

shelter of care update

news : summer camp 2007

Shelter of Care's summer camp is always a busy and rewarding time, and this year was no exception.

Genuța and Sorin Erhan only had three weeks after returning from their trip to England (see p2) to finalize arrangements for the camp. Then, Tătărași and Bucium orphanages released the list of children approved for the camp and it only included four girls that were with us on previous camps.

So we left for camp on Wednesday 1st August with 16 new girls, feeling some trepidation, but very blessed by this opportunity to share God's love with so many girls who didn't know him.

The teaching theme this year was 'Choices and Consequences'. The girls learned the importance of making good and Godly choices through the stories of Bible characters like Daniel, Jonah and Adam and Eve. It was very interesting to see how the girls openly admitted during small group discussions that the choices that they made without God brought bad consequences.

We had a wonderful time in worship this year. The girls all joined in enthusiastically

with songs which were unfamiliar to most of them. They wrote the song words down and sang some of them on the bus on the way back from camp.

We also introduced a few new crafts this year: we decorated cushion covers, we did decoupage and made cards and paper flowers. Of course we also did lots of beads and bracelets! The sports program was very successful too, with many children taking the opportunity to play sports they had never tried before.

One very new experience this year was that at the end of the camp, many girls spontaneously stood up and shared with everybody else what the camp meant to them! This is something that never happened before.

Of course they said nice things about the volunteers, and we appreciate that, but most of all they said that they got to know God in a way that they never did before! This was the real reward for all our work!

We have already started the follow-up program,

meeting regularly with some of the girls and hopefully continuing to show God's love to them.



Our thanks go to Second Presbyterian Church Louisville KY, New Life Ministries, University Presbyterian Church Seattle WA, Newbold Baptist Church England, Pat and Denis Fecich, and Frank and Janet Relihan. Without your generosity camp would not have been possible.

Thank you Derek, Linda, Doreen, Godfrey, Emma, Pinka, Hayley, Becky, Marcia, Marinela and Chris Finn for all your hard work at the camp and in preparation for it.

Finally, thanks to all those who prayed for the camp—we value your prayers. Please continue to pray as we carry out our follow-up work. Pray that we will see God glorified.

want more?

You can find more information about Shelter of Care and some of the stories in this newsletter on our website:

www.shelterofcare.com

For a **fuller summer camp report** please visit our website and follow the links.

Praises and Prayers

- We thank God for a successful and joyful camp.
- Praise Him for the new contacts we have made and pray for us as we continue our follow-up work with the girls.
- We have an opportunity to start a program with abandoned babies at the children's hospital—please pray that we will be granted the necessary permits.
- Please continue to pray for finances for the counseling center—architect's plans are almost finalized and we will be ready to begin building soon if finances allow.

feature : training to meet the challenge

I know that many of you are already aware that we recently spent ten weeks in England, but I don't think many of you know much about our experience there.

The purpose of our trip was to complete Ellel Ministries' 9-Week School, training in counseling and healing in preparation for the challenge of our future work at Shelter of Care's counseling and resource center.

We want you all to know that God worked miracles in order for us to be able to go and in this way we were assured that this training was in His plan. It started with the prayer of a faithful friend, and

continued with the generosity of a man we didn't even know, who offered to pay for our entire training! God is good!

We arrived in England on May 2nd and we started the school on May 5th. We shared this wonderful experience with people from 14 other nations. What a blessing to get to know so many different people from so many different cultures, and most of all what a blessing to hear about everything that God is doing in the world. We made lots of new friends!



The teaching was really good. We learned about inner damage and causes of inner damage, about abuse, anger, emotional healing and spiritual healing, as well as practical skills for counseling. We also experienced personal healing retreats and it was wonderful to be able to talk with a counselor and be prayed for.

As many of you know we had great time of sorrow this spring. Our dearest 'mom', Gwen, passed away in April and Sorin's father became sick with cancer. He is doing great now, thank you for all your prayers!

We learned to love and trust God in a way that maybe we never knew before, and prayer and worship just got a new dimension in our lives.

Praise the Lord for that time aside with Him. We just want to serve Him with everything that we've learned!

*Sorin & Genuța Erhan
Iasi, Romania
August 2007*

extra : a changing childcare landscape

We have seen the childcare landscape in Romania change in recent years as the Romanian authorities have responded to concerns about care for abandoned children, and prepared for EU accession.

Here in Iasi, some orphanages have closed and others have reduced in size dramatically in the last five years.

At Shelter of Care, we now

work with many children who are living in 'family groups' in apartments with a house mother.

While this is undoubtedly a better lifestyle than the institutions could offer, we must not forget that these are still hurt, damaged, abandoned children, in need of love, support, and ultimately, a Savior.

Returning visitors to Romania will probably notice that for many, standards of living are

improving: shopping malls are springing up in major cities; European superstores are multiplying and the old Dacia cars are rapidly being replaced by expensive western imports.

However, appearances can be deceptive. Romania's per capita income is around 33% of the EU average. Around 13% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day. The average net monthly salary is around \$490. It is, in part,

this poverty that still leads to the abandonment of thousands of children each year, many of them at children's hospitals and clinics.

Our work here is not finished. Please continue to support us as we meet the continuing challenges of caring for Iasi's abandoned children.

(Statistics from the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, and UNICEF)

'For I know the plans I have for you', says the Lord.

'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you;
plans to give you a hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29:11

