



Sărbători Ferice! December 2008

Christmas is that special time of year when we stop to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ. As Christians we know that He is the true reason for Christmas. We search and search for the perfect gifts for those special someones in our lives but no gift can be as special or perfect than the gift that God gave us over 2000 years ago, His Son Jesus. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

Christmas Greetings from Romania to all of our friends and families around the world. It has been another great year and Deb and I have been blessed with many things this past year. We were able to spend 5 months on furlough (the longest we have ever taken in the 8 years we have been here) visiting friends, families and supporters in the UK and the States. We had some highs and lows this past year but the Lord has continued to bless us in every step.

We started out this year very close to placing children into the Home in Jimbolia only to be struck down by the shrinking dollar. New Beginnings had agreed to support the Home but just as we were getting ready to place the first 4 kids into the home, they informed us that they would no longer be able to financially support the Home. But praise be to God! He introduced us to Broken Walls and we have started discussions with Broken Walls about supporting the home. If everything goes according to plan, we could have children placed in the home as soon as February/March of next year.

We had a great summer with several teams visiting Romania. We were able to have a VBS program in Satchinez, build a fire wood shed for the Home in Jimbolia, be part of an English Camp and go to an Aletheia camp for kids! What is 'an Aletheia' camp you ask? This past year we found ourselves working more and more with Aletheia Church in Timișoara, working in their Children's ministries and being a part of a house church group so....we decided to make Aletheia our new church. Although our former church, Vox Domini, was a great church, Aletheia is focused more on Children's ministries and has been a big help in starting the new church (located at the Home) in Jimbolia. Thus we felt that Aletheia was a better fit for what we are doing and to top all of that off we just feel at home there!

This Christmas Deb and I will be staying in Romania and spend the holidays with the kids here at the placement centers and in Jimbolia. What could be better than spending Christmas with the kids in Romania? Thanks to the efforts of Deb's mum and friends, this Christmas will be made even better for the kids! We will have shoe boxes to give out to the kids at the placement centers, Jimbolia and to street kids/needy families. This year Deb was able to see the whole process ... starting with the people who donated goods to the wrapping and filling of the boxes then taking them to the warehouse where Deb, her mum and stepfather packed them into larger boxes ready for transport and ultimately she will be able to place some of them into the children's hands. So a great **big** thanks to everyone who either put together a shoebox, donated items or money for the shoeboxes or towards the cost of transport. A **huge** thanks also to 'Support For Romania' who drove the shoeboxes from Wales to Romania! For some of these Romanian kids, it will be the only gift they will receive this Christmas.

Thank you for all your prayers and support over the past year and thank you for partnering with us in this ministry!

May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives! Have a blessed Christmas!

Steve & Deb

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government
will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be
called "Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

