

NEWS FROM AURORA CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, VULCAN, ROMANIA – January 2024

The girls are encouraged to take an active role in deciding/choosing activities, taking part in discussions and problem solving. The older girls prefer to just chat over a tea/coffee or play games like uno or dobbie. The younger girls love craft, such as painting, playing with play-dough and enjoy group games such as wink murder. All the girls like cooking, we have made waffles, pancakes & they have given Irene a list of things they want to make in the New Year!!!!!! Spending time together creates opportunities for them to talk about their lives in a natural way.

The upper room is also used for English lessons to support students who are currently in years 7&8. One of these students will take an exam to enter high school in the summer and the others will in the following year. They want to improve their English to have better opportunities for higher education or employment in the future.

Irene writes: having all these different spaces on the one site creates opportunities for lots of activities to happen at the same time. We are all one team working in different ways but interlinked and connected to different people. Some days theres just a hub of activity on site! A feeling that God is moving in and through us even if we can't see fruit at the moment.



Once again, the young people from the Pentecostal church visited the elderly up in the hills to sing carols and distribute food bags. We are grateful for the on-going gifts received to keep this project going.



All other projects and activities continue to run well.

Lots of renovation and building work to be done at the ACA base—new bathrooms in Casa Betania and Casa Betel, insulating both houses, new gates to secure the property.

Family Corca Building Project will resume in the spring.

We pray God's richest blessing for 2024.

We thank God for each one of you, as you support the work of ACA in Romania.

Malcolm, Paul, Anna, Nelu, Miki & Irene

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For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10: 17-19



So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him,
Each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving
This is our God, The Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to The Servant King

Graham Kendrick



Well, the months seem to fly by and we're at the beginning of another year! As we enter into 2024, we look to God for His continued guiding and directing.

A lot has happened in Vulcan and surrounding villages and towns in Romania, since our last update in July. We hope we can adequately inform you of it all!

Following the disappointment of their 2022 trip being cancelled due to covid, it was a great joy for Nelu, Miki, Marius, Gabi, Filip, Cristi & Timi to join us at Rora for 2 weeks in August. As we feel straight at home when we go to Vulcan, it was the same when they came to Rora, Miki was immediately in the kitchen, cooking, Gabi started designing new leaflets, Cristi & Timi made great friends with Henry the hoover, and Nelu & Marius set to work re-building broken bridges in the little Dingle Dell garden! As well as being a busy time with the MLG conference being run, we did, of course, find time for walks, ice creams, fish & chips etc!



Irene was also in the UK for an extended time this autumn and is returning to Romania on 13th Jan. She too was able to come to Rora for a long weekend, so it's been great to catch up. Irene will be flying back to Romania with Les Wheeldon and Peter Trevelyen. Les and Pete will be in Romania for 2 weeks, preaching in the local churches. We are thankful for their time given to visit. Cristi & Timi are currently translating Les' 2nd daily devotional book (A Closer Walk) into Romanian. His 1st devotional (Hearing God's Heart) has already been translated, and a copy is given to every student graduating from the Pentecostal Seminary College, as well as to other believers.

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As you know, the work of ACA, including the kindergarten is held in high esteem with locals, and we see it as a good testimony, and also it is an important step to teaching parents the value of good education. For a while now, we all (but Miki and Irene especially) have been praying about a new 'teacher / helper' in the kindergarten, for a few reasons: Sister Marioara was 70 last year and her health has not been too good, we were starting to receive many more children with special needs, and also to safe guard the future vision of the kindergarten and its role in the community. The 2 kindergarten classes have completed a term with the new children. There are 23 in the older class, run by Miki, and 18 children in the younger group, run by Andreea. In the July newsletter, we mentioned an amazing answer to prayer regarding an extra worker in the Kindergarten. Earlier in 2023, Miki felt the Lord had put on her heart to ask a lady who had come across her path, (Raluca) if she would pray about helping in the kindergarten. We need to be sure that any person 'volunteering' with ACA has the vision for the work, a supernatural love and heart for the people, be prepared to accept a sponsorship (rather than employment), and work as 'unto the Lord and not man'. It is also a big step of faith for someone who has a career and a good income to lay this aside and work for the Lord.

Raluca agreed to come to help in the kindergarten, and started in September. In the meantime, another lady (Cristina) approached Miki and said she felt the Lord was leading her to help as well (the Lord had given her dreams of working with children), we stepped out in faith, and agreed for her to help, as we felt this would give us cover if/when Marioara felt unable to continue to come, cover for sickness, and most importantly to support Irene, helping with the growing number of children with special needs that were attending. In the previous year we had 1 or 2 children with special needs and Irene had been managing to do 1 to 1 sessions with them, but this term there are 5 or 6 children, most of them un-diagnosed (as this process takes a lot of time and money). As a team, we do not want to show partiality or prejudice, and want to welcome all, and give all the children a possibility for learning. With having the extra 'teachers' this will be a massive help.



⇐ Kindergarten Christmas Celebrations

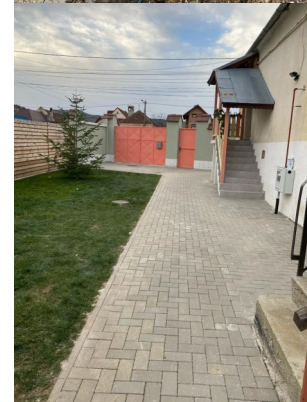


⇐ Celebrating Romania Day

⇒ Raluca (left) & Cristina (right)



For many years, thanks to our friends in Norway, we have supported young people with bus fares for high school. Now that the government provides them with free transport we have been looking for other ways to support students in education. Miki contacted a tutor from a professional high school in Codlea. At the school students can choose from hairdressing and beauty, carpentry, horticulture, and cookery. Many of the pupils have special educational needs and some live in poverty so the school provides extra support as well as meeting their educational needs. The school asked for help with providing 10 of the students with Christmas Presents. We are also hoping to help them in the future with extra resources needed for the hair and beauty courses.



The newly renovated canteen & kitchen area is well used, mainly by another organisation (run by Andreea (1 of our kindergarten teachers) & her colleague Alexandra). There are activities in there most days—guitar lessons, calligraphy courses, English lessons, craft workshops, mother and toddler sessions. They are building relationships with families into the community and its great to have new families coming onto the ACA site through this work.

After having completed all the renovations, the outside area was all finished with tarmac. Then there was a water leak, so it all had to be dug up. When the water leak was fixed, new plastic pipes installed, it was all block paved and new turf was laid. It looked beautiful! Nelu was then informed that the gas pipe needed to be moved and re-laid to isolate the house. So it all had to be dug up again! Now it is all put back, and we hope it doesn't have to be dug up again.

Now the Kindergartens are in the new building, the upper room will be used as a space for a variety of children's activities. The upper room has been renovated to create a safe & welcoming space for the children that come.

Over the last year Irene has been running girls groups in the kitchen in Casa Betel. Now with

the new room it means there is space to invite more girls. Currently there are 3 different girls groups, in the following age groups: 9-10 years, 11-13 years and 15-19 years. In total between the three groups we have 20 girls coming regularly.



↑ Newly renovated upper room