

# White Cross Mission

Registered Charitable Trust No 1021176

52 Gwel-an-nans, Probus, Cornwall TR2 4ND, UK

Tel: ++44 (0)1726 884344 E-mail: wcm@whitecross.org.uk

www.whitecross.org.uk



HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all our  
supporters, sponsors  
& former volunteers

J a n u a r y 2 0 0 3

Recent trips to Romania have proved to be full of incidents! And our latest was no different!

Jeff and I set out from Cornwall the day after Boxing Day for a romantic New Year in Vienna - we were hoping to make up for our abandoned summer holiday.

On New Year's day we left Vienna to drive through Hungary & on into Oradea in Romania, where Dr Platon was expecting us.

However, having eaten a dubious sandwich bought at a service station just inside Hungary, 4 hours later Jeff was in no fit state to continue the journey & so we had to find a hotel - & we were only about an hour from the Romanian border! After a night spent mainly in the bathroom (I had a really good night's sleep but I hadn't eaten the sandwich!) Jeff was well enough for us to continue our journey. Despite having been told at Christmas that the temperature was -25°C & that snow lay all around we arrived in unexpectedly mild weather.

Our first visit, after a night at Dr Platon's, was to Cadea where Mr Negruti was eager to show us the new minibus - a blue Ford Transit - purchased, finally, with the donation from our very generous Spanish sponsor. The young people have already been to Oradea in it & are now looking forward to excursions in the summer. Mr Negruti has promised to take them back to the spitals where they were previously & also to take those who have friends in our houses to visit them. He, the youngsters & the White Cross Mission team would like to send our sincere gratitude to our sponsor for this. You have made a lot of young people very happy.



I'm pleased to report that, even though we were not expected, we found the youngsters in good spirits, well-dressed & having had a hearty lunch. They had all received Christmas presents of toiletries, sweets & fruit & the Christmas tree in the dining room was still flashing lights.

Over the next few days we were able to visit the houses. Suncuius was our first stop &, although

the children at Casa Sfintul Nicolae had had a good Christmas & New Year, sadness filled the air as Moma Florica's chemotherapy hasn't made a difference & the prognosis doesn't appear good. She has asked that you all keep her in your hearts & pray for her & her family.

The following day we visited the spital at Remeti. The building is still warm & comfortable & Dr Mariana is to be congratulated for her dedication to both the children & her staff.

We were delighted to be invited to stay with Mrs Iancu (the headteacher at Remeti school) & her family as we have been good friends since first meeting them in 1991.

We woke on the Monday morning to 4" of snow & a temperature of -8°C. So it was a very slow, careful drive out of the beautiful Remeti valley, over the mountain & on to Popa's at Beznea. Jeff's Peugeot 206 just isn't built for climbing mountains in the snow so we were grateful that Popa was free to take us in his 4 x 4.

It was with great excitement that we were taken to see our tractor - yes, I did say tractor! This was purchased with money so very kindly donated by the Church of St Mary's by the Sea in California. We would like to send a huge thank you to them & assure them that this will be worth more than its weight in gold to us.

This is a huge step forward for White Cross Mission - no more having to hire a tractor & driver for the ploughing, harvesting, transport of wood & so much more. Handyman Florin at Casa Sfintul Petru is an experienced 'tractorist' & our dream is that one day some of our young people will be able to learn to drive it.



Ideally we could use 2 tractors - one for the Beznea/Bratca houses & another for the Balnaca/Suncuius houses. We now know that dreams can come true, so we continue to dream.

We then visited a very quiet Casa Sfintul Petru. The children were having an afternoon nap after a morning of lessons & helping with the

animals. They are all growing & housemother Moma Viorica is as proud of them as if they were her own. I peeped into the girls' room to discover them pretending to sleep - they were much too excited by our visit to sleep! The boys were resting too, but, on peeping in, we discovered that they too were pretending!

Our next visit was to Casa Trandafir where, as usual, I was overwhelmed by the children all talking at once, telling me what they've been doing since I last saw them. The exciting news here is that they are now all learning English. Their favourite phrase is 'see you Monday' - despite the day being Monday! Andrea & Cristina were eager to read for Jeff &, not to be outdone, Ramona joined in, although we did have to ask her to do it quietly.

Popa then took us to Casa David. The boys continue to grow & work hard. They were having their daily lessons & were actually sitting quietly around the table & paying attention to their teacher.

Unfortunately the snow was now increasing & Popa wasn't too happy about driving up the mountain to Casa Fericită. We telephoned Florica to explain & I've had to promise to make them a priority on my next visit. She did tell me that they'd had a really good Christmas & New Year & that, so far this winter, not too many coughs & colds.

So that's that really. Our homeward trip was uneventful - except for the -12°C & the transport strike in Hungary blockading the motorway, forcing us to stop another night at a Hungarian hotel!

We did miss a big occasion back home in Cornwall - Philip Robson married his raven-haired Cuban Leydey. Congratulations to you both, we wish you every happiness in your new life together.



Ana would like to thank all those who have so kindly donated money to help her to build a proper home for her parents. Money is still coming in for this & Ana should soon have enough to make an enormous difference to their lives.

Jeff & I would like to thank everyone who has sent their best wishes & prayers on the traumatic arrival of our granddaughter. Zara is now home with her parents & weighs 7½lb. Christmas was a truly magical time for all of us.

**Jenny**

## **LUXURY PRIZE DRAW**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - 1 Week's  
Holiday in Luxury  
American Motorhome**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Mountain Bike**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - D.V.D. Player**

Enclosed is a book of 5 Raffle Tickets for the above draw. Please help us to raise funds to enable us to keep our houses open by either buying them yourself or selling them to friends & family.

For those of you who will be in Cornwall from 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February, the motorhome (or Recreational Vehicle as the Americans call it) will be on show outside Marks & Spencer, Lemon Quay, Truro. Raffle tickets will also be available should you wish to purchase more chances of winning this fabulous prize so generously donated by Carvynick Cottages of Summercourt, Cornwall.

The draw will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2003 at Carvynick Golf & Country Club, Summercourt. Please return cash, counterfoils & unsold tickets to 52 Gwel-an-nans, Probus, Cornwall TR2 4ND by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2003.

### **A few more fund-raising events**

**Auction of autographs  
(If you know anyone famous  
please ask them for their  
autograph & send them to us)**

annual golf tournament at truro golf  
club, cornwall in june

**More details of both these events  
will be in our Spring Newsletter**