



Children at Casa Lumina

**“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger...”
Luke 2:7 KJV**

Editorial by Helen Jesze: The Reason for the Season!

We are now in the season we call “Advent”, when we think of the first *Advent* of our Lord Jesus Christ. When I lived in Germany, we had an “Advent-Kranz” – a circular wreath or straight base decorated with fir or other twigs and baubles, and four candles stuck in it. Each Sunday in Advent, one more candle would be lit, reminding us that the nearer we get to Christ’s coming, the brighter his light shines! Then come the bustling celebrations for Christmas, and it is easy to forget that **JESUS** is the Reason for the Season.

A harassed mother with two small children and her arms full of parcels and bags pushed into the almost full lift of a department store. In a loud, exasperated voice she blurted out to the lift occupants:

“I don’t know why we do this every year! It’s nothing but stress and worry every time! The person who invented Christmas should be shot!”

Then a voice called out: **“Haven’t you heard? They did get rid of him, they crucified him!”**

There was a stunned silence which certainly made them all think! Yes, we celebrate Jesus’ coming to Earth, but he really came to die. It’s not the Babe in the manger who saves us, but the Son of Man/Son of God who died and rose again, and will give us eternal life if we ask him to do this.

Another unusual year has passed, although now some freedoms are being slowly given back to us. Mission work was made difficult with some borders still closed, and new restrictions. From week to week, we seek to work with the authorities but try to be true to our mandate from Heaven to preach the Gospel to the poor, and give relief to those in need, – seeking wisdom from the Lord.

The Trustees of EEO UK wish you a joyful Christmas with family and friends. If you will be on your own with just memories for company, or if you are grieving over the loss of a loved one or over bad news, may the Lord encourage and strengthen you at this time, giving you the heart-knowledge that he has a future and good plans for you, *that you are not forgotten!* **How grateful we are for partners and friends like you, who work with us, faithfully praying and sending financial gifts. We appreciate every gift, large or small, and the love and sometimes sacrifices made, to be able to send it. God will bless you for it!**

“Give and [gifts] will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you,” Luke 6:38 The Amplified Bible

Peace and blessings to you this Christmas!

P.S. On 15th November I had a hip replacement, and would appreciate your prayers for a good and speedy recovery!

Casa Lumina
Miss Alina has been the teacher at Casa Lumina in Oradea Romania since the early 2000’s. This summer we interviewed her about her work.

What does working with children mean to you?
That’s not work, it’s *passion*, it is in fact *medicine*, because these children heal your soul. When we meet in the mornings, they arrive with a big smile and everything transforms into a huge rainbow! Each one of them is so special and I try to ‘lift the wings’ of these children. They want to be loved, hugged. Each is unique in their own way. When they enter the nursery, everything changes into a fairy-tale world for them.

I’d say that you both motivate each other – their smile meeting your smile.
Yes. I want to be their friend. They don’t call me “Mrs Alina”, but simply “Alina”, we’re friends. We greet with an official “Good Morning”, but we hug and say to each other a strong “Ciao”. They are very sweet, also the school-age children, a wholesome friendship which starts at nursery, continuing when they go to school.

Do many of them come back for the after-school-club?
Yes, they come to the homework program, and are delighted to continue what started when they were little. Even those from the villages.



Staff picture Casa Lumina, Miss Alina smiling on the left

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But is there no local nursery and school there, or what is it that motivates them to come this distance?

They do have both local nurseries and schools; but many say the atmosphere here makes them choose our nursery and the homework program, because I try to be a friend as well as a teacher. Through play they succeed in learning interesting things about the whole world. The majority of the children have a strong personality and already know what they want to be when they've grown up. They want to be good and not like those whom they've seen doing negative things. They want to be positive, to help others. I teach the younger and older ones to be like brothers, more than just friends. The older one should help the younger. Many times it's the other way round too: little ones helping the big ones – and this gives me satisfaction at the friendships being formed.

It often happens that children come from home with certain stories, some sad, some happy. At that moment, I change my topic for that day and we try to help them, to soften or take the blow of the situation, if something negative has happened at home. The children spontaneously tell me things. I plan my entire week around a specific topic, let's say, autumn vegetables. On any day if a child comes to tell about an unhappy situation at home, I try to resolve that problem with the entire group of children. Then the child goes home, smiling.

What kind of unhappy situations tend to take place?

There are, maybe, family fights or arguments. Or poverty issues, or maybe one or both parents have lost their jobs, and it is a very needy time, especially during the pandemic. The child feels it all, or hears the conversations between its parents. Sometimes they're not even fully through the door and they say, "Alina, do you know what..." and the story starts unfolding. Every child must be understood and helped individually – that's the primary goal. After this has been done well, then I follow in my role as their teacher.

Washing machine for Eaglesnest

Our partners in Ukraine told us that the washing machine of the Eaglesnest project has broken. The Eaglesnest is a project where children can go after school for homework support, a meal, a shower and where they can also do their laundry if needed. It is a safe place for these children, who come mostly from very poor backgrounds and often abusive situations as well. The Day-Care looks after the children, who can go back home safely at the end of the day. The 24hr. Care looks after the children where it is neither safe nor possible to go home, as their parents may abuse or neglect them. With so many children to care for, the washing machine is working day and night.

A decent machine with a load of at least 9kg would cost second hand around £250 and new about £500. Can we count on your help?



collecting wood for winter



New washing machine needed



New trustee David McSween

New Trustee

In answer to prayer, God has sent us another younger trustee, Mr David McSween, and we are happy to welcome him aboard the EEO UK team! In our next edition, we will give you a full introduction!

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Eastern European Outreach is a faith ministry. All our activities are dependent solely on the financial gifts we receive. We work on an interdenominational basis, and our goal is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way open to us. Our newsletter is published regularly and sent free of charge on application. However, a freewill gift of £12 per year would help to cover postage and production costs. EEO UK works with Eastern European Outreach International, a group of missions and ministries. The main partner is Stg. OostEuropa Zending (NL), on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina*

Wood for the winter

The cold season has arrived. A very expensive time of the year for most people in eastern Europe and the Balkans. As always it hits the poorest of the poor the hardest.

Energy prices have not only gone through the roof in the UK or other western countries. In a country like Ukraine, a cubic metre of gas costs 45UAH (£1.24). On a £100 monthly salary this is huge. Another problem is that many houses are connected to the communal gas system, meaning that in the winter it is often very warm inside (25+ Celcius), but also their bill is huge! Many incur huge debts or will be totally cut off from gas and electricity; both situations are horrendous. Through the CSP programme we try to raise extra funds to help the poorest families through the winter.



Unloading relief goods, transport in Timisoara

Transport Romania

In the previous *Outreach* we wrote about the ministry of Ligia Macelaru and her colleague, Petru. On the 28th October a truck filled with relief goods was sent to her from the Netherlands, among which were several hospital beds, wheel chairs, medical goods and even a mobility scooter. In the truck were also many clothes, pallets with food and mattresses.

On the 1st of November Ligia Petru and a group of volunteers emptied the truck in record time. After the truck left the team sorted out all the goods. In the coming weeks they will be very busy delivering the goods to the needy.

At the time of writing the first food parcels have already been brought round to the families.

A transport to go to Moldova is scheduled for next month. Times are very rough, and generally the winter is the worst time for families in eastern Europe. It is such a blessing to help the poor in this way. It really makes a difference. Please pray for the transports, that everything may go well with the paperwork, the collecting, packing, driving and distribution of the goods.