

THE ROMANIA REPORT

May 2011



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The Rock



Prayer Request



Rocky



The Rock

ONE DAY, NEBU THE KING OF BABYLON had a dream (Daniel 2). In the dream he saw a statue as of a man made of different materials. According to the interpretation offered by Daniel, the head made of gold was Babylon. The breast and its arms represent the Medo-Persians; the belly and its thighs, the Greeks; the legs, the Roman Empire; and its feet, toes, and all, a confederation of smaller kingdoms that came out of the Roman Empire and currently exists.

In the vision, a stone that was cut out of the mountain fell all of a sudden and struck the image on its feet and broke them into pieces. In the days of these kings, Daniel says God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed and will stand forever. This is a beautiful description of the Church that conquered people and nations through the love of God and the preaching of the Gospel.

What a beautiful description of the history of the world and the working of God's kingdom on earth.

It is always good to have the big picture in mind as we live our daily lives. We are not only part of the big picture; we are working the details of this vision as we live our lives through the grace of God. The kingdom of darkness, its forces that keep nations in bondage, are broken in this age through the ministry of the Church. What an exciting time to be alive and be part of this working of God in history.

As I zoom on my life and our ministry, I see orphans being rescued and restored, the poor relieved of their burdens and listening to the Gospel, and the segregated Gypsies of Romania being loved on by their brothers and sisters in Christ from across the world. What an adventure this is!

Thank you for joining this wonderful partnership with the Lord as He makes his Kingdom grow. We are part of the Rock that was cut out without hands, a great mountain that is filling the whole earth. His kingdom shall not be left to other people, but His kingdom will stand forever. Wow! Praise the Lord.

Gypsy sisters



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Rocky

CHILDREN ARE A BLESSING, because nothing can duplicate the joy and laughter of a child. Even though this is true, every year thousands of children continue to be abandoned at the maternity wards and hospitals throughout Romania. While the official term used now is no longer “orphaned” but “disadvantaged” in 2011, these children are abandoned by their parents for undetermined periods of time, and are being exposed to neglect and lack of proper care.

The story of Rocky (Petru) is the story of hundreds of children that tasted the drama of abandonment by their parents. His story is not a story that shocks but is the “common” story of an abandoned child we encounter every day here in Romania.

Rocky was in the hospital many times during his first three years of life because he was beaten repeatedly by his father. At three, he was taken to the hospital and left there by his mother. She probably thought it was safer for him there. The nurse that received him at arrival states “You couldn’t see his face from the swelling as a result of the beating he received.” For the next few months Rocky was sitting in his metal crib with bars all around not making a sound. The beating and the burn marks from cigarettes he had on his body were painful reminders of the hellish treatment he received during the first three years of his life here on earth.

At the hospital he was quiet and sad and lay in his metal crib. But one day, even though it started like the rest, it became a day of blessings for Rocky. We, PTJM began working with him trying to help heal the scars left on his body and soul. Shortly after, we made arrangements for him to get a birth certificate. We found a foster family for Rocky and his process of recovery accelerated.



Soaking in love

Only after six years of being part of our ministry, Rocky met briefly his mother for the first time. He asked her one question, “Why have you abandoned me?”

Years went by and today Rocky at 16 is the oldest child in our ministry. He studies journalism in high school and wants to become a social worker because he “wants to help others as he himself was helped.” Rocky’s story is one of many at PTJM, but for him, his story is unique, because it is “his story.” His heart is filled with thankfulness to God that someone like PTJM helped him make it in life. In his words, “I can’t be unmoved by the plight of others. I need to be involved in offering comfort to those in need of comfort, love and encouragement.”

Rocky goes often to the Oradea Children’s Hospital where PTJM staff is helping others like Rocky to find a foster family. He brings sweets to the abandoned children and spends time with them. He wants to be a player, a rock. He is always full of life and laughter, but underneath, he still entertains the “Why have you abandoned me?” question. In spite of this, he lives his life one day at a time trusting God for tomorrow and for everything else.

On Rocky’s behalf and the other children like him that are part of our Foster Care ministry a big and hearty “Thank you!” for providing love, hope and comfort to children in need.

For God and His Kingdom!

Cornel & Karen Bucur



Faces of the forgotten



Rocky at his highschool

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Rocky and the 24 orphan children and youth that are part of our Foster Care ministry.
- House of Joy - Safe Place is in need of supporters and prayer partners to begin its operation.
- For the 80 children part of our Orphan Mentoring at CP2.
- Protection for our Romanian staff as we minister into dangerous communities.