



Randy & Debbie Bullock

Eastern European Ministries



Romania

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Ukraine

Greeting from Poroskovo Ukraine. We are in the western part of the Ukraine in a area called the Transcarpathia. It stretches between Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. It is the north-western arch of the Carpathian Mountains. It is the Ukraine's only mountainous region, with peaks reaching over 6000 feet. It is a very rural area. There were over 100 Romanian villages listed in ancient chronicles as having existed in this area. Today there is only about 17 to 20 of these villages left. They are scattered all over the region in the mountains. We went last year to Poroskovo to see what the needs were and how we could help.

The needs are great. This village has over 2000 people in it with over half being children. Most of the people in the village can't read or write. They have survived here for about 100 years working the land, cutting timber and hauling it with their horse and wagon. Their homes are small and they have very large families, lots of children everywhere. This village has the highest birth rate in the region. They receive money for the children from the government, so that is a source of income for them. Over half of the women we saw were pregnant and most had a little child with them. There is no running water, just shallow hand dug wells. The children have very little food and most are left to attend to themselves or to take care of the smaller ones while the parents are out working. Some of the children have no clothes or very little clothes on. They heat and cook off on wood stoves.



There is a Baptist church in the village that has been there for about 1 1/2 years. We stayed at the church with Pastor Johnny and his wife Gabi, they are pouring their hearts and lives into these people. Gabi works with the children as they come by the church to help them learn to read and write. Pastor Johnny helps minister to the people in the village. There are so many people with so many needs and it is difficult to teach or train them because of their inability to read or write. They have now had two Baptisms in the church and while we were there on Sunday there were four people that came forward, Praise the Lord!

We took a team of Americans and Romanians there last week to help the Pastor and his wife. Scot and Cathy came from Rich Fork Baptist church. From Romania we had Ade, Lavi, Cami, Dana, and Rebe, and then myself. Winter is setting in and most of them don't have much firewood to heat with. We went and bought a chainsaw and a axe and bought a load of logs from the Romanians and went to work cutting and chopping and stacking.





Scot, Dana, Lavi, and I and a bunch of children worked on this project. Ade, Cathy, Cami, Rebe, and Gabi did things with the children at the church and also went through the village one day to pick up trash. It didn't take long to fill all the garbage bags that we had. Every afternoon at 4:00 we had a service for the children. We sang songs, played a few games, and had bible stories

and questions to help them understand what they heard. We then had a few simple crafts for them, mostly coloring. For many of them this was their first time coloring. The girls made sandwiches during the day so they could pass out to the children as they left, and we had wafers and biscuits for them as well. At the end of each service we passed out clothes, hats, scarfs, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The needs for this village are endless.

Heat is a big problem for many of them, the wood stoves are not too effective or efficient. During the winter they eat mostly potatoes as they grow many potatoes in this region. They keep them in the house to keep them from freezing. One family told us that their wood stove did not keep the house warm enough to keep them from freezing last winter. Please pray for us as we are looking for ways to provide heat for the homes, either by building or purchasing better wood stoves for their homes. But this is a big task as there are many homes. You will see in the pictures the many needs and issues that these people are facing.



Another big issue I would like for you to pray for is education for the children. Most don't go to school, and the few who do usually don't go past 6th or 7th grade as they are needed to work to provide for the family as they get older. We met one girl, her name is Vasilina, she is 12 years old and she brought milk to the pastor and his wife every evening after dark. Her smile was so contagious and we became buddies. I started asking her if she could bring some chocolate milk from her cow. Well, she informed me that

her cow only gave white milk. This went on for a day or two, then I bought a bag of chocolate powder to make chocolate milk and gave it to her and her brother. I told them if they gave the powder to the cow it would give chocolate milk. The next morning her brother was standing out at the gate at sunrise with a pail of milk. They went out and got it and brought it inside as we were sitting down for breakfast and we lifted the lid and there was freshmade chocolate milk from the cow. I had been outdone by a 12 year old! It was the best chocolate milk we had ever had!!! The next evening we went and had our picture taken with her and this chocolate giving cow. Vasilina has touched our lives in so many ways. I asked her what she wants to be when she gets older and she said a Doctor I asked if I could be her first patient. The odds of her finishing school are very slim, but just the fact that she has a dream is awesome. Pray with us, and for her, that the Lord will one day make this dream come true. I could go on and on with what we saw and experienced this week, but here are some pictures that might better describe what we saw and experienced. Please pray for these people and for Pastor Johnny and his wife Gabi as they minister and serve.

Thank you to everyone for all the gifts and the donations that were sent to make this trip possible-clothes, shoes, scarfs, hats, hygiene supplies, craft supplies, money for food, materials, but mostly thank you for your prayers!!

Nihil Sine Deo,

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