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“I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD!”
(to remember) Isaiah 63:7

We quickly forget all the good things God is doing in our lives every day: the friends, the protection, blessings. Good encounters, loving words, encouragements from His word...

... I believe that it is a conscious decision to bring the kindnesses of the Lord – which are plentiful - back into our focus, just like Isaiah did; to write them down, to share them.

And once we are aware of the good things God has in mind for us, we will be able to offer thanks even in the most difficult situations, even though we may not understand why “God is allowing this to happen just now”.



We were in a situation like that just two weeks ago. We suddenly realized that our wood fired central heating in our church building was leaking. During their examination the plumbers discovered the firebox being thoroughly rusted through. Welding was useless, because of too many holes. We had bought this system in fall 2009 from someone in Germany who had bought a new central heating.

As some of you already know from our ‘emergency call’ by email, we had lighted the gas fired heating system, but that is too expensive for us as a church.

We announced a special offering in Fagarash as well as in Rosenau, encouraged our church members to really sacrifice (maybe they had something they could sell) and were amazed on the amount that was raised the following Sunday (in view of the poverty they live in) , even though it would only pay for about 10% of the new firebox. We asked in Fagarash and found out that the cheapest firebox would cost us a little more than €1000.

But even then God showed us how “amazing He is”! First we were on tenterhooks, because no one was available at the Globe Europe office that weekend (later we found out that the secretary had attended the funeral of a family member) and our emergency call from Friday had not been mailed until Tuesday morning. **But the waiting of the righteous brings joy!!!**



WE couldn't believe that one hour after the emergency call had been sent out we received the first answers. We wanted to cry and shout for joy when we realized the close connection to our friends. Also them asking us to buy a ‘good’ firebox and not the cheapest one for €1000.

We received answers from so many different angles, even the Euregio Christengemeinde in Aalten, that we couldn't help but wonder.

After consultation with several professionals we were able to order a really good ‘Athmos’ firebox via internet and picked it up from Bucharest.



It is running five days already and we are extremely thankful!!!

It cost €2500 plus an additional €500 for connecting parts.

Our Church

is growing through the grace of God amazingly.

We greet new people almost every Sunday. At Michael's altar call for people who wanted to give their lives to Jesus last Sunday nine people came to the front.

We started a new bible course for beginners with 17 people on February 8th.

The young adults (among them 7 married couples and several singles between 25-37 years) are having their own homegroup meetings led by one of our younger leaders (29 years and still single). They moved closely together after a New Year party and started visiting each other on weekends and are building beautiful friendships.

That is truly the **work of God** and we are watching it amazed. Last Sunday two of those young men that are not baptized yet gave their **testimonies**. One of them, **Dan**, had heard God's call when he was a teenager already, but after a disappointment did not want to talk to believers anymore. When he first visited our church (Pentecost last year) he was moved to tears, yet he kept wrestling and did not come again for a long time.

When he had to go to the hospital because of his diabetes and he was in such a bad condition that the doctors were desperate and he nearly lapsed into a coma, he cried out to God and gave his life to Jesus. He is on fire for the kingdom of God ever since. Michael is reading the gospel of John with him and a few other young men every Thursday evening at his home.

The other young man, **Marius**, had been a drunkard and a rowdy – that's how he called himself. When we met him and his family they were about to divorce. He grew up like an orphan up to this day he has no birth certificate and no passport, but despite his 'wild life' he married a woman who had attended a Pentecostal church with her grandmother during childhood. At the urging of his wife he even had his first son Darius blessed in a Pentecostal church instead of an orthodox baptism. During that service someone prophesied: "One day you will be a child of God, too."

"You may hope so," he thought, "but I will never be!" With those words he shared his testimony. On the same Pentecost Sunday afternoon he attended our church for the first time. We had a special guest speaker, Christoph Scharnweber from Düsseldorf.

Ever since that Sunday, when his wife prayed publicly and repented before God for going astray, God had begun to work deeply inside of him. From one day to another he did not want to taste alcohol anymore. No more cigarettes. God started to heal their marriage little by little.

Meanwhile they are living with us in Scharosch, because he is the foreman's right hand at our training centre, but also because we know that God wants us to attend to them spiritually.

Death and funeral

of brother **Pavel**, one of our main leaders in the church were a hard blow for us.

He was snatched from his life without a specific illness, except his varices and a thrombosis two months ago..

The previous evening he and Michael had a wonderful prayer time in the little shelter housing the central heating.

The next morning he had a normal devotion time with his family, reads a special poem and went to town to pay an insurance. On his way he felt so bad that an ambulance was called.

His oldest son, called by neighbours, saw him being carried into the ambulance car and Pavel meaningfully looked at him one last time. Upon his arrival at the hospital he asked for water and then lapsed into coma. His heart stopped beating several times, at the attempt at resuscitation he even said his name and all that information let us hope for a miracle as we were waiting outside the reanimation room for two hours.

But God had other plans.

