



*Sharing the Faith and Making Disciples*

# Newsletter December 2009

Edition 2

Dear Friends

Welcome to the second edition of the **Smiles 400 Faith Club Newsletter**. We are very grateful for your continued support of the projects within the Smiles 400 Faith Club which covers all aspects of the work with the Tileagd Roma community and the surrounding area. We hope you enjoy this update and should you have questions or require further copies, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Special Feature: The Smiles 400 Faith Club is about supporting the projects in Tileagd.

The **Nursery, Kindergarten and School** serve over 150 children, many getting education for the first time in their lives enabling them to build for a better future that Education, Employment and the resulting Self-esteem will bring. The 400 Club also supports the Medical Centre which includes General Practice medicine administered by Dr Claudia and Nurse Dana, our Dental Surgery with dentist Dr Calin who now serves over 200 people with their dental needs along with our Optometry facility overseen by UK Optometrist Chris Calow and American Eye doctor, Jim Watts.

To complete the projects in Tileagd, we have the **Tileagd Community Church** with a team-ministry of Pastor Ilie, Titus, Adi and Marian coordinated by Maria Cimpoca and Kevin Hoy as this project culminates all our efforts in Tileagd to 'Transform' lives through Faith in Christ. This month has been a wonderful opportunity to see the fruits of the work and how your support is making the difference in the daily lives of so many.



During the December Mission Trip, we had the Christmas Presentation by the School, Kindergarten and Nursery. Under our Director, Clara Ungureanu, the staff and children are all doing wonderfully well. It was so satisfying and delightful to see the Singing, Dancing, Acting and Recitals from all the children. Costumes made in School, the Guitar Class played for us and the Gypsy culture encouraged with a Dance presentation. All was so beautifully completed when the visiting Santa distributed SOS (Sack of Smiles) to every child, creating the largest number of gathered SMILES in one place – certainly in Tileagd!



It was also tremendous to reach out during the **recent Mission Trip to Medical needs** within the community. The Dental and Optometry departments provide a much greater quality of life for those under our care. Regular Dental treatment and Eye examinations are so important for children and adults to provide the opportunities that we become accustomed to. Without doubt, the greatest blessing for us in support of the **400 Faith Club** is fruit being seen in the Tileagd Community Church. The ministry team has worked very well this year to provide the greatest impact through Bible Teaching and Discipleship, Music and Worship, Prayer and Counselling – and all are actively programmed each and every week.

During December, Smiles organised our first '**Revival Outreach**' programme for three consecutive nights, with special guest speaker from Bucharest, Costel Ghioanca. We also had some wonderful music provided each night – firstly on the Thursday, a local Gypsy Worship Band, on Friday – the Youth from Gepiu organised by Georgi and Adi led some beautiful praise and worship before Saturday we had a Praise Concert with the group 'Evangelica' which included on guitar, none other than our own Marius Pop, Social Worker by day, Outreach Group musician by night!

The folks at Tileagd loved the whole experience and the message preached each day was loud and clear. The First Christmas wasn't only about Celebrating the Birth of Christ, it was about Celebrating a 'Cure for Sin'. That Jesus Coming into the World was the first step to fulfilling the Scriptures that would take Him to the Cross – Experience Death – and then Rise to Life, allowing us the opportunity to '**Transform**' our lives through Faith in Him.



Tileagd Community Complex

As we see another year draw to a close, we also see change – real change – taking place in the lives of the Tileagd people. Nearly 10 years ago now, many said it couldn't happen. The Gypsies would never change. We shouldn't waste our time or money on them and better to invest in other areas. But, all those years ago, we knew God so loved the Tileagd Community, **He wanted to reach out and show them 'how much' He loved them.** God only needed some willing 'Hands and Feet' to do His Work among the people of Tileagd.



Thankfully, there have been many offering their hands and feet to represent Christ to this impoverished Community. Through them, His Work has been done and His Love has been expressed in a meaningful way and as a result, the Tileagd people are turning to Christ to transform their lives, giving them new direction as they begin to understand the 'Plan and Purpose' He has for them.

**Seven have now been through Believers Baptism** and in 2010, several more want to follow the Lord's example and teaching, and we trust we shall see many testifying to their new faith in Christ and sharing that faith with their Community and friends.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated and consistent work of the Smiles Foundation in Tileagd through the projects of the **400 Faith Club**. Whether through the School, Medical Centre or

Church – Smiles endeavours to demonstrate the fundamental importance of having our lives 'Transformed' through Faith and that is what the 400 Club is all about.

We have more children wanting to attend our School and Nursery. More medical care to be undertaken as resources allow and a Church programme that is never short of ideas in how to express God's Love for each person in the community, regardless of their circumstances or mistakes in the past – God Loves them as they are today and with a Heart given to Him – **He can and will Transform.**



**We are thankful for your support to the work and pray more will join the 400 Faith Club to enable us to expand the work to reach more people in Tileagd during the coming year. We thank you for your part in this miracle – giving God all the Glory for what He has done in Tileagd.**

## Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Nursery, Kindergarten and School. For the impact education is having on the lives of the children in Tileagd.
2. Pray for the Medical Services of the Tileagd Community Complex, including Dental and Optometry.
3. Pray for the Gypsy Community for their continued adjustment to a different life from the past and the support they need to succeed.
4. Pray for the work of the Children's Choir with their efforts to promote the work of Smiles and the impact it makes on the lives of the Choir members.
5. Pray for the ministry at Tileagd Community Church especially the children's work, youth work and family ministry. Pray for decisions for Christ and transformed lives.
6. Pray for the unity and co-ordination of the ministry team members at Tileagd.

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