

Pe Lunca update from AMEN volunteers, Malcolm & Anne McCulloch



In May we enjoyed a week in Romania and for a couple of days were privileged to spend time with the Pe Lunca team. We stayed three days with our friend Dinah who has volunteered with Pe Lunca since August 2020. On arrival we learnt that Tijs had been healed two days previously from his chronic hips condition - Praise the Lord! Hence, we saw Tijs being able to bend down and lift his children and do manual work/ climb a ladder etc.



We were invited guests at the weekly team meeting and were able to ask lots of questions! This helped us find out more details about Pe Lunca's work. A holiday camp with a charity from Scotland is being planned for the end of July. This will be a good opportunity for children from the local Romanian and Roma communities to come together and mix and spend time away from home.



A discussion took place about the paperwork that will need to be completed in the application process for EU accreditation that will enable the centre to re-start its program of work. It is a centre for the local community - sharing God's love with those in need, providing education, training, health care, medical advice, children's clubs, food and clothing, social events for the elderly - and much more. There was also a discussion about the need to find and employ a social worker as part of this process.

What else?



We were shown around the Pe Lunca base. It was eight years ago that Tijs & Jessica (T & J) answered God's calling to leave their home in Belgium and move to Romania. Work has gradually been completed with additional accommodation (called The Barn) now available for visiting teams. Hens and rabbits are reared to pass on to families to look after and provide food (eggs) and breeding.



We met Samuel who is joining the Pe Lunca team in June with his wife Annelies and their five children. They are currently selling their house in Belgium and are moving to a house 15 minutes away which we walked to. It will require a lot of work (as did the Pe Lunca base when bought eight years ago). Samuel was being helped by two friends and they were staying in The Barn.

Next day



The next day we met T & J at the community centre. The 'Inima Lui' (His Heart) Community Centre is in the village of Geoagiu. There are three men working full time at the community centre. They have completed a lot of work on the new sanitation block as well as preparing electrics, heating pipework and utilities and plastering. New tiles are sitting ready to



decorate walls along with internal painting to be completed. A replacement

kitchen still needs to be bought.



Tijs has visited the sawmill with the list of all the wood needed for building the next level. For the timber frame that will be about 2,800 Euros. After that funds will be needed for insulation, roof plates, closing the walls, stairs etc.

There are also plans to cover an area outside and join it to the new first floor to provide shade in the heat of a Romanian summer.



After having a full overview of the work completed and planned for the community centre we walked across the bridge into the village.

Walking around with T & J we saw many people approach them and update them on their circumstances. There were sad stories but also positive changes. They were able to tell us the history



of some families and how they had provided assistance and then had been encouraged by how families had helped themselves eg additional house renovations. Updates are added to family files they maintain. One lady provided a hospital letter that showed an urgent medical need - some funds were given to help with travel to the hospital. We saw the benefit of providing chicks and bunnies to families to look after.

Overall, we were very encouraged from spending a couple of days with the Pe Lunca team and would encourage anyone who can to make a donation to the Pe Lunca building centre appeal. This will enable work to be completed and EU accreditation gained to start to use the centre again for a weekly program of support in the community.

How to give

Via the website www.amentrust.co.uk/support . Click the Stewardship button and add 'Pe Lunca' in the details box.

Bank Payment: Account AMEN, Sort code: 60-06-33; account 71161465. Using reference "Pe Lunca" Please also advise our secretary Janet White on janet@amentrust.co.uk and tell her if this donation can be Gift Aided.

Or send a cheque for 'AMEN' - to Janet White, 79 North Road Dartford DAI 3ND.

Appeal target £50,000. Raised so far £32,000.

Target to raise £18,000.



- The ongoing building work to help complete the community centre in Geoagiu
- Finances to enable the building work to continue until finished
- Completion of paperwork for EU accreditation
- That God will provide the right social worker to help with the accreditation
- The Pe Lunca Team (Tijs, Jessica, Dinah, Bavo, Salina) for strength and guidance
- For the holiday camp being planned with the team from Scotland
- For Samuel, Annelies and their family who will be moving to Romania to join the Pe Lunca team in June

AMEN Registered Charity No: 1057626