Showing Love to Children living with Family difficulties

Newsletter August 2010

Dear Friends **Edition 4**

Welcome to the fourth 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 – "I lived in Oradea until I was 9 years old. I started to smoke when I was 6 years old and I was the young brother who started the fights in my neighbourhood when my older brothers were going to beat somebody. At the age of 8, I was an accomplice in the theft of cars. But when I was 9, I moved from the city with my family to the rural community of Gepiu. Leaving the city gave me the opportunity to stop smoking.



I was in 3rd grade at school, I was a good student and I was attending the Sunday school at church and I was giving my best to do good, but sadly, not for very long, because after a year and a half, I had the same circle of friends in town but this time it was much worse. My parents broke up because of misunderstandings and conflicts. I started to drink, to smoke and it made me think I am somebody important which is why I became pretty aggressive. Until 5th grade I used to be best in my class, but in 6th grade I was below the average, I didn't care about anything but girls, alcohol, clubs and many other bad things. Due to the problems I had in school, because I almost beat my teacher and I was making a lot of noise during the class time, due to my problems with police regarding theft and other bad things and also because I couldn't understand my father, I decided to run away from home. But thankfully, this didn't happen.





In 2004 I started to attend the youth meetings from church, but I only wanted to make fun of the youth that were leading in worship. All these things happened before I was 14 years old. After a while a young family came in the village and with God's help through The Smiles Foundation, they started work with the youth. I attended the youth meetings, but I didn't give up to my old life. One Monday, my class-mates asked me to go with them to the church because there was an evangelism week, but I didn't accept their invitation. Tuesday they called me again without any results and Wednesday they told me that my other friends became Christians. I decided to go to church and check it out and I was amazed by the enthusiasm and the joy on their faces. I wanted to have the same joy but I didn't know what to do for that.

Next day was a youth meeting where the man that was leading the meeting asked some questions that I had asked myself many times. This helped me a lot and after that evening I talked with that young man and I told him that I wanted to become a Christian. On 10th of February 2005 I decided to follow Jesus Christ and to put myself in the arms of God.

I had a time for preparation in order to be baptized and after a month I received a guitar from **The Smiles Foundation**. I've now served the Lord more than 5 years playing the guitar with the same enthusiasm as in the beginning. I am playing the guitar during the youth meetings at church and occasionally when we have the elderly luncheon and the meetings with the teenagers that The Smiles Foundation organise."

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



This is a part of Lica's testimony. He became a Christian because somebody, one day took time to listen and answer his questions. Since then, Smiles has played an important role in his life. Smiles was there for Lica when he needed a friend, we've been there when he needed a shoulder to cry on with his problems, we've been there for him when he needed a computer to help him with studies, we've been there for him when he wanted to play guitar or drums, we've been there for him when he needed transport to the high school in Oradea so he can continue his education.

In the last 6 years we've been there for him - to listen, to support, to pray, to help, to rejoice, to cry and more than anything - to show Gods love. **Now he needs us again.** This summer he finishes high school and he wants to go to university, it is a dream he has, but this dream is costing him a lot of money, money that he or his family does not have. And even if his father had the money, he wouldn't give it to him, because his son's education in not a priority. At this moment in time the only thing Lica knows is that God is The Provider. He provided in the past and He will not turn his back on him now.

The cost of one year in university will be £720/$1080, (£60/$90 per month). For some that is a lot, for others it is nothing…for Lica it is everything…it is stopping his dream to become reality.

We know that every single person reading this newsletter can help in one way or another. Some will help by praying for him and his situation, we know when prayers go up, blessings come down. Some will help by sharing his story with friends and family. Some will help by coming to Romania and encouraging him with your own testimonies. Some will help by sending a gift to cover his costs. Please help in any way God leads you.

We will close with this beautiful quotation –

"Blessed are those who give without remembering and blessed are those who receive without forgetting."

We will never forget your investment in Lica's life…Thank you and be blessed.

The Gepiu Team.



The Gepiu Team and Young People

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 crucial work of the Cihei Crisis Centre, that Love and Hope will have a new meaning as they see Jesus.
6. Pray for the development of the work in Salard as we begin new initiatives with the local authorities.

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