# Pelunca ON THE FIELD

# Hello, everyone.

## What a special period!

This time a newsletter from a very bizarre and twisted period. Lucky it's almost over!

Halfway through March the children were suddenly no longer allowed to go to school, and barely a week later full lockdown. Only with a correctly filled in document we were allowed to go outside, but only for what was strictly necessary. Everyone knows it by now. Police and gendarmes everywhere, terrible feeling. How could we help people now? So let's find out...

We went to the city hall with the necessary contracts and papers and got official proof that we as an association were still allowed on the job. Of course no more programs and such in which we brought large groups together, the center remained almost closed, but we had a different plan. We started making a thousand food coupons.

We went to some local shops to hear who was interested in working together and one deeply touched lady was very happy and convinced to participate. That lady was, like many I think, overwhelmed and pressed down by fear, Jessica testified of the peace that can be found with the Lord and the lady returned instantly. Her whole vision turned and she was now so happy and full of courage to roll up her sleeves with us. The people of the bread wagon, that drives through the villages every day, were also very enthusiastic.





Support project PeLunca IBAN: BE29 1030 4919 8064 BIC: NICABEBB PayPal: www.paypal.me/pelunca Support familie Priem IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638 BIC: SPAABE22 Always mention: "familie Priem" Tijs, Jessica and Kids www.pelunca.be tijsjessicapriem@pelunca.be thuisfront@pelunca.be

# New project with food stamps

And so, quite unexpectedly, we started a new project. In no time we received donations and started the first week with 80 families. Each of them received a number of coupons, clearly stating what they could pick up at the local shop. So it was about e.g. flour, rice, sugar, ... etc. And they also got three loaves of bread a week. When the bread cart went by we made sure we were there so they didn't get three loaves at once but divided over the week. For the people from the bread wagon it was an impossible task to keep all these hungry people in check, but with Jessica, who knows all the people by name, and Simona, this went very well. Together we also went to buy potatoes, that way, many, many kilograms were handed out to the people.

Donations kept coming and the next four weeks we went from 80 families to 100 and eventually even 125 families. Knowing that most of them are very large families, so all together there are a lot of people who were fed that way.



## Food parcels and seeds

Unfortunately we couldn't do the same in Orăsție. This would just be too much for us alone, plus we don't have everyone in our surveys. For them, we made solid food packets and distributed them.

Also for some people from the Roma village in Romos and in our own village Vaidei several packages were made and given. And in addition, the people also received packages with seeds so they could grow their own vegetables.



# Medical assistance

Also a lot of medication was bought, people ran out of medication and could not go to the pharmacy or simply had no money. Simona mainly took care of this.

And sadly, to make things even more difficult, the family doctor of Geoagiu died. she was so good and kind to the people. Meanwhile months later, still no new doctor. No need to explain that this causes a lot of problems. We will go to the town hall as soon as possible so we can find out which solution will eventually come.

We thank God for all the finances that came from different angles and that we were able to help so many people with food, medicines, ... during this period. Of course there is also a big thank you to all the individuals and all the organizations that helped make this possible. Once again: 'All together we can really make a difference for our fellow man!



## Helping kids with schoolwork

#### Schoolwork

We also brought some homework to the children and tried to find a solution to teach them as much as possible.

Because just as our children now had to be taught at home, this was also expected from the Roma. From parents who do not yet understand the importance of education and who cannot read or write themselves, let alone arithmetic and everything else.

For them this was an impossible task, but for us more reason to put our shoulders underneath it again.



### School is zso important!

Together with Anca, the teacher who helps us in the center with the homework of the kids, we set to work. We paid them a visit. We made a list of all the children. Who and in which class? Then pick the level of the kids individually and get to work.

In the meantime we had two weeks in which we were very active working with the children. Small groups came alternately to the center and we helped them to learn, repeat, expand their knowledge of the alphabet. Step by step, and hopefully they have not lost too much in the past months and will be doing well in September.

## The future

We're curious to see how things will proceed now. When will we be able to start the programs again at the center... All planned groups were cancelled until the end of August, as well as the two annual camps, a lot of visitors,...

What a strange period!



## Lockdown, more time for other things

However, the lockdown period also offered many other possibilities. We visited the Roma village a lot. Even more than before. Visits out of love. Meaning so much for the people, especially in a period like this. We are not afraid to go to them, which they carry in their hearts.

