

THE ROMANIA REPORT

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Update on Romania's Orphans

It is now more than 17 years since the whole world heard of the thousands of children locked away in Romania's state institutions. These children - whom Pierre Poupard, the head of UNICEF in Romania, calls a „lost generation” - were locked away from society, malnourished, and subjected to physical and sexual abuse. At the age of 18, they were sent out to fend for themselves.

In the early 1990s, a Romanian non-profit organization started a database with institutionalized children and tracked their whereabouts; they found it impossible to track them down as many had simply disappeared. „We never found out what happened to them. Some could have ended up on the streets, or been trafficked to other places. No one knows,” said the head of this organization. Some of the orphans are still in the care of the state or of charitable organizations like PTJM. We do not know how many children are actually being cared for by the state; according to the reports, the state does everything. Charitable organizations in Romania, like PTJM, are only tolerated; we are not encouraged in any way. We are taxed like a business and are required to function



with a full staff all the time, which makes life a lot more difficult. In spite of all this bureaucracy, your partnership in prayer and support and the love for the children keep us going.

Some of the young people we target in our Mentorship Program are part of this so called "lost generation". God loves them, and we love them too. Our call is to find them and bring them into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Please consider helping us to encourage and empower these youth to become active and responsible citizens in their community and world! With more people getting involved, more of the lost in the world would be saved.

Thank you so very much for partnering with us toward this end.

In His Grace,

Cornel! Karen Bucur



Quote of the Month:

"We adopted a four-year-old little girl from Romania who is now seven. She spent the first two years of her life with little to no stimulation, love or human touch and was near death at age two when she was put in foster care. The foster family nursed her to physical health and we believe saved her life..." (Jeni Cooper, USA)

PTJM Update

This year we had quite a few teams that came to assist us with our work in Romania from the USA. Out of this joint effort, much ministry was accomplished and many lives were touched in Jesus' name. As a result, two of the people that came to Romania decided to return and live here for a while doing what God called them to do.

Alex Gray is a recent graduate of high school who followed God in obedience to Romania. He is from Atlanta, GA, where he is very involved with his youth group who sends a team every spring break to help our ministry. He came to Romania last spring break with the group and felt God was calling him to take a gap year between high school and college. While

he is here, he wants to help build two gypsy churches, be involved in the Orphan Mentoring Program, but, above all else, to be hands and feet by doing whatever the ministry needs done. He is excited to see what God has in store for him.

Sue Volpe has been using her gifts and talents in Children's and Youth Ministry for over 12 year. Through her experience at Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale, her love for unlovable, lost, abandoned, and ignored young people grew into a burden for "pure religion." (James 1:27). After a short-term trip last year to Romania, working with PTJM God shifted her passion to the needs of the children in Romania. Her role with us is to coordinate the Child Sponsorship Project,

assist in facilitating short-term teams, and work with the Orphan Mentoring Project. Sue's desire is to see children experience the love of Jesus Christ through the loving hands of the body of Christ.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

- † Orphan Mentoring Program: The 90 orphan youth and mentors.
- † Foster Care Ministry: The 33 children.
- † Oradea Children's Hospital Ministry: The 22 abandoned orphans.
- † Church Planting Ministry: Three churches and two building projects in Tinca and Sabolciu.
- † The Bucur family.
- † More partners to join our prayer and support teams.

