

Euronews

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The Emanuel Hospice in 2010



Eurovangelism

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HOSPICE EMANUEL

The beginning of a new year is a time when people look to the future with hope and anticipation, a time to remember what God has called us to and to renew our energies in following His will for our lives. The apostle Paul tells us that we were created by God to do His good works, and where there is suffering, we are to be the hands and voice of Jesus Christ as we reach out in love to those around us. The team at the Emanuel Hospice in Oradea continue to do just that as they travel around Bihor county in northwest Romania to care for the sick and dying with practical, emotional and spiritual support.

On a recent visit to Oradea I was privileged, once again, to spend time with the hospice nurses, travelling from village to village to meet with those patients fortunate enough to be in the care of the Emanuel Hospice. There are many others who are not so fortunate and due to the inevitable waiting list they are left to fend for themselves, often with only immediate family to support them.

As I sit in the car travelling to our next visit, I am struck by the amazing dedication of these nurses who spend hours driving for the sake of one patient; just to spend time with somebody whose hope has dwindled, to show them they are loved, to support their family, and to administer vital pain relief or other medical treatment.

We pull up outside a school and Estera, the hospice social worker, dives inside and re-emerges pushing 12 year old Marco (centre) in his



Hospice nurse Monica helping a patient with medication.

wheelchair. As he is helped into the front seat he chatters excitedly to Lidia, the nurse who cares for him, and I soon learn that his excitement is partly due to the fact that he has never ridden in the front seat of a car before! Marco has cancer and following surgery two years ago, has a metal brace

holding his left leg together. He has seven brothers and sisters and they live in a one room home nestling under an electricity pylon, with their parents, and as we arrive the children bustle around Lidia laughing and playing. The purpose of the visit today is to change the dressing on his leg, but whilst there we also deliver food bought with funds from our Harvest for the Hungry project, and Lidia and Estera spend time talking with mum and dad. The extent of the love and respect the whole family have for

Lidia is obvious; Daniel, their youngest, was named by her!

When we return to the offices, Marinela Murg, the Director of the Emanuel Hospice, asks who we visited and it is obvious that she knows and loves each person. She tells me about a patient who was baptised just before passing away, a life saved through the witness and love of the team. What is



more apparent is her burning desire to follow God's will and glorify His name in and around Oradea.

As we talk, Marinela tells me that she thinks she may have found some land to buy. I already know from previous conversations that Marinela feels called to further develop the Hospice service with a day centre and eventually, if resources allow, a unit with a few beds. Having spent the day visiting ill children and exhausted parents, I can see immediately how a respite facility will greatly benefit those under Hospice care.

In addition to the immense need for respite care, Marinela is aware that beds would also be a major benefit for providing an improved Hospice service. The main hospital in Oradea has only six allocated palliative care beds, whilst the county hospital has none, with plans to allocate ten beds sometime in the future. Unfortunately, there is no legislation in Romania for palliative care, nor a national strategy for development of these services. With the high



Marinela Murg enjoying the snow!

incidence of cancer in Bihor County, more beds are vital to care for those in the last stages of the disease, and while hospitals provide such limited care for the terminally ill, the need for such a facility is obvious. Marinela is determined that this is where God is leading her.

The building is not the only thing on Marinela's mind; she has been praying for a new doctor to join the team for a long time, and she has asked us to join her in prayer for the right person. The Hospice service currently has two part time doctors who help when they can, but this means the nurses are sometimes limited in treating the patients as only doctors are able to prescribe treatment. A full time doctor joining the team would release the nurses to work more effectively on a day to day basis.

So as the new year advances and we look to where God is leading, please spare a prayer for the Hospice team, led by Marinela, as they look to developing their services this year and being the hands and feet of Jesus for so many in need.

Sally Bertram

Prayer Support

Please join us in prayer for the Hospice team as they move into this new year as determined as ever to demonstrate God's presence to so many who are suffering - pray that they will bring peace and hope to those they visit. Pray also for strength and energy for the team as they help and care for so many people.

Please pray that suitable land will be found where they can build an inpatient unit that is easily accessible to all.

Pray that Marinela will find a full time doctor who will be willing to come and work with the team in spite of a lower salary than they could earn at the state hospital.

As many of you have prayed for the Emanuel Hospice over the years, the front cover photo shows the current team for you to use as you continue to uphold them in prayer.

Please help us to ensure that ministries like the Emanuel Hospice have the resources they need so they can continue to be a blessing to their community.

A gift to "Where Most Needed" will help us to continue supporting so many in Europe who are working to change lives.

Visit our website
www.eurovangelism.org.uk



Scotland and beyond

I have been working as the Scotland Rep for Eurovangelism since coming home from Romania three years ago. Raising our profile has been a slow process, but this last year has been really encouraging - in particular to see how the involvement of one local church has developed. Dalmuir Barclay Church in Clydebank, near Glasgow, participated in Harvest for the Hungry for the first time in 2008 and in 2009 decided to share the vision with their wider community. Although not a particularly affluent area, the community really got stuck in and after a wonderful fundraising effort involving the church, two local primary schools, two nursery schools, one special school and the local nursing home, over £7000 was raised for Harvest for the Hungry, as well as over £3000 for the Emanuel Hospice and Casa Grace!

Not content with just raising money, the church wanted to get more involved, so in November I had the privilege of taking a team of seven to visit Hospice and CASA in Romania. Only one of the team had taken part in any kind of mission trip before.

“Our team were struck by the professionalism and passionate faith of those working in both these organisations supported by Eurovangelism. Visits to



Dalmuir Barclay team with CASA Grace team.

people in the town of Oradea and the rural villages brought home very powerfully the reality of poverty. Our team were moved and deeply challenged,” said Rev. Fiona Maxwell, Dalmuir Barclay Church.

I pray this will be the beginning of a mutually fruitful partnership between Clydebank and Oradea and that God would bless the efforts of His people seeking to share His love and compassion both in Scotland and in Romania. In February we are taking a second team from the church - pray with us that this trip would be both challenging and encouraging. Please also pray that many more churches here in Scotland would take up the challenge and get involved.

I want to express my thanks for the enthusiasm and encouragement of Dalmuir Barclay Church and everyone in the community who really made a difference this year for so many families living on the edge.
Kirsteen Cowling

You can help

If you would like to make a gift to help the work of Eurovangelism, here are four easy ways:

- 1 By post** - complete this form and send it to PO Box 50, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1EX
- 2 By telephone** - phone us on 0117 961 5161 to donate by credit card/debit card
- 3 Online** - please visit our website at www.eurovangelism.org.uk
- 4 Regular giving** - please phone 0117 961 5161 for further details

Here is my gift of £ for the work of Eurovangelism in Eastern Europe.

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev/Dr) Name

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Please tick if you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive our bi-monthly newsletter:

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