

Hands of Hope News December 2023

Thank you

for supporting us
for reading this newsletter
for encouraging us with messages
for all the things you do that makes this work possible



Romania

It has been a busy year on the land and in the community. Our team has carried out repairs to houses and infrastructure. In 2010, we planted two orchards of fruit trees at Cobila. This year, we have had bumper crops, particularly apples, with a harvest of over two tonnes. Most of the apples have already been distributed to families, and the rest are stored to give to the children over the winter. The bruised apples were pressed and bagged, making delicious juice of pure fruit.

In October, we partnered with The Regina Marie secondary school in Dorohoi. The pupils had collected groceries as gifts for families in need. We went with some students and staff to Dumeni, a village where we support several families. It was an excellent opportunity to share with the students why we are here and what we have been doing in the area over the past 20 years. Our team in Romania continue to provide one-to-one teaching support for children in the village. Seeing their progress and positive reports from the parents and teachers has been encouraging.

In December, there will be extra activities for Christmas, and we are thankful to sponsors who have donated specifically towards these events.



Ukraine

We are very thankful to Geoff, Paul and David who joined us for a six-day stay in Ukraine. We spent three days at the village school, improving their IT system, speaking to the children, and giving gifts to the staff and pupils. This is a small school; 28 of the pupils have fathers who are on the front line, and seven men from the village have been killed in action. Five of the children no longer have a dad.

We continue to support several families across Ukraine. Most of these families are part of the "Autism Unique Universe" group. Some are still living in Kherson; others are in Odesa or Ivano Frankivsk. We visited the families in Ivano in October and November. They are precious friends, and as we have spent time with them, we have seen how having a child with additional needs brings daily challenges, even more so during the war.

There has already been snow in Ukraine and Romania. There are often power cuts in Ukraine, which means heating systems do not operate. It is hard for families to be facing another winter of war and uncertainties.



Ukraine Assemblies of God Church

It is a joy to be part of this church family. Many of the congregation are refugees from Eastern Ukraine and many bear psychological and sometimes physical scars from the war. One man, Serhiy, is so full of faith, and confident in his relationship with Jesus and describes the joy of being with his Lord through horrendous experiences, he is regularly now in church having lost one leg and badly damaged his other from a mine on the frontline. Despite this, he is boldly sharing his story with those around him, so full of life.

Donations

Regular monthly donations are particularly welcome as it helps us budget for the year ahead.

Your generous donations keep the wheels turning in Romania and make a very real difference to peoples lives.

Bank details if you wish to set up a standing order or make a BACS payment are:

Hands of Hope Account no: 12629251 Sort Code: 55 91 00

Cheques can be sent to "Hands of Hope",
c/o C & R Baker, 14 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS or
donations can be made via the
Pay Pal link on our web site

www.handsofhope.org.im

