

## shelter of care update

### news update : a decade of co-operation

**In April, Shelter of Care welcomed Derek and Linda McCulloch, and Godfrey Cook on a week-long visit from England.**

The three visitors, all members of Newbold Baptist Church, one of our main supporters, have visited the Project Amos center, helping us to set up the new computers which were donated by the church.

The relationship between Newbold Baptist Church and Shelter of Care now spans nearly a decade, having begun when Derek, Godfrey and Pastor David Percy were visiting another contact in Iași, and were introduced to Genuța Erhan (then

Giamande) almost by chance.

They had brought with them a gift of money specifically set aside for children's work in the country, and at the time, Genuța was working with Casa Gulliver, an orphanage dedicated to caring for children with HIV AIDS. The orphanage was desperately in need of new beds, as the existing ones were too small for the growing children.

Derek McCulloch recalls the meeting. "Even though we had only just met, I instinctively felt in my spirit that Genuța was a person we could really trust, so we felt

very safe in agreeing to use the money to pay for the new beds."

Around two years later, the first team of volunteers from Newbold came to Iași to run a two-week summer club at Bucium Placement Center. Then, Genuța spoke to Derek of the need for musicians and teachers for the annual summer camps and, since 2003, a team of volunteers from Newbold have been involved in every summer camp.

As Shelter of Care enters a new phase of its work with Project Amos, Derek reflected on the last ten years, and on Shelter of Care's future. He believes

that there are many in Romania desperately in need of counseling and prayer ministry.

"I believe that the Amos Center is God's provision for Shelter of Care to begin and develop that work of counseling those suffering from the effects of abandonment, for which

Genuța and Sorin have been trained," he said.

Genuța said, "We have greatly appreciated the support that Newbold Baptist Church has offered us over the past ten years. The

people we have met have become personal friends, as well as friends of Shelter of Care."



Derek (standing) and Godfrey helped us to set up our donated computers.



Genuța and Linda enjoy the spring sunshine on the terrace behind the office.

### profile : snapshots

**Although all the young people we work with have been abandoned, they have very different personalities, facing their own individual issues every day.**

*A young student has kept her orphanage background a secret from her university friends—there is still such a stigma associated with abandonment.*

*Thoughtlessly, a university official has revealed her secret to her room-mates, and now she is ashamed to face them.*

One of our clients has discovered the existence of a family and siblings she never knew about. Should she make an effort to contact them or not, after so many years?

*A teenager has been dating a boy from the gypsy community for a long time. Now he has been betrothed to another young girl for an arranged marriage.*

*He has expressed a desire to keep her as his girlfriend even after he marries. She doesn't really want that kind of life, but is afraid of being alone.*

These stories were shared with us on just one Saturday afternoon at Project Amos. Some of the problems our young people encounter are caused by their unique circumstances, while others are faced by young people everywhere, but for those with nowhere else to turn, Shelter of Care provides a listening ear.

## feature : easter greetings!

**Yes, here in Romania, we have only just celebrated Easter, a month after it was celebrated in much of the rest of the world!**

In common with other countries where Orthodox Christianity is the main religion, Romania celebrates Easter according to a slightly different calculation from the date used by western Christians.

The Orthodox and Catholic Churches split in AD1054, but both continued to determine Easter using the same calculations until 1582, when Catholic Europe dropped the Julian Calendar in favour of the Gregorian Calendar. The Orthodox Church continues to calculate Easter using the Julian Calendar, meaning that the two dates for Easter can be up to five weeks apart, with the western

Easter falling earlier in the year.

This year, Orthodox Easter Sunday fell on 27th April, but preparations for the weekend began well before.

Easter is an important festival in Romania. The days leading up to Easter weekend are a flurry of spring cleaning, shopping and cooking, as this type of work must be completed before the holidays—household work must not be done on Good Friday. Many people take the opportunity to spend a few days visiting their families.

A special Easter cake called Pasca is prepared before Good Friday, and adults as

well as children paint the shells of hard-boiled eggs in traditional designs using thin, round sticks made of beech wood.

On Saturday, people attend a midnight mass, which is televised. Church and monastery bells are rung all over the countryside. Each person takes their painted egg for blessing, and a candle, which is lit by the Priest. Then everybody walks home in procession, trying to keep their candles alight. Traditionally, it is after the midnight mass that the special Easter meal is eaten.

On Easter Sunday, before breakfast, the painted eggs are tapped together with the words “Hristos a înviat—adevărat a înviat” - Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!



## praises and prayers:

- We have settled into a routine with the two new clubs at Tătărași, and now have stable groups of regular attenders.
- The Project Amos offices are now well equipped with chairs, tables and internet-enabled computers thanks to recent donations.
- We are currently developing a ‘Safety Online’ course for our young people. Please pray that we overcome any hurdles to complete this and begin trials as soon as possible.
- It’s time to plan for the summer! We will be welcoming teams of volunteers this year—perhaps you will be one of those volunteers? Pray about the possibility, and contact us via email: [info@shelterofcare.com](mailto:info@shelterofcare.com) if you are interested in volunteer opportunities.

**Facebook Fan?** We have started our own group on the popular social networking site, Facebook. Just search for Shelter of Care and you’ll find us!

## extra : donate online using PayPal

**Did you know that you can donate money directly to Shelter of Care without leaving the comfort of your home?**

Using the PayPal link on the home page of our website ([www.shelterofcare.com](http://www.shelterofcare.com)) you can make donations to Shelter of Care using Dollars, GB Pounds or Euros.

PayPal allows you to send

and receive money via the internet without sharing your financial details with the other party in the transaction. If you already have a PayPal account, donating couldn’t be easier. Simply use your account to safely make your donation.

If not, don’t worry. PayPal allows us to accept donations using major debit and credit

cards, as well as bank transfers. Alternatively, it is easy and free to set up a personal PayPal account, and doing this will mean that you do not need to use your credit or debit cards.

When a donation is made via PayPal, the money is stored virtually until we have been contacted by PayPal. We will only draw down the money

into our own bank account after we have personally emailed the donor to check the details of the donation. This means that any mistakes can be quickly rectified.

We are currently fundraising towards the cost of our summer programs! Why not try out our PayPal donation button today?

‘For I know the plans I have for you’, says the Lord.

‘Plans to prosper you and not to harm you;  
plans to give you a hope and a future.’  
Jeremiah 29:11

