



Happy New Year to you all!!! We pray that 2012 will be a year of abundant blessings for you all and that God will give you the desires of your heart, and use you mightily for His Glory!!

For us here in Poiana 2011 was a really difficult year both as a family and as a church, but we have finished the year stronger than we started, and we are really looking forward to what 2012 has in store!!

So much has happened this last month and God has blessed the people here in fantastic ways!

The month started with the arrival of the lorry of aid sent by the Hamby Foundation and we would like to thank everyone who donated items for Poiana. We don't want to mention any names at the risk of leaving anyone out, so please forgive us if we don't mention you personally...but THANK YOU for everything that you donated in every way. It is a real blessing to the people here and very much needed! There were clothes, shoes, bedding, food, books, DVDs and computers on the lorry for us and we were able to give every single person in the church some new clothes and shoes. We will also be able to have a computer room for the children and teenagers in the village with the possibility of having a place for them to come to do their homework. We have already cleared our dining room downstairs in preparation for this new venture.

A new little girl, Andreea (5) has been coming to TNT (the children's club) and church. Andreea has two younger siblings and her mother is due another baby any day now, so Andreea sometimes has to babysit her younger brother and sister. Because the lorry arrived, we were able to help this family out with clothing and also for the new arrival. When we took the box of items to the house the mother burst into tears as she didn't know how she was going to provide all these items

for the new baby and her family. Everything that you send is so needed and makes such a difference to the people here in Poiana.

Andreea and her little brother Marcel



We also had two Romanian brothers, who live in Austria, come and visit 6 of the families with food parcels.

The highlight of the month, for the children especially, was the arrival of the shoe box Christmas presents this year we got the whole amount from the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire area. We would like to say a big thank you to Pete and Lyn Towlson and their team who have been collecting, sorting and wrapping the presents for the children. More on the shoe boxes later!

Also with the shoe boxes arrived many other items such as chairs and tables for the children, clothes, shoes, bedding and some outdoor sports equipment so in January we will be able to help more people in the village with these very much needed resources ☺

The two weeks running up to Christmas are extremely busy but are also two of the most special times of the year.

The week before Christmas the children had the shop where they could spend their hard earned dollars from the children's club. It is always an exciting time for them and we are always so amazed at how God provided for these shops. We are often so touched by these children, as many of them buy for their families before they buy something for themselves and it is just so special.

The Sunday before Christmas we had our special Christmas service where the children had prepared a short programme of songs, poems and puppets for the adults. It always amazes us that it all comes together or in day...it definitely takes a lot of prayer!

In the evening we were totally blessed! The one time of the year we miss the UK more than ever is at Christmas time with the carols services, etc. This year the International Church of Constanta held their first ever Carol concert. We were expecting a good time but it was so much more than what we expected! From beginning to end it was full of carols that we sing in the UK. It was such a special night to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with people from Romania, Sweden, the UK, The USA, Norway and many countries in Africa!

On the week leading up to Christmas we had our annual Christmas meal where we served a 3 course meal and had a time reflecting on the blessings that God had given us this year. It was really special.

Also we had a man Doug from the USA with us and he had bought the new modern translation of the Romanian bible for the people who wanted them. This means that we will all have the same translation and some people have the full bible for the first time!



One of the tables at the Church meal

During this week we were also able to visit the school celebrations and as usual had a great time watching the children perform the programmes that they had prepared and give out the presents. It is also a great time to meet the parents and families of the children.

That same afternoon we went round the village with the children carol singing and our tradition is to give to the people we visit, and not receive anything. We take little parcels of chocolates to the people and more often than not we are received with great happiness and tears. We also had a special person join us this year as we went carol singing...Mos Craciun (Father Christmas). For the last few years Alistair used to do this with us but now that he is in Austria we were

missing a Father Christmas. The children volunteered Alex and to our amazement he said yes. When we went to the doors, even the little children who knew Alex really well thought he was the real Father Christmas 😊



On the Friday we had the Christmas parties, all three of them, and we had a great day! We had games, lots of fun, hot dogs, chocolates and the shoe box presents. We had children from as young as 2 years old up to 17 come to the parties and everyone of them went home happy!!



Please follow the link at the end of the newsletter to see all the pictures from the week...you will be blessed!

Also during the week we were able to give out more shoe boxes to the children who we hadn't seen already. One thing we try to do every year, as well as the church meal, is give out food parcels to the families and this year was no different, again due to your generosity. We were able to provide for 13 families and gave them parcels with pasta, rice, mamaliga, oil, coffee, tea, tinned fruit, chocolates, fruit and chicken.

