

heart response



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

Newsletter 15/ Autumn 2019

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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 Autumn Newsletter 2019

Well how this year is flying by, I can't quite believe Christmas is only a couple of months away! We have just launched our Christmas Shoebox Appeal (please see below for more information) and we are now organising, once more, for the funding of food hampers to be distributed to the elderly. Over the past few months parcels of your knitted items have been regularly sent out to Romania and as the cold weather sets in many will be taking advantage of your donations. Thank you once again to all those who support the charity, you are truly making a wonderful difference.

Best wishes, Tish Robberts, Charity Chairman

Pause for Thought

You are my friends if you do what I command- John 15:1

As a little boy growing up in Ghana, I enjoyed holding my father's hand and walking with him in crowded places. He was both my father and my friend, for holding hands in my culture is a mark of true friendship. Walking along, we would talk about a variety of subjects. Whenever I felt lonely, I found consolation with my father. How I valued our companionship The Lord Jesus called His followers friends, and He showed them the marks of His friendship. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you," He said even laying down His life for them. He showed them His kingdom business. He taught them everything God had given Him. And He gave them opportunity to share in His mission as our Companion for life, Jesus walks with us. He listens to our heartaches and our desires. When we're lonely and downhearted, our Friend Jesus keeps company with us. And our companionship with Jesus is tighter when we love each other and obey His commands.

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.

Heart Response Facebook Page

 246 Likes

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

We also support Finding Hope Ministries based in Sibiu, Romania, who work closely with poor gypsy families in the area. They run an orphanage for up to 15 children and are now in the process of opening up a second orphanage.

Knitted Donations

Three more parcels of knitted items have recently been distributed to poor families in Romania, thank you to all those who continue to knit of us.



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SHOEBOX APPEAL 2019

For Marginalised Children and Teenagers in Romania



DONATIONS NEEDED:

We're asking that you choose an age and a gender of a child you would like to buy for and then fill a decorated shoebox with everything from the list below. Please remember to label your box with the age and gender of the child and please do not seal it.

Boy/Girl *5-7yrs *8-10yrs *11-12yrs *13-15yrs

- Tooth Brush, Flannel, Comb (no soap or toothpaste)
- Hat, Scarf and Gloves
- A Vest, Pair of Socks, Knickers/Pants
- Pens, Pencils or Crayons
- Small Notebook or Colouring Book
- Small Toy (Ideas: Lego, Puzzle, Car, Yoyo, Ball)
- Stickers
- Hair Accessories (for girls)
- A small donation of a £1 to go towards shipping

All donations need to be made by 11th November

They can be handed in at Dorchester Tourist Information Centre and Dorchester Family Church or please call us and we can collect from you

www.heart-response.org.uk
Tel: 07880607684

February Visit Update - Brad Mason

In February this year a team of eight of us went out to Romania to work alongside the Good Samaritan Church in Ocna Mures. To be honest I wasn't completely sure what to expect. I knew we'd see poverty, I knew we'd see hardship, but I also knew we'd see a group of people passionate to make a difference.

In our very comfortable Dorset church, we don't see and experience the struggles that are an everyday reality for so many people around the world. Our week in Romania opened my eyes to what we are all called to do; to love and care for those around us. Not just talking about loving our neighbour, but actually doing it.

We spent pretty much every waking moment of the week working alongside the various Church projects. Getting involved in their feeding programmes, visiting the sick and elderly, sorting clothing and food, cooking meals and helping at the orphanage. You name it, we got involved. And we loved it. Each evening we would chat about our day's activities, and there was never a complaint about the hard work. There was just an excitement for the opportunity to actually be involved in something that was making a difference to people's lives.

For many people living in Ocna Mures sickness and poverty makes life incredibly hard. We had the privilege to visit many families in their homes and to hear their stories. Many of the elderly never left their houses, and some of the sick never left their beds. It was heartbreaking to see, but at the same time amazing that their love and faith in God was sustaining them, and giving them a joy that transcended their situation. We witnessed a church that didn't just say 'come and join us' but sacrificially went out and made a difference; a real example of what God was calling every church to do.

I've often heard it said that if you go out of your way to bless others you'll also be blessed. Our week in Romania demonstrated just that. We were given the opportunity to put our faith into action and our lives were made richer by the experience. I would encourage everyone to visit Ocna Mures if you get the chance. God never intended churches to be just about nice songs and wise words; his desire is that Churches demonstrate their love with their actions; and the Good Samaritan Church is doing just that.



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!

Special Thank Yous

A big thank you to all of our supporters, who not only contribute financially, but practically. Also thank you to all those who pray regularly for the work of the Good Samaritan Church in Romania, you are all such a blessing to the ministry.

Updates

We'd love to come and update your group 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.

Prayer Requests

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

Pastor Nico and Caprice Gatea

Please pray for Caprice who has just returned from the US to Romania for a short visit after a period of illness and Nico her husband, who has been managing regular visits from the US, which has been a blessing, but he hasn't been able to stay for a long periods. 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.

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, feeding over 400 children per week and the many children who attend. 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, mainly Rave and Mimi, who travel to the local prison each week to share the gospel message with inmates. Currently they are working with up to 40 women.

Sibiu Finding Hope Ministries

Please pray for Nathan & Anca Merrill, who work closely with poor gypsy families and also run a small orphanage. The need in and around Sibiu is great and can be quite overwhelming, so please pray God will guide this mission daily.

Heart Response Charity

Please pray as we embark on a new chapter that we keep our focus on the Lord and are able to discern His will for the organisation.

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.