We finally, also had some more time as a family. We weren't really locked up here, because when we walk out of our garden, we just walk up the hills and after a few kilometres into the mountains. In the evening we finally had more time to have a BBQ with our kids alone, or better said, the old wheelbarrow with a grill on it.

We also had some time to rebuild part of the garden and to grow vegetables. And I can guarantee you, Jessica's enjoys this like crazy! Also the chicks are breeding further in the incubator, the kids love to turn the eggs very carefully every day. Hopefully our chickens will give us a lot of eggs. Mmmm, how we will enjoy eating all this!

All right, I'm gonna stop right here. Soon I'm gonna have to go back on the track, mandatory with that mouth mask.

This means that, cause of the humidity my own breath makes in these masks, my beard and moustache will be completely out of shape by the time I get back. No fun! Well, luckily my hair always looks good.

God's blessing to y'all, know that happy are all who seek shelter with Him!

To Him be all honor and glory.



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

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Single donation or monthly amount.

Support project PeLunca:

IBAN: BE29 1030 4919 8064 BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/pelunca

#### Support family Priem:

Family Priem IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638 BIC: SPAABE22

#### PRAYER

- Water damage. Like every year until now, our hall was in water. This leaves behind a dirty layer of clay, broken material and a lot of cleaning work. Already a drainage system was put in place, gutters were hung and the sloping part behind the hall was dug into levels. At the moment we are still laying drains for each level we dug plus we are looking for wider gutters, so hopefully this time enough to get all the water away before it hits the hall. So your prayers for this are greatly appreciated.
- We also fall a bit short in finances for this, all help is more than welcome, because gutters in particular are an expensive joke.
- Because of the whole corona situation all the planned groups and many visits were cancelled. This means a lot less possibilities to help people. Think of building, renovating, as well as finances for this.
- Pray especially for all children who had no programs for months now. Even though we visit them as often as we can and spend more time that way among the people in their village.
- Following the necessary rules, we started the homework club for the children a few weeks ago. We still do this together with teacher Anca. Pray that these lessons will bear fruit and the children will have made enough progress by September, so they will not be left behind compared to the rest.
- Pray certainly also for Miss Anca who always does this voluntarily. That God's wink may be clearly perceptible to her.
- Pray for sufficient finances for the further renovations and expansions of the center. All authorizations and other required papers already cost us 6300€ (of which half has been paid in the meantime), but then the works have yet to start.
- Be sure to pray for one of our regular volunteers, I'd rather not mention a name, but we found out the other day that she seems to be stealing from us regularly for a longer period of time. We caught her red-handed. We carry her very deep in our hearts, so this was just as painful, but we certainly give her another chance. Please pray for her because she certainly hasn't had it easy.
- Pray that we can always understand and do His will. That His name will be glorified in everything.

## **PROJECTS**

- Create social surveys and help with basic needs
- Pelunca Family Files (PFF): build houses, rebuild, purchase stoves.
- Pelunca Food Parcels (PFP): Compose and distirbute food packages
- Provide baby's with powdered milk
- Sort clothing and give packages to the families
- Child- and youth activities (sports, games, relaxation, biblereading
- Medical Support (Doctor, Purchase of medicines, ...)
- Social support (helping teenage mothers, provide ID cards and other papers)

#### CONTACT

Family Priem Vaidei 266 337414 Judetul Hunedoara Romania www.pelunca.be tijsjessicapriem@pelunca.be thuisfront@pelunca.be

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#### THANKS

- we are extremely grateful for the many families in Geoagiu that we were able to provide food every week during this time. We started with 80 and this grew to 125.
- Also the people of other villages occasionally received solid food parcels and seeds to be able to sow themselves.
- Due to the loss of many programs, we had more time to visit families more often and longer. This made our relationships with them even stronger.
- Above all, we are thankful that people praise God for our help and visits. Wonderful how the Roma prayed for more finances for us so that we could help them with food. Their prayers were clearly answered and their thanks to God could not stop.
- Again very grateful for God's miracles. Nice to see how He works in the hearts and lives of different people, but certainly also the healings that continue to take place. Kingdom reality!
- We are also very thankful for the time we had/have as a family. Growing vegetables together, taking care of the animals together, playing together, ... . Finally some more time for this! What a blessing to have each other!
- Above all, grateful that we are called children of the Highest! Grateful for his love and loyalty!

