



Update from Romania – March 2024

Dear friends

We are now well into 2024 and the charity has had the opportunity to reflect on 2023 and work with Danny and Sarah to plan 2024. We all wanted to give you our thanks and update you on what has been achieved thanks to your support, challenges being faced and plans for this year.

Several visits were made to Romania by trustees, and regular communication was maintained via WhatsApp to encourage, support, and observe our counterparts (PCR). The Romanian team also attended the three trustee meetings via Zoom to formally report on progress. In addition, a number of zoom webinars and newsletters were used to directly update our supporters throughout the UK.

Every year presents its own challenges and 2023 has been no different, with inflation in Romania (while dropping) averaging around 8%. At the same time our income dropped from £74,658 to £54,176 largely due the reduction in donations to support Ukraine. Fortunately, the core focus of work through PCR in Romania saw a positive response with an increase in donations allowing more than £44k to directly support the work through Pro Community Romania (our sister charity in Romania that Pastor Daniel and Danny manage). Donations to Ukraine also continued although this is from a diminishing fund.

All things considered it is remarkable what was achieved given the circumstances:

- The church in Carand has continued meeting and more people are attending with the fear of the pandemic receding. Services also continue to be streamed and can be seen [biserica betania carand - search results | Facebook](#) where they have regular remote followers. In addition to all the normal Christmas celebrations new this year was an open carols by candlelight in the church which attracted a lot of new attendees helping strengthen relationships with the community. The hope for 2024 is to undertake some major renovations to comply with new safety regulations and also enable extending the work of the church to build community.
- Youth work has evolved with many of the older youth now spending more time away at university/college, although contact is maintained where possible. A younger group are moving in to replace those that have moved on. A Cycle safety demonstration followed by a 40km bike ride with police escort attracted around 50 youth from up to 30km away. This was a wonderful opportunity not only for training but also in building relationships. Many are now asking when



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the next one will be. In addition the team also supported the leadership of a large youth camp in August as session leaders, with over 100 attending.

- Over 30 individuals and families included in the 'Adopt a Friend' scheme (financially supported from UK donors) were provided with food aid each month. Finally at Christmas the families and individuals in the scheme were invited to a Christmas social and meal with over 85 adults and children attending
- A Christmas social for the children of the village, with carol singing and presents was held in the church and handmade Christmas cards were delivered to everyone in the village
- This year the schools were supported with a wide range of additional supplies including:
 - A4 Paper
 - Craft materials
 - Paint
 - Children's exercise book
 - Pens and papers
 - Storage folders for children's work
- New this year, the team were able to support the installation of a radio mast to support a regional Christian radio station and a celebration service was held in the church in Carand.
- The 4X4 Jimny continues to be an asset, frequently having to assist people stuck in the forest or where there has been an accident in recovering cars from ditches.
- The fire engine originally purchased by the charity was in use a number of times coping with multiple field fires, house fires and also one landslide after flooding.
- The tractor the charity purchased was used on a number of occasions to help people in trouble. Sadly however the ability to supply wood from the forest to needy households has been severely restricted as the mayor has been selling off the forest wood (intended for the villagers) to other commercial purchasers for a



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higher price. Even our own team was not been able to obtain the wood they would ideally need and relied heavily on old stock.

- A benevolent fund for use of the team in Romania in emergency situations to provide essential aid. Frequently the team last year faced urgent medical requests and on occasions were called upon to transport people needing to reach hospital or doctors.
- Support to Ukraine continued largely focusing on clothing and food
- The team in Romania were also able to host a number of volunteers/guests to provide an experience of mission and humanitarian work
- Direct support to fund the ministry of the Romania team (Pastor Daniel, Vetuta, Danny and Sarah) to be able to support the church and community full time. Given inflation the charity decided to make a small increase in the grant for Danny's salary.

We are always thankful for our sponsors and donors, many of whom have supported the charity over many years. While it is not easy for us to raise funds, our small charity continues to be blessed.

Total Income	£54,176
Total expenditure	£46,337

We continue to maintain six months' working reserve as advised by the Charity Commission; in addition, also included are restricted funds of £13,285 for use during 2024.

With thanks to the treasurer and charity members we were able to keep administration costs low, this year at a level less than 3% of total expenditure and is more than covered by gift aid. This means that every penny we receive from donors goes directly to the good causes.

2024 the start, the challenges and plans

Already this year Danny has officially been ordained by the Pentecostal Association as a pastor. The service of ordination was amazing and apparently there were over 1000 people on line or have viewed the service since. Although he has been operating in this capacity and recognised by the local church it took several interviews and an exam to



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now be officially recognised. Sadly there is no support from the association to the church or the work in Carand.

The challenges which we need to face this year are:

- Danny needs to have an operation that he has been putting off for a number of years. There never seems to be a right time and we are praying that we find time later in the year. We have ringfenced some finances to facilitate this operation.
- Danny and Sarah's car (originally donated from a lady in UK) has now reached 250,000 miles and really needs to be replaced by another substantial vehicle
- The windows are being replaced in the church (with finances raised in the congregation) but we will support the refurbishment (Danny will explain on the next video call)

As to future Danny, Sarah, Tobi and Ella will be visiting the UK for both a holiday and visiting the three churches that support them. More information on this soon but it is likely to be the first few weeks in July. Lynn and I will be in Romania from 21st May to mid-May and will have an intern from our church with us for some of the time and also have several other visitors during April.

Our hope is to do a video update in April from Romania with Danni and Sarah and will send you an invitation shortly.

As for now, our thanks once again and every blessing

Roger and Lynn

Chairman and Charity Administrator

Trustees

Roger Edwards (Chairman) tel 01233 365687
Andrew Golba tel 07860 161192

Rob Foot tel 01525 631767
Evan Gough tel 01245 259116

Committee members

Lynn Edwards
Tim Perks (treasurer)
Terry Golding

Katy Foot
Kieran and Amy Taylor
David Scott