

# heart response



... responding to the cry of the orphan and the widow

## Newsletter 14/ Christmas 2018

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**'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress..'(James 1:27)**

### Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter 2018

Heart Response has had a busy build up to the Christmas season with a shoebox gift appeal for the gypsy children who attend the feeding programme in Silivas, a financial appeal for funds to provide Christmas hampers for the poor widows, and our our first Christmas Breakfast fundraiser. A big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to these appeals.

### Pause for Thought

A friend forwarded this anonymous quote to me earlier this year and I thought it brought with it a poignant message for us all as we prepare for Christmas.

*"At the end of life, what really matters is not what we bought, but what we built; not what we got, but what we shared; not our competence, but our character; and not our success, but our significance. Live a life that matters. Live a life of love."*

So this Christmas let us not worry about all the frills and trimmings of Christmas, but instead focus on living a life of love and sharing that love with those we come into contact with whether that be in our homes, on our streets, or on social media.

Thank you for your continued support allowing Heart Response to reach more and more vulnerable people in Romania. May God Bless You. And may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very....

*Merry Christmas*

### Good Samaritan Church

We support the ministries of the Good Samaritan Church in Ocna Mures, Romania. The Good Samaritan church run Sanctuary Orphanage, Gypsy children feeding programmes and work with poor widows and women in local prisons.

### Finding Hope Ministries

Heart Response also support Finding Hope Ministries based in Sibiu, Romania, who work closely with poor gypsy families in the area and also run an orphanage for up to 15 children.

### Charity Christmas Breakfast

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December Heart Response held its first Charity Christmas Breakfast. A small team of volunteers led by Maria Baker and Jade Farn prepared for what turned out to be a very busy morning.

By 10am guests began arriving and then there was a steady flurry of hungry visitors until we finished serving at midday. A mountain of pancakes, bagels and crumpets covered in maple syrup, fresh fruit and yoghurt were served, there was a tombola, a raffle and cup cake decorating. A great festive atmosphere was enjoyed by all throughout the morning.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to raising over £400 for Heart Response at this event.



### Update From Pastor Nico and Caprice Gatea - Founders of the Good Samaritan Mission in Ocna Mures

The mission has been in operation for over 25 years. From the beginning, the Lord has provided for the needs of Romanian children physically and spiritually. In many cases, these children were some of the poorest children in the country. These children lived in impoverished conditions, in broken families, and desperately needed aid. Hope was far from their minds and missing from many lives. But the Lord saw their needs and responded with His love. As a result, thousands of young people's lives have been touched and changed in many ways.

As a free service to the community, the mission teaches religion classes in the elementary and secondary schools, a work started in the schools by Caprice. Her work there continues now through the skilled teaching of others working for the mission, reaching hundreds of youth and teens in the local community. In fact, one of our teachers grew up attending Caprice's classes at school and coming to the feeding program each week. She is a great example of how the Lord is changing lives, taking the changed lives of one generation and allowing them to be used to lift the next generation of children for Christ.



The Lord has made it possible for the mission to impact the lives of the elderly. The Good Samaritan Mission provides meals for many elderly couples and individuals who are unable to care adequately for themselves. In addition, the mission continues its nursing home ministry each week, a ministry of prayer and fellowship for so many older adults isolated from the world by their physical conditions.

The Lord has made it possible for us to do all these things through individual and group sponsors. We know the Lord has placed the children of Romania on so many hearts, and those touched by the Lord have responded with an unbelievable outpouring of love, prayer, and support. Many have sent clothes, food, and funds that are used within our program and extend beyond our mission to many towns throughout Romania. Our sponsors are a blessing to us and the work we have been called to do. Our love and thanks goes out to all who have made Romania, the Good Samaritan Mission, and the poor children part of their lives.

### Jade shares her experiences of her recent trip to Ocna Mures

Romania is now one of my most favourite places to go, the trip in October 2018 was the third time I've visited Ocna Mures with the Heart Response team.

