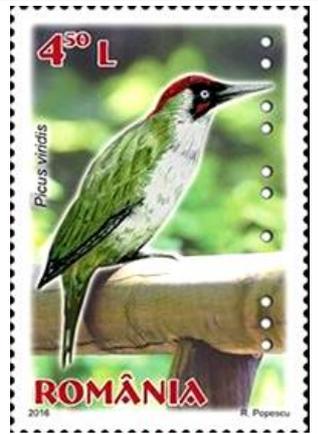


## Letter from Romania (December 2017)

Since our previous letter in the month of March, springtime, summer and autumn have all come and gone and now we are witnessing the beginning of winter. The daily activities of the people in Gura Râului and in surrounding areas differ according to the seasons. I am reminded of what the 'Teacher' writes; ***To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: Ecc. 3:1.***



In August we had two very good weeks of camp, with mostly gypsy children. The camps were held at a location in the village of Gârbova. Around ninety children came from six different villages. We are not aware of any children trusting Christ as Saviour, but there was very good attention given to the Word of God and we know that the Lord will bless.

Over the past months I have been in contact with a young Romanian man, from Gura Râului, who is now working in London. Catalin attended many meetings and camps in past years. I was encouraged recently by his response, whenever I asked him where he stood in regards to his relationship with God. He answered by saying he would never forget the choruses and the verses he has learned in the meetings and at the camps over the years.

In the month of September, Adi and Vasilica, both sixteen years old, were baptised in Gura Râului. In 2008, Adi's parents were both saved from the emptiness of the Orthodox religion. Adi bore testimony to this on the day of his baptism, whenever he related his conversion story to the congregation. He courageously spoke of how being born into an Orthodox family did not make him a Christian. He told of how, when he was twelve years old, he trusted Christ as Saviour, while at camp. It took courage to say what he said because there were Orthodox friends and neighbours at the meeting! Vasilica, an orphan from the age of four, was saved two years ago- also at camp.

We have just completed the giving out of more than one thousand Christmas shoe boxes (to mostly gypsy children), in five different localities. This affords us the wonderful privilege and opportunity of proclaiming the 'Good News' to many hundreds of adults and children alike. Immediately after listening to a Gospel message, the boys and girls receive their gift. We wish to wholeheartedly thank everyone who has been involved in preparing and providing so many beautifully packed Christmas boxes, enabling us to carry out this worthwhile ministry.

### Family news

Ruth and I became grandparents in the spring, with the arrival of Joy Ena Udaiyar on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Danielle and her husband, Ithai brought little Joy over to visit us in September, together with Peter and his girlfriend Emma, when we had a very special time together. Jonathan and his wife Ena, are now teaching at the Logos school, Cyprus and Peter continues to work in Ireland as a linesman. Rebekah, we are glad to say, passed all her O level GCSE exams so far, which she sat earlier this year and continues home school in preparation for more GCSE's in 2018. Josh and Adina continue with schooling in the local village school. We are all looking forward to being home again with family and friends over the Christmas period. May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Ruth and I also wish to take this opportunity to thank those who have prayed for, and supported us as we serve our Lord in Romania. We deeply appreciate the fellowship and prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

Jonathan and Ruth     ***...and they shall call His name Immanuel...God with us. Matt. 1:23***