



hospices of hope

*making every day count
for terminally ill children and adults in
Romania and surrounding countries*

PRAYER LETTER

OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2008

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.
Amen

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OCTOBER



One of the hospice children at the Harghita Camp.

Please pray that the message, faithfully sown, will bear fruit and that the youngsters will be able to grasp the reality of the great love of Jesus as they all face a very uncertain future.

Dr Natasha at Belhospice in Belgrade is still battling with an intransigent government that does not wish to acknowledge that hospice care is needed in Serbia. Please continue to pray that this situation will change, that hard hearts will be softened and that desperately ill people will get the care and love that they need.

Many of our children have been away recently to the Harghita Christian Camp. The camp is the property of and is run by the Hungarian Baptist Churches. The children had a time of fun and relaxation with a lot of time spent learning, in a variety of ways, just how much God loves them.

NOVEMBER

As the winter sets in families will begin to worry about paying their heating bills. Pray that the government will take a more sympathetic approach to the needy and help will be forthcoming. With the entry of Romania to the E.U, it is becoming harder for all charities to raise funds – Romania is now perceived as not being so needy, but this is far from the truth. A large percentage of the population still live in serious poverty and need our prayers and aid.

Chaplains are needed for each multi-disciplinary team for the Rural Mobile Hospice Programme. This means that we must select, train and supervise 2 - 4 new men or women, that we can identify within the local Christian community that feel called to serve in this way. This is a vitally important role within the work of the hospice. Pray that funds will be forthcoming to finance this vision and that the right people will be selected.

A new volunteer from the UK, Heather Williams, has recently gone to Brasov for a 9 month period to help teach English and to work with Ionut. Please pray for Heather, that she will continue to feel at home and that God will use her time and talents to extend His kingdom.

DECEMBER

As Advent starts our thoughts turn naturally to Christmas. This is for many a time of great sadness. Families will be facing the first Christmas without a dearly loved one and many will be facing the reality of their last Christmas. This is especially tough for parents whose young children are in our care. Pray that the deep love and light of Jesus may be able to penetrate this darkness and offer hope and comfort to those who mourn.



We end this year on a note of praise. God has been faithful to us; our work has been fruitful and blessed. We have seen great strides in new legislation that will facilitate hospice work over a wider region. We have seen adults and children freed from pain and come to be aware of the love of God in Christ Jesus. Our supporters have continued to donate generously and we look with faith to 2009.

Church Links

If your church would like to further your links with the charity we would be very happy to send somebody with recent first-hand knowledge of the work of Hospices of Hope to share with you. They can show pictures of the work and will answer questions about the need and the charity's response to the desperate living conditions and health care system still endured by the majority of Romanians. A free DVD is available from the office clearly showing the scope of our work.

Insight Visits

You would be very welcome to join one of our 5 day Insight Visits to see at first-hand the work of the Hospice. Trips are being planned for late April/earlyMay and October 2009. The trip includes a tour of the Hospice in Brasov and an opportunity to spend an afternoon with the home-care team. We will also visit a rural hospice project. In Bucharest there will be some city sight seeing and the opportunity to tour the People's Palace commissioned by Ceausescu. The group will stay at Casa Marina in the mountains just 12 miles from Brasov. Casa Marina is also available for group retreats. Please ring the office on 01959 525110 for further details.

Casa Marina



Hospices of Hope is a Christian charity based in Kent which operates in Romania and south-eastern Europe. It started in 1992 with an Adult home-care team in Brasov followed by an Education Centre in 1997, and in 2002 by the first in-patient Teaching Hospice in the Balkan region. Work is now being carried out in Bucharest, Moldova, Serbia, and in rural areas of Romania. Unlike conventional hospitals, hospice includes emotional and spiritual care alongside physical care.



The banner hanging in the Hospice chapel

“I was sick and you visited me”

Matt 25 v36

Many of the patients are Orthodox Christians and are open to hearing about the hope that Jesus offers them.