



Hello hello, let's make some time for a newsletter.

It's been a while, right? Well, that's because we've been very busy.

First of all we had the ministry work as usual: children's programs, making parcels, fill in or adjust social inquiries...

But second of all we had a barn that needed to be renovated and which needed to be ready for the next transport to arrive. So Jessica jumped into sorting through all the relief goods, making parcels and then getting them ready to hand out to the people, so that the barn could be cleared out.

At the same time I was busy with fixing up the barn. There was concrete poured where needed, we made an extra level and of course some stairs to get upstairs. There were racks made against all the walls, from down until up, so that the new sorting area would be ready to hold the many boxes that were on their way. It became a very handy sorting area. And with its extra level, the stocking area had gained significant volume as well. So, after all the hard labour, the barn was finally ready to welcome the next transport.



Once unloaded = get to work!

Of course we were very curious whether all the relief goods would actually fit inside. But sure enough, with many helping hands and the amazing insight of Rein and Jessica, everything fit. Well, except for the bikes. We immediately starting fixing them up where needed and started distributing them to the people who needed one most of all. This way there are some more dads who now have a bigger chance of being able to go work somewhere and some moms who will be able to bring their child to school with the bike. And boy, do they enjoy that! Also a big thank you to our truck driver Samuel for bringing this transport to Romania once again. Also to everyone who has donated, who helped sort relief goods, ... a big thank you! We cannot say it enough!



A privilege to work with the kids.

In the meantime the summer vacation had started and so we started with extra children's programs. It's so amazing to see the kids enjoy the attention, the different activities, to dance together, to simply be taken out of their difficult reality. And so that's why it's such a big privilege to show them through the art works what a cool God we have! Jessica and Shari worked around the theme of creation the whole summer. Through a fun and creative way, they could pause step by step at how wonderfully everything is made in a very fun and creative way. This time they split the kids up in 2 groups, kids and teens, to be able to work with them even more intensely. They want to strengthen the bond they have with the teenagers as well because we see that more teenage girls get pregnant again at a young age.

” It's so amazing to see how much the kids enjoy the attention ”



Friends and family

We also had the huge privilege to receive visits from friends and family. It's so wonderful to have people around us again, to be able to speak our own language, have encouraging talks and pray together. The many visitors gave us many helping hands with which we were able to get a lot of work done. Because here, vacation means 'to get into it together'. Although we also were able to take some time to enjoy each other and take walks in the beautiful nature that Romania has to offer. To all those who visited us, well, we really enjoyed having you over!

Horrible circumstances in the Roma villages nearby

In the meantime we were also able to visit the Roma village of Orastie and Geoagiu, which was rather exciting to just walk in there.

With 13 in a house of branches

Talking about misery, there's a whole lot of it there! Many houses of only 3 by 3 or 4 by 4 meters, made of branches, without any water or electricity. They live there with their whole family, many times that's grandparents included. There were families living with 13 people in one house, of which some did not have another choice than to sleep outside. And even the ones sleeping inside would simply sleep on the sandy floor.



No clothes and pregnant

Most kids are running around kind of lost, many times without any clothes on. Teenage girls of only 15 walk around pregnant with another 2-year-old on their arm. Even pregnant teenage girls standing on the side of the road selling themselves to just have some kind of income. It's indescribable! We pray that God will also be able to use us there.

Anything is possible

When you compare the villages you notice a very big difference. The dedication with which Dirk and Nicole have been working there for 15 years has definitely bore much fruit. And even now there is still a lot of work to be done in Romos. That's why we can't do anything else than to pray and listen to His will. Else we will be burnt out soon, because there is still a ton of work to do here! Luckily we have a big God and anything is possible with Him.

New school year, new start

In the meantime the new school year has started as well and Marie-Lou experienced her first school days. Every time with a scared heart, but apparently she's doing really well. We're so proud of our little girl! It's strange though after a year and half of being together constantly and having her there with everything we would do. We also started handling the clothing parcels a little differently. Instead of making one parcel per person we now go to the Roma village with a bunch of boxes, sorted on size, and let the people in one by one so that they can pick out a couple of items themselves. They do still need our help for this, because most of them don't have a clue of how to start. They have no idea what their sizes are, because some of them never needed to pick out their own clothes before, so yeah.



A word of thanks

Dear people, we cannot thank you enough for all your support, prayer, encouragements, interest in what we do, ... We appreciate it so much! Sometimes it's very hard, lonely and tough here, but it encourages us so much to just think of all of you. You mean a lot to us. And if it's like this with us, even though we hardly know or don't know some of you at all, how much more does God love you, the One who knows you through and through! It's amazing and such a privilege to live with Him. To be called His children, of the King of Kings! What does that make us then? ... Yes, that's right! Awesome, right?

Do you like our project and would you like to help us, to give others a better life? This can be done by:

Material assistance

(on a hold) You can always email us or our home team.

Financial support

- Can be a single donation or a monthly amount on the following account:

vzw Talmid Ministries

IBAN: BE82 0682 4052 5368

BIC: GKCCBEBB

Always mention 'Familie Priem'

- Or for us in person,

it can be donated on our private account:

Familie Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

Prayer

- That the renovation works may go smoothly.
That we will have enough finances to finish the whole barn.
- financial support for ourselves and our different projects. We also noticed that our house is not in such a good condition as we first thought it was. Our walls are becoming more and more moist, so we have mold, wood rot, sometimes water comes through our wall in the bathroom, ... Now we don't have finances to fix it so please pray that we will get some.
- For all our visitors this summer, that we will be a blessing for each other, that they may see God's work in what we do.
- For His guidance every day, that the people around us may taste of His love and would be willing to choose for Him
- People here are extremely superstitious, that obstructs them in many ways, help us pray to break through this.

Projects

- Maintaining relationships, trying to help in what people need the most (basic needs as making wells, buying a second hand bike to go to work, food, ...)
- Learning more about the Romanian habits, but try to give them a different view where it is needed. Clothing parcels, handing out food parcels
- Children programs (playing games, sports and crafts activities), helping with homework, ...
- But most important: doing everything with the love of God so people can get to know Him

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Thanks to

- Our great Lord for He never leaves us
- Our home church: Effatha church Staden
- To all our sponsors, without you we could not stay here and go on. Thanks for helping us.
- Everybody from our homefront team
- Family and friends
- The Family Soetaert for their warm hearts and to take care of us so well, when we are in Belgium.

"Thank you very much for showing your interest by reading our newsletter, for supporting us and for all the prayers"

Groetjes Tijs, Jessica, Marie-Lou en Lowie Priem.