We were shocked when the doctor came to tell us he had died and we had to brace ourselves to retain our composure. "**How would we tell it to his wife, his children?**" We nearly panicked thinking of his cardiac wife. Yet once again we were amazed seeing God's way. With tears on her eyes one daughter told us about her dream the previous night when she had seen a coffin in their house. She was shocked and ordered Satan to leave when a light started to shine directly on the coffin. Everybody understood: "**It was God's plan.**"

When we read the poem he had read to his family that morning we were speechless. The last sentence was: "And give me grace (the meekness) to step back in order for other to step forward."

The funeral was a tremendous testimony for all unbelieving relatives and some of them told us afterwards that they had never attended such a touching funeral service.



In our Kids Club

we started the "Nicht wie bei Räubers" (Not as the bandit) Series.

Each of the 14 adventures of little bandit Tom, who is bought off by the king's son and gets to know life in the kingdom is performed as a play (with our co workers and some children). This is the first material for me explaining the difference between the kingdom of this world (the darkness) and the kingdom of God to the children.

PS When you don't know it yet, order it for your kids, your teenagers or yourselves.

It strengthened my faith in such a way that we let it be translated into Romanian.

Author = Ursula Marc, drawings by German Frank. You can get it as a book or audio drama.



The children in our kitchen after the sliding

Our kids were so excited that they not only asked: "Are we going to watch another play next Saturday?" but we were also amazed at their prayers: "Thank you, Lord for paying for us at the cross in order to bring us into your kingdom. We want to learn to obey, just like Tom did."

We also had a slide and ski afternoon three weeks ago in our mountain in Scharosch with all Kids Club children.

Our leadership

team meets fortnightly.

We are very happy that **Dan, Pavel's disciple** (not the one from the testimony) is able to lead the **village home-group** (Gura Vaii) himself now.

We are also happy to see **Costel**, who started a **homegroup for young adults**, including young couples. They even visit youth groups in other towns.

Ovidiu leads the **worship team** under Michael's supervision and leads the worship fortnightly in turns with Senta's team.

Margit leads the ministry for women, which is blossoming. Once a week the young women that have not yet been baptized meet at Lidia's house. She has an autistic son who attends special classes in Sercaia once a week together with Philippus.

This lady has such an open heart for the gospel and is more than happy that nine other women are coming to her house to read the bible. She cannot attend community life, because her son is unpredictable. Yet we pick her up by car every Sunday morning and she attends the service together with Alex, her 18 year old autistic son, although he is a little loud sometimes. She is also one of the 17 attending the bible course while Senta plays the guitar with Alex upstairs.

Our training centre

has windows, now – 20 of them.

We so much appreciate God guiding us step by step, preparing the works we may walk in. We also received money for the doors.

Now we are challenged to start the interior.



Completely trusting God's provision and faithfulness we will start building the bathrooms for the 7 bedrooms in the attic. The rooms are designed for two bunk beds with two beds and one bathroom each.

If someone would like to donate towards this, mark it "bathrooms-bedrooms training centre"

Once again thank you so much for your love and God bless!!!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

-**the young Christians (families)** that have given their lives to Jesus and are excited to have started the bible course are under attack of the enemy. Please pray that their faith will not cease, that they will be legally married (we have 5 couples living together without being married) and that they will stand strongly and in unity on their new way following Jesus.

- **Irina and her daughter Ana-Maria.** She is a young mother who attended our service for the first time two weeks ago. When we prayed for people after the service she came up to pray for healing. She has cancer in her urine bladder and it is burnt through chemotherapy, so that she is not able to hold her urine anymore. She needs 2-3 diapers per day and has tremendous pain through little stones leaving her bladder during urination. Some of them even get stuck in the ureter and hinder urination.

Our request: If you can get medium size diapers for adults or you know someone who can or you would like to donate towards that we would greatly appreciate it. The woman was left by her husband, is not able to work herself anymore and lives with her nine year old daughter in one little room.

WE will try to buy the expensive diapers in a big store cheaper, because they are expensive for us as well (80Cent per piece).

- **Alex, the autistic boy and his mother Lidia** who met Senta during a summer camp for handicapped children regularly attends church together with his mother. He had awful toothache the last nights and a dentist diagnosed three completely destroyed molars with infected roots that need to be operated.

Since he is not able to communicate that must take place either in Brasov or Buckarest with general anaesthetic. Please pray for it. His mother is worried about that anaesthetic interacting with his other medication.

- **Dan, the diabetic.** Two days ago he went through the same crisis as in the hospital where he nearly lapsed into coma due to low blood sugar. Without a doctor, only through prayer he was feeling better in the morning. We are praying for a miracle. The doctors in Timisoara scheduled an eye operation for March.

- **Working places** are a big problem and prayer request! Our town has hardly any industry and most men are working on construction sites, but construction stops during the winter season. The few existing working places are paid badly (around €150/month) and people are devastated, some can hardly buy bread daily and many young people are searching for work abroad, where they are living without a church for months.

We thank all people faithfully praying with us and supporting us in our ministry and fight for the kingdom of God!

Connected through the love of Christ we greet you with Psalm 18:

“It is God who arms me with strength
and makes my way perfect.
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he enables me to stand on the heights.
He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
You give me your shield of victory,
and your right hand sustains me;
you stoop down to make me great.”

Yours

Michael and Senta



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