



## Praise & Prayer Summer 2005

When you read this newsletter EPIC will be 9 years old. I am very happy to celebrate birthdays (apart from my own!) and by mentioning it we have the opportunity to say how grateful we are to everyone who has been involved over the years.

Two Romanian pastors are also very grateful for their new cars. This is not an advert for VW cars, they just happened to choose the same make though different models! Having a reliable car enables them to get on with the job without the stress and anxiety of breaking down on the way to the church.



Gheorghe



Virgil and Viorica

Virgil bought his car just one week before the visit of 14 people from his partner church in Suffolk, so the car was in great demand with so many people to transport around. The group helped renovate some rooms in the church building that will eventually become a home for a full-time pastor. They also had a programme of activities in the village school.



Here are some quotes from members of the team about the visit. *'During the week we made links with the school and visited many times to do activities with the children and meet teachers. They were warm and inviting..... Conveying the Lord's word through singing was a wonderful opportunity to show love to the children of Dragalina. To see their faces smile and watch them join in with the action songs brought us great joy'..... 'The Trandafir family and the people of the church in Dragalina work harder, sleep less and eat more than anyone I have ever met. The love they showed us and the strength of their faith has made a deep impact on me. I will never forget them'.*

And from the church in Dragalina ...*'We want to thank all those who have given their time to be with us and help with our projects and all those back in England who have shown love, given money and joined in prayer. We thank you and praise God, Jesus loves you.'*

A few weeks earlier, Cornel and Sanda Hudulin and a young family from their church came to visit their partner church. This was the return visit as a small group visited Romania last summer. Here are some of the comments from their hosts, ...

*'They were an inspiration and a joy to us. The evangelistic message for our church was so different and challenging, and just what was needed. The visit has brought the two churches in our benefice together - to do more things together. The family encouraged the children in our church and school to become pen-friends with children in the Romanian village church and school. Already some of our children have received replies to their letters.'*



Finally I am writing this newsletter as another Romanian pastor and his wife and two young children are staying with me for a few days before they fly home. They have been visiting their partner church in Essex.



Simona, Viorel, Otniel and Denisa

More quotes.... Viorel said to the vicar's wife, *'although you are rich people you are not proud.'*

*'the family were absolutely delightful'*

*'Christian bonding transcends all nationalities and people who hadn't been to Romania and who met them for the first time in our church fell in love with them, took them to their hearts'.*

Last summer I wrote about a Bulgarian pastor and his wife who were planning a camp for children and teenagers at the same time as their baby was due. Fortunately for everyone the baby was late arriving and the camp went on uninterrupted! I was with them a few weeks ago and heard about the latest plans. This year baby Christian and Benjamin aged 8, will join them for a 2 week camp with about 40 children.



Dani, Ivan, baby Christian and Benjamin

We have just heard that there are severe floods in Bulgaria affecting several folk known to us who are trying to offer comfort to neighbours who have lost homes and animals.

There are many other things that have happened so far this year but no space here to write about them, but without your support (both financial and prayer) none of the above could have taken place. YOU are needed in order for EPIC to grow and expand into new areas of ministry in Eastern Europe.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR

Providing me with a rented house and an office for EPIC just at the right time

Enough money to buy 2 out of the 3 cars needed

The success of exchange visits with more to come this summer

#### PRAY FOR

Mary, wife of Petru in Romania, recovering from an operation for cancer

Children going to Christian camps during the summer

More opportunities to speak about the work in English churches

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