



## Activity Report

September, 2007

During the long, warm summer we were thankful to the Lord for giving us an opportunity to enjoy rest for our bodies and souls. Now the fall has come, bringing a harvest of fruits and vegetables, and also the arrival of the new school year.

We ask for God's blessing for our girls at this time as they have all moved up to the next grade. In their early lives, the girl's parents were either not there at all, or were not interested in investing in them. Therefore they missed out on a lot of schooling before they came to us three years ago. Since then, we have been working hard with the girls, trying to help them catch up to the correct level for their age. This is a very difficult task and the girls often find academic life to be a struggle. However, we have faith, that through God's grace and power at work daily in the girl's lives, we will be able to overcome this problem, along with all the other difficult situations that were caused by their past.

Helping the girls to improve at school has been something we have been focusing on a lot recently. During the summer we created a special study room for them. We have equipped the room with school desks and books, and also with some computers that we received from a charitable organization. The study room was a lovely surprise for the girls when they returned to Bethany House in September, after spending much of the summer with some good Christian friends in Ardeal.

For a long time we have been trying to trace the mothers of our girls. We believe that it is good for the girls to have some contact, and it is now also a legal requirement for us to connect each girl with her mother. With the help of the authorities, we have now succeeded in locating the addresses of the girls' mothers. The poor conditions that the mothers live in makes it impossible for them to take the girls back, and it was very painful for the girls to realize that their parents cannot do anything for them. We are praying that the Lord will be the one to ease this pain and that the girls will be able to take comfort from the words of Psalm 27: *Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.* The Lord is their heavenly Father and they can be sure that He will never forsake them, and that He will always be there for them. We believe that if our girls continue with God, depending on Him for everything, then their future is going to be a blessed one. Through Him they can find true fulfillment in their lives.

This year spring and summer were very dry in the south of Romania. Because of this our farm was not able to produce as much as it usually does. It has been particularly difficult to find enough food for the animals in this part of the country because the corn harvest has been poor. However, God is merciful to us and we always have reason to praise Him. Last year was a very fruitful year for us at the farm and we were able to can so many vegetables, and make so much jam, that we have sufficient for this year also. We were also greatly blessed to receive a large container of food, clothes and other items earlier in the summer from our brothers and sisters in Chicago in the United States.

During September, we have been able to distribute the contents of this container to help many people in need. We donated some new clothes and shoes, together with some food, to a day care centre for poor children in the village of Dragos Voda. (This is where little Daniela, the last girl to join our family at Bethany House, came from.) The children there come from some very difficult family situations, but they choose to go to school even though they sometimes don't have

enough food or proper clothes. It was therefore wonderful to be able to share our blessings with them and it was an emotional occasion for the children and for us. The children later expressed their thankfulness in some beautiful letters that they sent us.

Towards the end of the summer there were heavy rains in the county of Galati. This caused some severe flooding, with more than half of the city of Tecuci underwater. We were able to use some of the clothes and food from the container to help with the relief effort there. In our own county we have been able to provide toys and games to a centre in Oltenita for children with severe handicaps, and provide clothing and food to a large state orphanage (Sfantul Stefan in Perisoru) as well as to some very poor families from the villages surrounding Calarasi. Finally, we have exchanged blessings with a church in Fagarasi. For the third year running they have provided us with enough potatoes to last the winter, so it was lovely to be able to give them some clothes and food in return.

### **Prayer and praise points**

- We ask for God's protection and power to be manifested in our girl's lives to help them with their academic difficulties and the other problems that they experience.
- Our farm is a huge blessing, but it is about 30 minutes away from Bethany House so it is difficult for us to supervise. Please pray that God will provide the right person to run the farm on a daily basis, and to work with the young adults with learning disabilities who live there. These young people were bought up in orphanages and have nowhere else to live.