

BEV'S NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016



JUNE

Most people are winding down now for a summer holiday but I found myself turning up the tempo. I translated all the Spring reports – disabled camp, chickens, seeds, potato seeds, as well as some regular reports for Day Centres and 5 prayer letters for various staff. There was a huge storm that left lakes of water in awkward places followed by oppressive heat. I taught Oxana and Igor intensive English for that month in the afternoons, melting in the heat, a whiteboard was bought for me specially. Then suddenly Love Moldova was upon us.



LOVE MOLDOVA B



I went to Gradinitza, ostensibly as book keeper, but I was prevailed upon for translation here and there. Sunday morning, I was called forward to take up a microphone and translate a guest speaker's sermon and the pastor's call to worship – you can imagine my horror when he turned to the book of Revelation! Friday evening, he gave his awe-inspiring testimony which I translated from the front for at least half an hour. We did some children's programs and I went shopping for food twice, in the afternoons we divided into two teams and did some house visits, I went with one group as the translator. It was an incredible time – I managed to hide from others just how far outside my comfort zone I was actually functioning!

For the second half of the outreach I was present at the vulnerable girls' camp at which 160 girls attended. Sadly, two were sent home because they had head lice and the first day it was too cold to go to the swimming pool, otherwise everything went well. I did some evening visits, saying good night to some of the girls as translator for a small group, we were all aware of how we were skimming the surface and that we needed God to touch lives with hope. Some of the stories we heard were harrowing, I'd like to share a story which I had actually translated a written account of quite some time ago, hearing it from her own mouth was a different experience altogether.



Anna*, aged 13, "My father drank a lot and he often used to beat my mother so my 2 brothers and I would hide. I would have had an older sister but he kicked her whilst she was pregnant and the baby died shortly after she was born. When I was 6, my mother was in the kitchen cooking, my father came in and they started arguing. Then he stabbed her with the pitchfork he was carrying and slashed her with the knife he seized from her. She was in a coma for a year. At the end of the year they called us in to say goodbye to her and as my youngest brother cried, she woke up. My mother forgave my father so he was only given 8 years. I shake when I hear his name, he has threatened to kill us all, he will be released this August. I live with my uncle during the summer, he pays me to look after my cousins, I don't spend very much time with my mother. I hope my father won't be able to find me, I want to be a woman's doctor when I'm older."



LOVE MOLDOVA C

I had a small break in which I attempted to recover from a heavy cold and then launched into love Moldova C- Horse and Cart. We spent time in the villages of Abaclia, Carabetovca (Rom) Basarabeasca, Tvardita (towns) Chiriat Lunga, and Joltai (Rus) – travelling by Horse and Cart. We visited 26 families with a food parcel, gave out 8 Bibles and ran 3 children's programs. I went as translator – it is exhausting work, I work all day, I translate absolutely everything; in and out of Russian, English and Romanian; morning devotions, church services, sermons, testimonies, encouragements, dramas, instructions, dialogues at the families we visit, evaluation at the end of the day; and yet I remain virtually invisible. I'd like to share with you one of the visits we made in Carabetovca:



Evdochia, is in her 80's and from a gypsy family. She had had 3 children but her son died in a car accident some 30 years ago leaving behind a widow and two children. Evdochia's husband died two years later. When we asked her if she was going to heaven she explained to us that she was sure that her son was in heaven because he had died between Easter and Pentecost – which is when the gates of heaven are open – she said – but she wasn't sure about herself. Shocked by this teaching Dean revealed to her the truth that when Jesus died the curtain to the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom indicating that the Gates of Heaven are now open to anyone who believes in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. We prayed with her and gave her a Bible so she could check this out for herself.

We went to Romania for our team retreat and this year it was merely a 7 hour journey. We stayed for a few days, hanging out, resting and getting refreshed. There were two highlight – the first: a short leisurely stroll towards a mountain top which turned into a long upward hike – the red route signs having totally disappeared. The second highlight was when we visited a monastery - for the sake of modesty anyone wearing something above the knee was given a sarong to wear: the guys looked superb! When I returned, I moved house.



FUTURE PLANS -SEPTEMBER

In the beginning of September, I will be visiting all my Centres to do evaluations and take down some case studies. Then I will be classifying the children from the 360 case studies.

I will have around 15 general Centre reports to be occupying myself with, because there have been no reports across the summer. There are also two reports connected to the Love Moldova outreaches; Bibles and Food Parcels and the School Supplies report. I believe there is a Goat report somewhere and possibly two Playgrounds...

I plan to begin teaching English three days a week somewhere towards the end of September. I am motivated to equip Moldovans to be the translators for next year!!!

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God that I have moved house smoothly.
- Pray for the people I have mentioned specifically
- Pray for the churches who have been encouraged to share the gospel this summer.
- Pray for me and my future students – for patience, creativity and time.
- Ask God to reveal Himself to those who are hungry for Him: the elderly who are helpless and lost and the youth who have no hope.
- Thank God for the opportunities we have to introduce others to Him

