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The Romania Report

www.pathwaytojoyministries.org



A Pathway to Joy!

Imagine yourself on a path that leads nowhere. . . . This is what I experienced recently when traveling to a nearby village to visit Maria, a very sick, middle-aged Gypsy woman. She used to walk five miles to church, but one day she stopped coming. We only knew she was sick; nobody knew exactly where she lived.

It was very cold in Romania, and the snow was still on the ground. I drove to the end of a meandering road full of holes leading to the top of a hill. On the right was a swollen river; I continued

until I could go no further. I did not know exactly where to go but decided to proceed on foot, following a very steep, muddy path. After a while, I saw a few mud houses and heard dogs barking in the background. I had discovered an entire village in the middle of nowhere and no road leading out of it.

Signs of poverty were everywhere. Every building was made of sticks, mud and straw. I was not prepared for what I was about to discover. The hiking began to be even more difficult; the snow on the road melted, making the ascent even harder. Eventually I met two women and asked about Maria. Maria, they said, lived at the end of the path leading into the forest. Short of breath, I arrived at a small, rundown building and knocked on a door with a few broken windowpanes covered with a blanket so that the strong wind would not blow through. Inside, I found Maria and four small children who had been abandoned by their mother and left in Maria's care. When I entered the room, I was again overwhelmed by the poverty. The ceiling was all cracked, some pieces just hanging; the freshly painted walls covered even more cracks and sticks. I had never seen anything like it. Though Maria had heart problems and a few other medical conditions, she did not complain. She was more concerned about the small children she cared for and for her older son who had had sur-



needy family



Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart. JER. 15:16



Church service in Sabolciu

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Staff, foster families and volunteers
- The 18 new abandoned children at Oradea Children's Hospital
- Orphan Ministry Director PTJM – Romania
- Worship leader at CC "Gateway" Oradea
- Development Director PTJM – US
- A building to meet for CC "Gateway" Tinca
- A building to meet for CC "Gateway" Lugas
- A building to meet for CC "Gateway" Sabolciu

gery a few days earlier. Because of her condition, she was not able to visit the city hospital (35 miles away), send him money to pay the doctors, or purchase medicine. (Unless it is an emergency, the poor in Romania have to bring their own medicine when admitted into a hospital.)

I talked with Maria for a while, encouraged her, prayed for her, and left some money for her and her son. As I was leaving, she had only two wishes:



"Please visit my son in the hospital and, if possible, next Sunday please bring me the Lord's Supper.

I was happy that I had found Maria and was able to minister to her needs--both spiritual and physical--but I left very sad. I had discovered an entire community in the middle of nowhere with no access to the Gospel unless someone was willing to go.

When you pray for PTJM, please pray for workers to help us spread the Gospel to villages like Maria's. Hope, love and joy is found only in Jesus. There is so much work to do. In obedience to God's commandment to "Go and make disciples," we began a Bible School in the village of Tinca. It is where we are equipping Gypsy Christian men and women to reach their communities for God.

Partner with us through prayer and financial support in this worthy endeavor. Together we could turn pathways that lead nowhere to pathways that lead to joy because of Jesus Christ.

Cornel + Karen Braun

He is the God who makes me strong, who makes my pathway safe. PS. 18:32

*"Whom shall I send?
Who will be our messenger?"
I answered, "I will go! Send me!"*

ISA. 6:8



Narcisa and mom