

How then can
they call on
the one they
have not
believed in?
And how can
they believe
in the one of
whom they
have not
heard? And
how can they
hear without
someone
preaching to
them? And
how can they
preach
unless they
are sent?

Romans
10:14-15

BRINGING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH NEWS OF DT'S MINISTRY

Over the last six months of 2023, the Lord Jesus has been pleased to give us more opportunities to serve him and his Church in Romania, Rwanda and the UK. We thank Jesus for all that he is doing in the lives of people through a variety of projects. We hope you are encouraged as you read! Ω

ROMANIA - PATH OF LIFE / ACV:

by Sorin Maier

Asociația
CAREEA VIETII
Path of Life

In September we had a prayer meeting in Racatau (Cluj – Napoca area) with 45 volunteers who work on prison, to pray together, but also to encourage each other and find solutions for different challenges.



We started a new Mentoring Program in Oradea Prison with 19 inmates. We meet each week with our Apprentices, and all sessions were very good. In December we finished with some good feedback. 14 inmates finish all 12 sessions and we prepare for them diplomas and some books, as a gift. We sang and shared testimonies. We was blessed this year with strong help from Emanuel University students who came along every session on our Mentoring Program.

Top Right:
ACV
mentors
outside
Oradea
Prison.



Right:
ACV Guitar
Class
perform for
their families
at Christmas.

After the summer break, we started Guitar Class again on our office and we finish on 21 December with a great Christmas Celebration. We gave gifts for all kids, and share food at the end. Each week we practice guitar, but also we had a Bible lesson. Sometimes we play a game. 3 students from Emanuel University

help to run lessons and take care of snacks and juice for kids. We had also another 2 ladies: Lavinia and Damaris who lead and plan all meetings. We had a blessing also to use two guitar teachers, because we had about 9 new kids who need special help on guitar. So each week we split to work with beginners and advanced.



Left:
ACV worker
Iosif visiting
one of the
poorest shanty
homes on the
edge of
Oradea.

In October Andy Paine came to visit. Over four days, Andy, with Sorin interpreting, taught our 'On The Edge' course, about working with the marginalised, to students at Emanuel University. We had 31 students who attended. Each afternoon we give students some practical experience: Monday we visit the Prison, Tuesday we visit Night Shelter where we share food with people who live there, and Wednesday we visit a home where 26 kids live. In all the places we sang songs, shared testimonies and teaching from Bible. We also visited a lot of churches where Andy preached and ACV workers have different testimonies about our mission.



Bottom left:
Emanuel
students with
ACV Mentors
outside Oradea
Prison.

Usually we visit Night Shelter once a month, but in November we have help from a church in a village outside Oradea. They prepare food for homeless 6 times on last 6 weeks of this year. This church, by this lady, Voichita, prepare food, but ACV team prepare and lead worship program with songs and also with Bible message each week. We put the seeds and we pray that God come with fruits.

From October we start a new mission in Telechiu with a house (Care system) for 26 children. We visited 5 times with a team of students and in December we visited with a special team from ACV to sing carols and give gifts to each child. There was big joy on kids' faces, a big thanks from the house parent who was very happy to welcome us each time. One Sunday I invited the kids, about 14, to visit one Baptist church where kids can sing and be part of a special Carol Night. It was first time when kids were in an evangelical church. We pray that God continue to work on this special kids.



In December we prepare gifts for inmates when we go in to sing and preach about Jesus on Christmas time. We visit with 13

Helpful abbreviations: DT = Damascus Trust; PTSM = Plenty To Share Ministries; SAP = Support a Pastor/Parish; ADoB = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; ADoG - Anglican Diocese of Gasabo; WHP = Water Harvesting Project; ACV = Asociația Cărarea Vieți (Path of Life Association); TMB = Tamworth Men's Breakfast; EWTB = ENGAGE with the Bible.

students who prepare a lot of carols for inmates who don't have a family or support from nobody. We had also two guests from Budapest – Hungary, who come first time to share about God in Romanian Prison. One was in prison for 30 years, another one for 20 years. So both come to share testimony about how they find God in that difficult time.

On 2 days we visited also around 95 children from family where one of their parents is in prison. 3 cars travelled each day on different area to finish until Christmas time. But it was a big blessing to visit with songs, prayers, yoghurt juice, kids books, clothes for very poor family.

For all that we done we are very thankful to God first, but also to all of our volunteers who helped us to run all of these activities. Also we are thankful to all our partners who support us financially and in prayer. Praise to the Lord that we are free to spread the Gospel all over. So please pray with us that we will share God's work and be fruitful! Ω

RWANDA - DIOCESES OF BYUMBA AND GASABO

Right:
DT Team
Rwanda
2023.
L-R: Andy,
Marelize,
Susanna,
Peter.

It was good to revisit Rwanda again. Our last visit was in 2019, due to Covid-19, so there was much to catch up with. Three others travelled with Andy - Peter and Susanna Harrington and Marelize Wright who are from a SAP Partner Church in Halstead, Crossways Christian Fellowship.



We began our visit in Byumba diocese with a focus on the DT Water Harvesting Projects, as this was

the first time we were able to visit WHP parishes since the scheme was set up in 2019. Whilst Peter and Andy spent time with the WHPs, Susanna and Marelize worked with adults doing some Movement in Worship workshops

Right:
Parachute
games with
children and
a Movement
in Worship
session with
children and
parents
during a
parish visit.



and parachute games with children. It was wonderful to see the impact these activities had, especially the Movement in Worship. Templates for making flags



and banners were left with key people so that they can continue to develop this aspect of their worship.

The WHPs are going well and we were able to clarify the details needed for record keeping and for the use of the different funds benefitting from the income generated. The best aspect of the WHPs was to see how they are empowering the parishes to work and witness more effectively for the Lord Jesus.



Left:
Peter checks
the WHP in
Tumba parish
with WHP
Manager
Damascene
(blue shirt).

Bottom left:
New parish
church in
Rubungu -
outside and
inside!

We then travelled down to Gasabo diocese where we were able to visit five of the parishes included in the SAP programme. There has been a lot of development within the diocese over the last three years, especially in construction of new church buildings. This is partly due to government legislation to improve church facilities, but also to the vision of Archbishop Mbanda. The impact has been huge and congregations are growing, numerically and spiritually as a result.



In our discussion with Abp Mbanda, we were asked if we could run the DT WHP Scheme in another three dioceses (Nyaruguru, Gasabo, and Karongi), so please pray for this as we set them up. We are also making some progress for adding filtration systems into existing WHPs. Please pray for us to make progress in this as well. Ω

DT IN THE UK:

In October/November we ran our seventh **DTAH Bible Course**. The subject of Heaven & Hell presented some important, but challenging, teaching from the Bible. We ran three weekly sessions which were all well attended on the Zoom platform. The next course will be run in **May 2024**. Details available on our website soon. Ω

**BIBLE
TEACHING**
CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE
at home

Damascus Trust was established in 1990 to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people everywhere. It aims to enthuse Christians in their love for Jesus, enable the local Church to reach out into their community and seeks to establish evangelism and nurture as an ongoing aspect of Church life. As a charitable trust, the Damascus Trust relies on gifts and donations. All gifts from those paying tax can benefit the Trust by using Gift Aid for both one-off or regular donations. For more information please visit the Partners page on our web-site.

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