



The boys enjoying the picnic!

Irene's Romanian Adventure- July 2018

On Saturday I return to the UK for a month. I have started to reflect on the last few months here. I have to say that through good and hard times God as always has been amazing! I really am so grateful for all he has done in and through me during this time and hope his goodness come though as I give you this update!

This year our desire has been to use more opportunities to share Gods love and his good news with the children we work with. In both of the girls groups we have encouraged them to think more about who God is for them and what his love means to them. The older girls in particular have been learning to focus more on what God may be saying to them through bible verses whilst we have done journals with them. We have a number of new girls that have come this year many from non-Christian families. I have been encouraged to see them continue to come and that they are very open to all we have been learning from the bible. This summer holidays we have been able to do a number of fun activities that the girls requested such as: film and pyjama parties, we had an end of term party complete with pass the parcel and other games with the younger girls. To me the highlight was taking the older girls to a Private Children's home to carry out activities with the children. The girls were unsure at first when we said they would plan a bible story or play for the children, crafts and games. We saw some of the girls show their leadership skills, whilst others quietly showed the children guidance and support in a loving way.

After praying for many years for a loving, caring, male leader to run a group for the boys our prayers have been answered. Dani who is due to marry Ame in August has a heart for these boys and wants to run a group for them. He met with them in the summer a few times and will start the group in the autumn with Jo and Ame's support. It has been great seeing the boys connect with Dani and they love him. I am so excited to see what God will do in the lives of these boys.

In September when we started the groups we had really high numbers in all the groups. This year we have settled into smaller groups of children attending regularly. We have seen a real improvement in how some of the children are learning at school which is really encouraging to see. We are also seeing them grow and mature and become helpful members of the group. Two of the children that have really changed and blossomed are Dragos and Damaris. Dragos has gone from a tense child who struggled to write and read to a child who is more settled

and happier in himself. He has really good hand writing; he listens carefully to instructions and has been lapping up bible stories during the boys group this summer. Damaris was very chatty and easily distracted and would often give up if something was too hard. Now she loves to help, she is happy to be given jobs. Also after some, one to one help she can now do simple multiplication sums by herself and will volunteer to do long sums on the board by herself. There are many stories I could tell but will keep some for another time!

This year there has been the need to support some of our children and families through some really difficult times. Some of the children are facing loss of a loved one or have lost someone; some have had parents leave either to work abroad or to start new families. At times my heart has broken to see what these little ones have gone through but we continue to work with them hoping to provide a safe loving environment for them. We rejoice in the small moments of happiness with them and pray that God will support them through their situations.

In March with a team from The Christian Fellowship school we ran a two day holiday club in the Baptist church and we have just finished a three day holiday club with a team from Brookside Church in Reading. The children really enjoy holiday club, it's the highlight of the year for many of them. I have been really encouraged to see how many of the children come every time and that they love coming. This summer for the first time we did a more chilled activity session, with discussions and picnic with the 12-14 yr olds.

I look forward to time to rest and catch up with friends and family in the UK. I am excited to see how God will lead us in September when we restart. I am eager to see how we can deepen our relationships and make connections with the parents.

Prayer points

- For a restful time in the UK
- That God will guide us and show us how to organise the groups in September
- That God will bless Ame and Dani as they start married life together!



The girls doing journals at the holiday club Playing trust games.

To ACA Supporters, Irene did her newsletter in July but I was unable to prepare an ACA newsletter at the time due to my Mum being ill and then passing away. This is why it's now being sent with the ACA newsletter so you can catch up on Irene's news as well. Thanks for your understanding - Anna