

# THE ROMANIA REPORT

April 2011



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## In His Service

by Dan Iosza

I VIVIDLY REMEMBER MY FIRST VISIT to Sabolciu two years ago, in the spring of 2009. The snow had just melted and I was heading to this gypsy village together with a group of young people led by pastor Cornel. I had some vague idea what to expect – being born and raised in Romania. Still, the moment when we were pulling onto the main village road, I could not believe the crude condition these people were living in. Above all, I wondered “How did they make it through the winter?” While the van was coming to a stop, I could see countless kids running around, noisy little ones, having big smiles on their dirty faces. The cold spring air did not bother them. They seemed to have not a care in the world! It was a moment of shock. For a minute, I withdrew to the side of the crowd and tried to figure out this whole scene.

I was very aware in my heart that God had brought me to this “land” with a purpose, but I would understand it later. Through the course of months that followed, I started to know more people in the village. The kids were very rebellious in the beginning, and it took quite some time to gain some authority over them. At times I felt like I was undergoing a big test with the ministry of the Word needed in that village. The Lord was working in me, giving me a very similar experience at the same time with the teens at the Placement Center (CP2) in Oradea.

We started a Bible study on the Gospel of John. We learned new songs. After a while, some teenagers from CP2 expressed their desire to join my wife and me to Sabolciu on Sundays. This was a very helpful hand on their part. Not having the Learning Center finished yet, it was difficult and almost impossible at times to have a quiet Sunday service because of the little kids running around, disturbing the adults. But with the help from the CP2 teens, people could now listen to the teaching.

This Easter Sunday I was hoping to see more people coming to church but the same ones showed up – some women and teenagers from the village and a couple guests from another village. A month before I had started praying specifically for the men in the village, asking the women to join me in prayer for them. These men seem totally uninterested in spiritual things, mocking even their own people who come to church. That Sunday I had the idea of returning on Monday night and do a big screen projection of the movie “The Passions of the Christ.” So on Monday night we returned to the village. While setting up the projection, the whole building filled up with people. We brought extra benches and chairs, and everybody sat down and became silent in expectation.

It was getting dark outside already. The first scenes with Jesus in the middle of the night in the garden

CP 2 Kids in camp



Sabolciu Kids



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of Gethsemane became so real! Everybody's attention was gripped. I stepped outside for a moment and started to pray for all the souls inside. Throughout those two hours nobody left the room. Looking at the people around me I thought of that verse in Acts 2:37 when "they were pricked in their heart" while listening to Peter preaching. When the movie was finished with that glorious image of the risen Christ I could barely speak. I turned on the lights but nobody left their seat. The Lord gave me that moment to address the men that were there. This was a unique time. I was glad to have them there! We thanked Jesus for our salvation made possible through his death and resurrection, and we prayed for anybody that wanted to accept His gift by faith.

I know this is the only way for a change to a better life for the families in this village -- a better life here on Earth and "the life" eternally. Please continue to support our work here in Sabolciu in prayer and financially.



Sabolciu Youth



CP 2 Kids in camp

## Special Easter

By Tabita Iosza

**THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS PERIOD** of the year for me was to celebrate Easter with the orphan kids from CP2. First we took 25 kids to a journey in the past: all the events Jesus went through from Palm Sunday to resurrection.

They were able to see and touch the donkey, to act like Jesus was passing by and lay down palms and their clothes. Then they sat down at the table and tasted the bread, the grape juice and imagined they had the supper with Jesus. After this they went in the garden and tried to imagine the agony Jesus went through. They prayed like they were the three disciples. The next stop was in the courtyard where Peter gave up on Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. They could see and hear the rooster and feel the agony of Peter. Then we took them into Pilate's place, and one of the kids sat on the throne and washed his hands like Pilate did. Very close was the place where Jesus was beaten. There were small stones which the kids grabbed and took with them to the place of the crucifixion. As a symbol, they lay them down at the cross and prayed for forgiveness. Their prayers were so touching and honest!

But Jesus arose from the dead, and the kids tried to imagine the empty tomb as they entered another room. Meanwhile all the kids

were happy because they didn't find Jesus in the tomb!

The next and last scene was 'heaven' ... with golden drawings on the floor. The kids were really transposed, so strong that when we told them the journey is over and invited them to open the door to the 21st century, no one wanted to do that! Easter, now, is more meaningful to the kids from the CP2 Mentoring Project, because they took the journey together with Jesus. We hope that their lives will never be the same!

The second thing was to celebrate a special evening in prayer, praises, and a special message. Forty kids accepted the invitation. They dressed up and were excited about the special evening. We had a great time praising God loud, clear, and excited. Then Steve, one of our staff, had the message for the kids, a message which challenged them to take the sacrifice of Jesus seriously! In the end there was a sweet moment – an Easter cake with a message: there were a lot of animals and Easter eggs, but on a 'hill' appeared the three crosses. The cross and the sacrifice of Jesus is what Easter is all about!

Thank you for making this ministry to the orphans in Romania possible through prayer and financial support.



### PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the church in Sabolciu as we try to reach the entire community for God.
- For Dan and Tabita Iosza as they lead the Orphan Mentoring at CP2 for 80 children.
- Protection for our staff in Romania as we travel bad roads and into dangerous communities.
- For the daily needs of 24 orphan children that are part of our Foster Care ministry.
- For Karen as she teaches a group of women from the life of David.
- For Cornel as he teaches each week in different local churches.
- For sponsors for our House of Joy - Safe Place.