Smiles 100 Love Club

Showing Love to Children living with Family difficulties

Newsletter August 2009

Dear Friends **Edition 2**

Welcome to the second edition of the Smiles 100 Love Club Newsletter. We are so thankful for your support and participation in the work of Smiles. **Club 100** supports very important projects and all are impacting the lives of many in the Name of Christ. We hope you enjoy this update and will contact us with any questions. Please share the work with others and request more Newsletters if you need them.

SPECIAL FEATURE – SALARD GYPSY COMMUNITY

The projects of **Smiles 100 Love Club** include a lot of children and through our various activities we endeavour to **share God's Love,** in a meaningful and practical way. There are many children in Romania who need to know what Love is and most importantly, that they are loved. The children in the Gypsy community of Salard have lots of problems. They live in shacks that cannot really be called homes. They survive in a difficult world of poverty, meaning lack of food, clothes, hygiene and education. They are treated as less than human by society and majority of their neighbours.



The Smiles Foundation, through all its projects, desires to share the gospel with those who feel forgotten, neglected and vulnerable. As St Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel always and where must, use words." Many of the people Smiles help, need action more than words. The Smiles Foundation specialises in Action!



Smiles decided to organise for the children of Salard, a Holiday Bible Club / VBS programme - but we knew that it would not be straightforward. The children's horrific home environment means that many of them have severe behavioural problems, so we knew that we would need a lot of support in order to be able to carry out the ministry. **A local pastor** was enthusiastic and wanted to get involved, delighted to have some help and support to reach the community. We were thrilled at the ways in which God provided for all the needs for this programme, and were very excited to be able to go ahead with the ministry.



The programme was very busy with preparation and rehearsal each morning, then going to the village in the afternoon. It was incredible to see how many children and adults came along and it seemed that it would be impossible to get them all into the tiny church building... but yet again God did the impossible and **we managed to cram over 120 people into the room**! It was so difficult to get the children quiet, but as soon as the puppets came out they were so silent that you could hardly hear them breathing! It was an amazing sight so see children and teenagers of all ages sitting motionless, entranced by the puppet show. **Puppets are an excellent medium to use to share the gospel** as the children pay attention to every word they say. With temperatures around 38C / 100F and with so many in a small room, it was hard, hot work but the kids enjoyed the time immensely.



The following week God blessed us still further by enabling us to find a bigger venue even closer to the community, which was wonderful and allowed us to run the whole programme in more comfortable conditions. The children were so well behaved when they were entertained , especially by the puppets, so we were able to share the gospel very clearly. They were also able to enjoy drama, singing, arts, crafts and games.

Cihei Family Centre - Gepiu Community Project -Emergency Housing Unit
Bratca State Hospital - Housing Project - Salard Gypsy Community

Smiles want these children to know that even though they are so poor they are in fact very special to God – and He desires to see their circumstances improve. God cares about their needs and is using His people to reach out and provide – Homes, Food, Clothing, Medicine and the Truth of the Gospel. We explained this as clearly as possible during the three day programme in Salard.

These children and their families have very little hope in this world. Smiles has already been involved in ministering to the social needs of this village for 2 years aiming to give them a hope for a brighter future Please pray with us that God will work in their hearts so that they will come to have the most glorious hope of all – hope in Him.

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Project Updates:

In addition to Salard, these projects form the Smiles 100 Love Club



- **Cihei Family Centre including the new Crisis Centre:**
  Expanding the facility of the Cihei Children's Centre to include Family was the right decision. Now we are launching the Crisis Care project planned to support young mothers. Already we have 2 mothers and babies, one just 10 days old when he arrived, alongside 5 other children in the centre.
- **Gepiu Community Project:**
  The Gepiu farm has had an amazingly productive summer with fruit, vegetables, sunflowers as well as chicks and piglets on the farm! Also the Gepiu youngsters were able to go to Summer Camp again this year, thanks to the generosity of sponsors.



- **Emergency Housing Unit:**
  The unfortunate fact of domestic violence keeps our EHU busy, giving security as well as counselling and advice to those seeking refuge and safety within the Smiles project.
- **Bratca State Hospital:**
  Summer Mission Teams have meant plenty of excitement at Bratca with regular visits for delivery of urgent supplies and support as well as games and a fun time for the patients.



- **Housing Project:**
  Further renovations and restorations have been progressed over the summer through the Mission Teams, allowing us to turn houses into homes for those in need through eviction and homelessness.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the families and especially the children impacted every day by these projects.
2. Pray for the staff who serve and care for them that they can show Jesus and His Love in all they do.
3. Pray for guidance in staff appointments for all projects. That we will have people who care, as Jesus cared, for all people, families, children and the elderly, the sick, the lonely and the poor.
4. Pray for the residents of our Emergency Housing Unit. Traumatised by the ugliness of this world, that they can find Love, Peace and Security—not just in Smiles, but in Jesus.
5. Pray for the continued provision of Houses for the Homeless and that we will have the resources to repair and maintain to the minimum standards we'd expect for our home.
6. Pray for the people in Salard still waiting for a safer place to live. That we will soon be able to convert more Containers and provide these people the basic need of a home.

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