



CALVARY MINISTRIES OUTREACH, INT'L

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Christmas Ministries 2009:

On December 2nd, the team from Ocala, Florida arrived enthusiastic about taking on any task we would assign to them in ministry. *David and Diane Smoot* of “**Net Work Limited**” has felt compelled for many years to lead groups on what we call “**CHRISTMAS IN ROMANIA.**” Unfortunately this year, due to the new arrival of Diane’s newest grandchild she was unable to lead the team. Still a group of five was sent to help us in ministry from “**WINGS OF FAITH FELLOWSHIP,**” **OCALA, FL.** The team was led by *Glenna Clements*. Though this team was small, it was one of the most amazing teams to work with. They were all happy and seemed to be full of life (full of the Holy Spirit). They were ready to be a blessing in any way. I noticed their servant spirit first at the airport when Trudy and I picked them up. After clearing customs we were trying to help them with their containers. Suddenly, all three men stopped us immediately not letting the women lift one thing. Their words were, “*Please, don’t lift those heavy containers let us men do that for you.*” Wow!! For me at that moment I knew we were about to witness a mighty move of God and indeed we did.

Day one: It was packed full of hands on ministry within the building of Ferma Larga. There was lots of cleaning and preparation time getting the building cleaned in order for the services the following days. We had some Romanian men that has been working prior to the team’s arrival plastering walls in some of the rooms within the building. So much work was needed to get things back in order before our ministry days began. The team members never once complained about anything. Actually, I noticed them smiling and singing as they worked diligently to make sure every room was cleaned to its fullest for our Saturday and Sunday services. For example, Pastor Joey sanded down the newly plastered walls, while others cleaned up the left over construction materials and debris in the floors. Then every room was swept and mopped to rid the rooms of the white powder dust that accumulates from the plaster. Even though Pastor Joey was covered from head to toe with white powdery dust and others inhaling much of the dust themselves, none of them ever complained. In fact, they were continually asking me, “what do you want us to do next? We are here to serve!” WOW, I was fully impressed!!

Day two: We headed off to Messenii de Jos and Messenii de Sus (a village that is mostly populated with gypsy families). We first met with the mayor and social worker who so kindly works alongside us to make sure these families are accommodated with the food items that we were about to distribute. However, my favorite part is meeting with them in the “*Culture Center*” where all the families present sing a few of their traditional Christmas songs. All of the team members were overwhelmed at their unique performance. After that, our team sings and a message is preached. The Word is heeded in abundance! Then afterwards, tons of food, fruit, and hygiene items are given to each family and to all of the workers within the mayor’s office. Plus, we also went into the school, which the mayor opened especially for the gypsy children to attend, and provided them with food, fruit, and gift packets.

Day three: This day was packed full of fun ministering to the adult ladies, youth, and children in Ferma Larga/Cojocna. The cleaning and preparation of Calea’s building in Ferma Larga would now pay off. In fact, this was a vision that I have had for years, to see the building packed full of workers and teachers with three services taking place at one time. The building was booming with laughter from every room as every team member and Romanian volunteer worked in one accord to minister the Word of God. Yes, you read right, our Romanian volunteers. I was so proud of all the young people who worked with Trudy and me this summer and their willingness to volunteer their time once again to help make all three services a success. You should have seen them all come together in one accord, the America team and the Romanian volunteers working together as if they had known one another for years. Yet, when the Holy Spirit is present within us, HE is the ONE who brings everything together in ONE ACCORD. I was so proud to hear the children in their class laughing, singing, and having so much fun. In another room, the youth were playing games, laughing and singing with Trudy and her full course band consisting of a guitar, trumpet, clarinet, and a tambourine. What a blessing to hear the praises of God echoing from that room! Then down the hallway in another room were the ladies. Oh my! I barely held back the tears when I entered that room seeing all of the ladies that I had so feverishly poured my heart and soul into during the summer now coming together. The room was packed and the ladies seemed eager to hear the WORD taught. Yet, they all knew me very well; they knew that we would start by having tea, coffee, and some snacks and then fun filled games awaited them. I love to see the ladies smile and laugh along with others as they watch the competition begin between two competitive teams. Shouts of laughter and shouts of encouragement burst through the room as all of the ladies got involved in the games. Yet, the most profound thing to me was when I walked into each room and heard the Word being so profoundly taught to everyone and seeing the children hearing an in-depth Bible story dramatized right before their eyes. Then, in the youth room seeing the young people I have watch grow up before my eyes hearing a profound message geared just for them and having dramatic skits played out to relay the importance of the

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message. What a blessing as I went once again into the ladies Bible study and heard the profound message being taught unto them. My-oh-my!! My heart was filled to the brim just seeing and hearing something take place that had been seeded deep within me for years. GOD WAS INDEED MIGHTY IN THAT PLACE.

Day 4: Sunday Church would be a test of my faith. I was somewhat concerned about the people coming out because it was Election Day in Romania. Yet, by faith the bus driver and I headed off to pick up the families from Cojocna and bus them over for church. All the way, I was praying that God would show His glory. To my amazement, all of the families were ready and waiting on our arrival. The large bus that had been rented for the team was now willingly helping us transport these families to church. The bus was packed full and my heart was racing within me. I felt like crying! Yet, the blessing was not over. God indeed showed HIMSELF to be a GOD OF MIGHTY POWER! Upon our arrival back to the building and getting everything and everyone seen about, I walked into the church room and was taken back to see all of the chairs packed out. The men were having to bring boards and stools in to make seating possible for everyone. WHAT A SIGHT TO BEHOLD!! YEARS OF LABORING FOR THE LORD IN THESE VILLAGES HAD NOW BECOME A BLESSING TO BEHOLD. ALL OF THE HARD TIMES WERE NOW PAYING OFF. ALL OF THE TIMES OF WANTING TO GIVE UP HAD SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A LEAP OF JOY AND A RAY OF HOPE WITHIN ME TO GO ON AND LAY HOLD OF THAT MARK OF MY HIGH CALLING.

Then, Pastor Joey came over to me and handed me a piece of paper. Get this-we had 24 children in the children's church and 79 adults/youth in the main service. **A GRAND TOTAL OF 103** --- yes indeed, what a miracle to behold! Suddenly, before our eyes within a building sitting off in the middle of nowhere, we were flourishing with excitement on this our Lord's Day. What a joy, what hope, this day brought to me!

The last two days in ministering with the team was packed full of distributing food, fruit, hygiene, socks, gloves, and toys to other families in need. This was such a delight to my heart! What a Christmas gift God had given me! No greater joy can fill a heart than to see the fruit of your labor suddenly paying off. Yet, God was not finished with His blessings. On top of all that, God has provided a way so that I would be able to come home once again to have Christmas with my children/grandchildren. I stand in awe of the goodness of God! He delights in pouring out abundantly unto us, His children, when we look to Him as our Supplier.

Thank You:

Again, I want to say "THANK YOU" for all of the support you give into our ministry. Another year has gone by and you have faithfully stood alongside us through your financial gifts and prayer support. You have diligently helped to keep His WORD going forth unto those who may not have heard without your help.

Arrived Safely Home:

I am home in Alabama visiting with family and friends enjoying the Christmas season. However, after the holidays I am open for speaking engagements if anyone would like to hear about the work in Romania. You can contact me at 334-366-2091.

Yours in Christ,
Rita McClure

Happy New Year!

