

## Romania Trip Report - December 2025 - *written from the perspective of Anne*

**God is good, He is in control and He will provide.**

### **Fri 12<sup>th</sup>**

An early morning flight meant Chris, Sharon, Malcolm & Anne arrived at 6:00am at Luton airport. We met up with Simon at Cluj airport and picked up our minibus vehicle for the week and drove to Sighisoara. We had an evening meal at a local restaurant and caught up with Mia (AMEN partner). After a short while a group from Northern Ireland walked in, they split their time between Northern Ireland and Romania. This then initiated small world conversations and connections.

### **Sat 13<sup>th</sup> - Perspective Danes**

We were invited to a church leaders' breakfast at the centre which was built in 2021. Liviu (AMEN partner) showed us around and explained the variety of activities that take place. Living accommodation had housed families from Ukraine in recent years. There were a large number of local leaders, and it was good to hear many share briefly how this regular gathering encourages them. Christmas carols were sung in Romanian and English and Chris shared about encouraging one another - 1 Thess 5 v 11.



Saturday afternoon we visited the first of the Roma villages (Rora) that we would visit over the coming days. Chris told a story ably helped by his puppeteers, Anne and Sharon, before the children organised by John & Rosanne sang to us. Humbling to see how the Roma people live compared to our westernised lifestyle. They are grateful for the shoebox, probably the only gift that they will receive this Christmas.

### **Sun 14<sup>th</sup>**

Services in two different churches. Church of the Nazarene in the morning – Chris spoke with Pastor Relu translating. Lunch with Mia and then to Hordu's church in Țigmandru with again Chris speaking and Mia translating. Different styles of service but all worshipping the same God. We were able to sing a Christmas carol in English.

### **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> - Laslea**



As we drove into the village that we first visited 11 years ago my first thought was it still looks the same, has anything changed for the better? We handed out hotdogs, the children were definitely hungry! Then we distributed shoeboxes, the system seemed better organised, knowing which families were to receive a shoebox and how many children were in each family. We walked round in two teams and were able to ask questions and say a prayer with families.

We then had lunch with children at Perspective Danes. This includes a minibus from the centre that picks children up from Rora and takes them to school (9:00am -12:00pm) before they come to the centre until 15:00pm Malcolm played football with the boys. Sharon did a craft with the children.

## **Tues 16<sup>th</sup> - Soard** (AMEN partners Magda and Catalin)

A busy morning spent in Soard delivering over 400 shoeboxes, again the same emotions of has anything changed. It was good to see two village churches coming together and lots of help to deliver shoeboxes. To the AMEN partners working with the Roma people there are always seeds of hope, Jesus healing people and God providing for their needs. Most of the children now have a birth certificate and many will go to school. However, once they reach High School age whereas we would be thinking ahead to a job, college or university, their route seems to be to have children with some having as many as 10 children, living in a one or two roomed home. The importance of sex education isn't a priority in schools. Some will go abroad for employment to neighbouring countries and bring back money to build a better home but for those that decide to stay, employment opportunities are few and far between.



In the afternoon, the men went to the local cash & carry with Mia to buy food to make up food parcels. The ladies went to a widows group at Perspective Danes where we treated to a traditional three course Romanian lunch and a few Christmas carols. Sharon and Anne shared testimonies. Sharon spoke about how the Lord had healed her of a problem with her eyes and Anne shared John 14 v 27 and how God is always there for us even when even when we don't always recognise it.

The ladies then went to a ladies group run by Mia at Casa Vietii. There were almost 50 ladies there. Sharon shared about the birth of Jesus and we handed out the food parcels and shoeboxes.

## **Wed 17<sup>th</sup> – Geoagiu**



A long day as we travelled to visit Tijs and Jessica (AMEN partners) of Pe Lunca at Centru 'Inima Lui'. It was an absolute privilege to be able to see how the centre has progressed and changed over the last eight years, now welcoming many children from the local Roma village on a daily basis. We enjoyed colouring with them, sandwiches and homemade Belgian waffles. Each child has their own marked toothbrush and beaker which they used to clean their teeth. The children then enthusiastically sang

carols, and we handed out shoeboxes and food parcels delivered earlier by the local high school. This was followed by a visit to the Roma village by a river in Orastie where sadly everything ends up. In each of the villages the children didn't crowd around the van but waited near their homes for us to bring the shoeboxes to them.

## **Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>**

We spent the morning with David McGuire (AMEN partner) delivering shoeboxes in Tigmandru with Hordu and a team from his church. The partners know which families will receive a box and how many. In the afternoon we caught up with Steve Potts from Care Trust Romania in Codlea with a visit to a children's group at a local church. Again, we sang and Chris shared a short message.



## **Fri 19<sup>th</sup>**

We finished our time in Romania by handing out hot dogs in Laslea. Then a couple of shoebox drop offs at churches to be distributed in the next few days. It was then a couple of hours drive to Cluj for our evening flight back to the UK.