This trip was a very memorable one for me as we got the opportunity to do a lot more than normal as they have unfortunately lost seven workers. These workers helped to keep the Good Samaritan Church and all of the surrounding areas they support running. This has been a massive shock to the system and they are working tirelessly to keep everything on track. But because they've lost all these workers we were put to work in the kitchens chopping vegetables, giving English lessons to the orphanage children, going out to see the widows and much more.

But the part I most look forward to is going to see the children in Sanctuary Orphanage, when you visit you start to build relationships and they are so precious. It's just the most amazing heart warming experience. I can't wait to visit again soon.

Jade x



### Prayer Requests

Please pray for the needs of the Good Samaritan Church and for all of its ministries.

#### Pastor Nico & Caprice Gatea:

For continued healing for Caprice who is still in the USA due to ill health and Nico her husband, the leader of the mission in Ocna Mures, who is with her. Nico has managed to visit over the summer, which has been a blessing, but he hasn't been able to stay for a long period. Please also pray for Bill and Rave Akers as they currently lead the mission in Nico and Caprice's absence.

#### Sanctuary Orphanage:

Please pray for all the children, the workers and their families. The orphanage is finding it difficult to keep workers, which means lack of consistency for the children. There is also need for more workers, but funding is an issue. Also please pray for Angela who works at the orphanage and is currently very sick.

#### Widows:

Please continue to pray for all those who are sick and suffering with little healthcare.

#### Feeding Programmes:

Please pray for the four feeding programmes and the many children who attend each week. This ministry is such a blessing to these children, sometimes it is the only structure they get in their lives and provides the only form of education they receive. Please pray that the seeds being sown into these young lives will grow within them and lead them to give their lives to Jesus.

#### Prison Ministry:

Please continue to pray for the team, namely Rave, Mimi and Sergiu, who travel to the local prison each week to share the gospel message with inmates.

#### Pro Life Centre:

This centre is being used by women from across the town, please continue to pray that more women hear about the centre and come for help and support.

#### Sibiu Finding Hope Ministries:

Please continue pray for Nathan & Anca Merrill, who work closely with poor gypsy families and run a small orphanage. They have plans to start a second orphanage soon, so please pray for God's leading this.

### Charity Mission Statement

- Heart Response is a Christian charity set up to follow Jesus' example of selfless love and support marginalised women and children.
- Heart Response aims to respond practically, financially and prayerfully to Christian ministries, primarily in Romania, serving the needs of desperate women and children in their society.
- Heart Response seeks to raise awareness of the people and projects they support, highlighting the difficulties, but also sharing stories of hope and encouragement.

### A Very Special Thank You to the late Esther Rose

Esther was a supporter of Heart Response from the very beginning. She was one of our hard working knitters, she bought chocolate for the children, and gave generously towards the widows hampers fund each Christmas. Esther passed away recently but she will not be forgotten by Heart Response.

### Heart Response Facebook Page



225 Likes

### An Update For Your Group

We'd love to come and speak to your group and update you on all that we've been doing lately. Please do give us a call if you'd like to book a short talk.



### Your Support

Financial contributions are always needed, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters again and again, but the needs are ongoing. If you feel you'd like to set up a standing order to Heart Response our bank details are as follows:

**Account No:** 00023888

**Sort Code:** 40-52-40

### Prayer Support

Please consider whether you can commit to praying for a specific child regularly. Do get in touch if you feel this is something you could do.

### Practical Support

We are always in need of hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers and blankets. If you have any other items of clothing that you think may be useful for us to send please do get in touch with us, but bear in mind these need to be in good condition.

### Become a 'Friend of Heart Response'

If you would like to receive regular information about heart response and get involved with fundraising or donating you can become an official 'Friend of heart response'. Please contact us for more details.



**If you would like to hold a fundraising event on behalf of Heart Response please do get in touch – We would love to hear from you!**