



Praise & Prayer

Winter 2006/7

What an exciting year this has been! The best yet in terms of achievements and gifts. The highlight was seeing so many friends at the Birthday Celebration in July. We had a beautiful summer day and all the guests from Eastern Europe and the UK coming together made it a truly memorable occasion.



John - Romania



Sanda and Cornel - Romania



Daniel - Poland



Daniel & Emilia - Bulgaria



cutting the cake

Amidst the reports and laughter and food, there was a word of warning given by our last speaker of the day. We should not be like Joshua who took success for granted and didn't consult the Lord. We should seek the Lord at all times as we move ahead, and not assume that what we have done before we will do next time. None of us reading this newsletter knows what the future holds - even tomorrow, but we commit our lives and our work to God and trust Him to guide us. As we begin our second decade, EPIC is dedicated to continuing the vision to put churches together for mutual benefit, and to provide material help for Christians in Eastern Europe.

Having mentioned the two new projects in Romania to launch our next decade of work, it was humbling to receive enough 'Birthday presents' to begin them. Mihaela's 'pro-life' trust has the funds to pay her a salary and to look for premises for a counselling centre. On the other side of the country, 10 hectares of land are being purchased for the farm. Plans are progressing to buy animals which will be distributed to members of the church and there is still time for you to sponsor a calf or a piglet or some hens!

If you are like me and enjoy stories with happy endings, here are a few that have been ongoing in recent newsletters.

An elderly couple whose surname means 'rich', but in fact are amongst the poorest I have ever met, recently became Christians at an open-air evangelistic service in their village in Romania. The couple showed Virgil the pastor, their house which was sinking due to the recent floods, and the fact that the walls were made of mud. Thanks to funds from England and a collection in Virgil's home church in Bucharest, the old house was demolished and a new one is being built.



Sam's family have moved into the house he has been building for the past 2 years. It isn't finished, but at last the children are away from the damp and mould of their old flat. Sam doesn't speak English so the only way he can thank friends for their gifts and support is to continue to serve God in the way he knows best - by building the church in Jibou and the one pictured overleaf.

The church in Tuzla, Bosnia has faced opposition this year resulting in them being forced out of their meeting place. Recently they have found another 'home' with better facilities and friendly neighbours, some of whom are getting interested in what is happening in 'the church'. This is a real answer to prayer after so much hostility and insults in the past. They are planning a conference for Christians from Sarajevo, Gorazde and other small towns to teach and encourage those who feel threatened.

A very successful exchange visit this summer was between a church in the south of Bulgaria and one in Suffolk. Ivan, the pastor has two 'dreams'. One is for a camp for children and he is busy renovating a derelict building to be a permanent centre. The other is for a health clinic for his village and work will begin shortly to build two rooms onto the side of the church. Two nurses from the congregation will run it, and consultations and medicines will be free of charge thanks to funds and equipment from England.



The camp last year



November 2006



the church



Ivan & his family in Suffolk

I have written about Friendship Church in Russe Bulgaria many times, but it is such an example of a thriving church reaching out to the local community. They run a lunch club for the poor and elderly each weekday and deliver meals to those unable to come to the church building. Once the cold weather begins people will spend all the day in the warm rooms of the church thus saving heating their own flats. They have a computer club for school children, and provide meals on Sundays for a group of orphans who come to the service and stay on. Now they are embarking on another ambitious project: to have a medical clinic/first aid centre with a full-time nurse. Again funds have been provided and equipment will be sent from England. It should be up and running very soon!

When John from Romania visited us in July, he mentioned his latest need for a church in the village of Santa Maria. The Christians in this village asked for a church with a long back garden that could become a cemetery! So this house was found which fits the bill except that it was falling down, hence the rebuilding! - Sam was busy repairing the walls and roof when I visited.



PRAISE GOD FOR

- All the gifts this year to enable EPIC to increase the work
- Safe travelling and useful trips
- The new partnerships
- The trustees and friends who give of their time

PRAY FOR

- All the poor and elderly who will face hardship this coming winter
- All the pastors who will travel long distances to their churches
- More English churches to get involved

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