We are always so astounded at the ways people raise funds for the various situations that arise here and we always like to tell the people here how it is done, as it really encourages them.

One church in Ilkeston cooked a Romanian meal and this year had around 40 people attend. Our home church in Mold sold some chocolate lollies and cookery books, another church in Langley Mill held a craft fair to raise the funds to send the shoe boxes. Many of you have given sacrificially this year and words cannot say thank you enough. We are so thankful to every one of you and for your continued love, support and prayers and we pray that God will bless you in everything that you do.

Since our last newsletter your generosity has provided for all the things we have mentioned up till now but also for some other very important things. We were able to provide **wood for the whole of the winter for 3 families!** Also **Nuta's electricity** was provided for and this family had electricity for Christmas. **Angela's family** needed a huge amount of money to have electricity in their new home and 2/3 rds of the money has been provided for that also.



Laura and Eugen with their wood. Eugen has a physical disability and finds it very difficult to find steady employment. They had **no** money for wood this winter.

We cannot tell you how thankful everyone is and everyone sends you their love and thanks!

Always there are still some problems that we really would appreciate your prayers.

Last month we told you that Mirela was pregnant. Unfortunately two weeks before Christmas she suffered a miscarriage; the 3rd one in the last year. She is doing really well but we would ask you to pray for her and the family at this time. Her husband Dan doesn't attend church but he has been very touched with the love and support that the family has received during this time.

Jenica

Many of you know Jenica and the situation that she has been facing over these last 2 years. Her sons business went bankrupt which meant that she was going to lose her home. She has just found out that the house is going to auction on the 10th Jan so she and her husband need to find somewhere to live from then. They both have jobs at the moment, which is real answer to prayer. **Please can you pray that they will find somewhere they can move to with all the animals that they have as they help to provide an income for them during the year.**

Nicu

Nicu's eyesight is failing really fast and if he was in the UK he would be registered blind. His living conditions are nothing short of appalling and life is increasingly more and more difficult for him. We really don't know how to help him other than give him food every so often and clothes, etc when we have them. He is only 63 yrs old but looks at least in his 80's. **Please pray for Nicu and for a real touch from God in his circumstances.**

Family

Our Christmas and New Year was very different this year mainly due to the fact that we were all ill!! Andrew had the flu, and we have never seen him so ill, and then he generously gave it to Heather! Alex's knee has been really bad and on Christmas Eve as he was climbing the stairs; his knee dislocated again and just would not go back into place! This has been happening more often and more so as it has been quite a physically demanding time with no rest. His knee eventually went back into place but left him in a great deal of pain and it felt as if something was not 'quite right'. The last time he went to the doctor here he was advised to get an MRI scan to see what was needed to be done in the future but they are VERY expensive here. We have been promised the money to cover the cost and we are asking that you will continue to pray for Alex and his knee. We don't always understand why things happen,

especially as he was healed nearly 7 years ago of arthritis, but we do trust God and His provision and we know that He has the bigger picture!

The positive side of all this illness is that we have been able to rest for the past week and we are able to take this upcoming week a bit easier to totally recover!

We knew that this year would be very different for us as Alistair is in Austria. For those who do not know already, Alistair got engaged to Sabine Mairhofer just after Christmas. We are so pleased for them and we wish them every blessing for the future. We can't wait to see them and celebrate with them.



Thank you once again for everything that you have done to make this time of year so special for the people of Poiana, and also for your continued love and support through 2011. There is so much more we could tell you...stories of joy and some of sadness and heartache....but we would be here all day! Please be encouraged that everything you do, everything you give, every prayer prayed, makes a difference to the lives of the children and people in Poiana.

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and please keep in touch. We really appreciate the e-mails, cards, text messages that we receive. Have a look at the photographs from this last month by following the links below.

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Love and Blessings,

Alex, Heather and Andrew XXX

We are totally supported by the giving of others and if you would like to help, either as a one off gift or as a monthly SO then please use these bank details.

Account name: Kings Christian Centre

Bank: Barclays, North East Wales Branches

Sort Code: 20-25-69

Account No: 40595071

Ref: The Chalmers Family (this is important so that we receive it.)

OR send a cheque to FTAO Howard Litherland, Kings Christian Centre, Pwll Glas, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1RA, N. Wales.

If you require a gift aid form then contact Howard also. **Thank You!!!**

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We also have a blog page:

thechalmersfamily.wordpress.com

We also have set up a facebook page called
House of Joy, Poiana.