

NOROC NEWS

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Editor: Carol Schempp

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From Mary's Desk... by Mary Ferris, Mission Co-worker

Dear friends,

As I am packing to return to Tulcea to begin another term as a mission co-worker, I am reflecting upon a very busy six months. The best thing for me has been the chance to attend worship every week, especially in Palo Duro Presbytery. I feel more than ever the connection we all have for helping the children/youth in Tulcea County. In total I had more than 42 opportunities to speak, everywhere from Philadelphia, PA to Ft. Wayne, IN, and much of Texas. I also attended training and educational events in Louisville, KY and at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. Well over 10,000 miles were put on the rental car, so Willie Nelson's song, "On

the Road Again" comes to mind. I enjoyed every minute of every mile. God's protection has gone before me all the way. I also have had wonderful times in reconnecting with my family.

Upon returning to Romania, the New Year will bring a new emphasis in our ministry to the abandoned and abused children in Tulcea County. We have received funding from a Presbyterian church and an anonymous family to explore possibilities for a professional counseling center for children and youth with psychological problems. We hope to provide support for foster families and training and support for psychologists and social workers that work for the Romanian Department of

Protection for Children. There is no such center in all of Romania as far as we know. We will need to employ qualified Romanian psychologists and provide them with training to help prevent, diagnose, and treat children, youth, and young adults with severe problems resulting from being abandoned and abused. Please pray for this new outreach.

I also look forward to strengthening our educational outreach among the children and youth. To date we have had tremendous results from our tutoring, mentoring, and scholarship programs. However, we cannot rest on the past. Our first generation of students we have helped is now beginning to graduate

Tales from Tulcea: Gifts of God's Love

The NOROC staff in Tulcea works tirelessly each holiday season to distribute gifts to the children. These are often the only gifts these children will receive. **Petru Solca**, the President of NOROC, Tulcea, writes: "Thanks to NOROC almost all the kids in the orphanages in Tulcea County got a present for this Christmas. NOROC staff and the youth group prepared 485 bags with gifts this year! Each bag was labeled and then put together in

groups for the corresponding center. As you can see in the photo, most of them were deposited in the living room of the NOROC apartment on Babadag street and on the balcony. With God's help we succeeded in bringing healing and hope not only to the kids in the orphanages but also to the old men and women from the home for elderly people and to the young ones from the center for handicapped people. Our Christmas gifts were gifts of His love. Having so many gifts, and in so many places, we had to start a week before Christmas. We started with the boys and girls who live in the apartments. They were happy to get the first Christmas gifts (on the 17th of December). Marilena, Eugenia, Adriana, Tori, and Fanica (NOROC staff) delivered the gifts. Petru is taking photos, of course!) Photo at top, right. The next stop was Mahmudia, where we also



have the program "School Waits for You". Everywhere we went the kids were happy to receive us, sang carols and danced."



Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern:

- For the resources to expand our programs and more opportunities to reach out to those in need.
- For prayers of support: past, present, and future.

From Mary's Desk...

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from college, but there is a disturbing trend in moving the children from place to place so that their education is continuously disrupted. We have to redouble our efforts and outreach in this regards. Education is the key for the children and young adults to break out of their third class status in Romanian society.

Most importantly, we want to expand our efforts in spiritual formation among the children and youth. In this area we are now reaping the fruits of our efforts over the past six years. We now have young adults who are reaching out to the younger youth and bringing them into Bible study and worship.

I want to thank each and every sup-

porter of NOROC. Together we have truly built a ministry in the name of Jesus Christ which brings glory to our Lord. Please pray for us, for without the prayer support of so many Christians all over this country we could not survive. So many miracles and impossible outcomes have been a direct result of prayer. One is the funding and cooperation that has come about for the counseling center mentioned earlier. We need specific prayer that the Department of Protection of Children will give their co-operation for children and youth to be able to participate in our programs.

Peace and Grace,

Mary Ferris

"I want to thank each and every supporter of NOROC. Together we have built a ministry in the name of Jesus Christ which brings glory to our Lord. Please pray for us."

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For the next week the NOROC staff delivered gifts to the centers: Somova, Speranta, and Grandinari, Sambata, Isaacea, and Niculitel. The youth group (mostly young adults in their 20's) rehearsed carols and assisted with the delivering at Cocorii, CRISP, and the home for the elderly. These gifts were truly gifts of love!



If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to NOROC, please mail it to: NOROC, INC, 200 Hedges, Abilene, TX 79605