



Prayer & Praise

Winter 2008

Looking back over 2008 it's been a year of completions. I often say that in England we talk about projects or ideas for years and rarely do they materialise, but in the following examples, the initial dreams have become reality. The 'protected home' (how it is described in the church in Russe Bulgaria) is open and the young men living there are learning to look after themselves.

The medical room in the same church has been run by the nurse for the past year but now has the services of a doctor for 3 sessions a week paid for by the English partner church.



The young men with their 'carers'



the GP

In the last newsletter we mentioned the need for water to come from a well in Bulgaria, in time to hold a children's camp. The pastor's wife wrote, *"The engineer said the situation was hopeless, but God is the one having the last word so finally we got water! After all the worries the most important thing was that the young people and the children were happy being there, enjoying the many games, and evenings of praises and worship to Lord Jesus all together."*



Scenes from the summer camp



they had so much water they could create a paddling pool!

In September I saw the second crop of beans, peppers and cucumbers growing strong in the greenhouses in Romania. I included photos in the last newsletter so won't repeat them, - after all, a bean in Romania looks much the same as here!

All these projects and many others are funded by your gifts so we humbly say **THANK YOU** for investing in these people and their dreams, *but* we don't want to stop there.

Still on my heart is Petru, the Romanian pastor who dreams of building a small church with some rooms for a local Bible School. We have sent some money to buy the piece of land he wanted but there is nothing left to pay for the building materials.



Amidst beautiful autumn scenery and with perfect weather the first Balkan pastors' conference took place in Croatia. This was organised by 'Living Hope' and was a follow up to the annual conference in Poland. It was felt that pastors from Balkan countries would benefit from a few days together and sharing common problems. Altogether there were 9 countries represented. On the Sunday there was an 'exchange of pulpits' and a Bulgarian pastor went to preach in a Serbian church and a Bosnian pastor preached in a Croat church.

Those of you who have been with us since the beginning of EPIC may remember tales of shoeboxes!! After six consecutive years of taking thousands of boxes to refugee children in former Yugoslavia, I never thought I would get involved again. Ha ha, never say never, with God! I am taking boxes from my own church to our partner church in Bulgaria. There are plans for all the children in the village to be invited to a party to hear about the real meaning of Christmas and to receive a gift. These children are not refugees, just from very poor families. The current financial situation is having its effect even in deepest Bulgaria where fuel prices are higher than here and jobs are scarce.



So what is about to happen in 2009? One of the first things we hope to do is to take out the equipment to furnish a doctor's surgery for the medical centre based at a church in Bulgaria. It is almost finished - the inside looks better than the outside! Many of the village people find it difficult to get into the nearest town to see a doctor, and then they have problems finding the money for his consultation fee, so they are anxiously waiting for the 'free' centre to open.

PRAISE GOD FOR

Enough money to see these dreams fulfilled

Safe travelling and useful trips so far this year

All the exchange visits this year

PRAY FOR

Petru's church and Bible School to be built in 2009

More English churches to want partnerships