crafts, sharing the Christmas story and eating wonderful cakes the ladies had prepared. Each lady was blessed with a Christmas shoebox (especially made for them by a group of ladies in Dartford).

## The widow's group





## Dave McGuire's ministry



We have known and worked with David for many years now and he is involved with many different projects and ministries focused on the Roma villages around Sighisoara.

### House building

This has always been an important part of David's work and continues as God presents opportunities and provides the funding. We visited a couple of houses David and his team have built over recent months, for poor families that had become homeless.

### New village church building – built by David and his team

In Eliseni David has been involved in building a new church which AMEN has helped to fund. We still need to raise approx. £1,000 to complete this building.



Increasingly David has been involved in ministry in the various local village churches and we visited several local Roma churches with him and took part in Christmas services. David helps run various ministries, such as children's clubs, bible study groups and speaks at the local village churches



### Praying for the sick

As we were going around the villages, David encouraged us to pray for the sick, as a team we prayed for lots of different people and we saw so many healings. This was obviously really exciting, to see God's power and love working in people's lives.

## Pe Lunca

Tjis and Jessica work with very poor Roma communities. We first met Tjis and Jessica on our shoebox trip in November 2017 and they shared their vision with us to set up a Christian Community Centre in a very poor community. In 2018 God provided the finances to buy land and a building which needed major renovations. In September 2019 the hall was completely renovated and while we were there, we saw their first ever Christmas play acted out by the children in their back-to-school sponsorship programme.



**Community Centre**



**Christmas play**



**A very poor home**



**Houses rebuilt after fire**

We went to a very poor community, by a filthy river polluted with rubbish and waste, in order to give out shoeboxes to the families.

We were also able to visit some recently rebuilt 5 houses which sadly burnt down at the end of last year tragically resulting in one man dying. AMEN, along with our partners were able to help fund this project.

## Casa Vietii

A Christingle service was led by the ladies in the team and afterwards Christmas shoeboxes gifts and food parcels were distributed to the project's expectant and young mothers that are supported by the project. One of the ladies became a Christian that evening, which was awesome.

Amen were able to collect and send numerous buggies, prams, Moses baskets, blankets and baby clothes on the truck in December to support the ongoing work. Mia is doing an amazing work heading up this valuable ministry and reaching many families.