

FALL 2003
HOPENOTES
OF
Romanian Handicapped
Ministries, Inc.

“Dati o speranta si un viitor oamenilor pe
care Isus ii iubeste...”

“Giving a hope and a future to people
Jesus loves...” (Jer. 29:11)

Vol. 2

No. 2

Greetings!

Autumn greetings from Romanian Handicapped Ministries! We want to thank you once again for all of your prayers and gifts that make it possible for us to be representatives of your love and concern for the children of Romania to whom concern is seldom shown.

Though they are often considered social castaways in their own country, they are adored by God who wants a future and a hope for them, as well as their love and praise for Him. Therefore, He came to earth to provide a bridge for them straight to the Father's throne. Ω

Employee's Visas Denied

In May, we saw a set of carefully laid plans crumble before our eyes, when our first Romanian employees, Silviu and Gabriella (Gabi) Ghereben, were refused visas to come into the US, even to take specific training focused directly on the needs of children whose lives are limited by various special needs. What a difficult lesson that was in learning acceptance and trust! (Cont'd on page 3)

1st Baptist Makes Proposal

Since its founding, one of RHM's goals has been to create a Day Care Center to provide a safe place for children whose primary caretaker must leave them to go to work. While in this safe environment, activities such as physical therapy, education, and meals would be provided in a compassionate atmosphere.

In a divine surprise, pastors of the 1st Baptist Church developed an idea: They are experiencing growing pains and are in need of a larger church. (PTL!) Thus, they wanted to know: Would RHM be willing to consider building the Center beside the church on the new property? Such a ministry would be a great Christian outreach for the people of the church, and provide a rich source of encouragement from believers. Indeed, God is still performing miracles! Ω

Looking for Clinic Site

This year's camp was again touted as "the best ever." While at camp, Jerry Skinner, Ed Swartzentruber, Sharon Wood, and Dr. Gabi Ghereben looked at an accessible, available space which, with some rehabbing, could become an adequate space for a small clinic.

Medical services would be provided by Dr. Gabi, our pediatrician, so the RHM Board moved forward to purchase the space as well as put out a call for donations of needed medical equipment. Please praise God with us as He supplies the balance due on this purchase by March 31, 2004, so the clinic can be opened and in operation. Ω

Insert picture of Clinic.

Meet Another Gabi (Gabriel)

Gabriel has been a yearly RHM adult camp helper and example of courage in the face of hardship. He is one of God's hidden jewels, and will be a man from whom others will gain encouragement. Please take a moment to meet Gabi (as told by Jerry Skinner.)

"The streets were narrow, and all the boxy little houses looked alike. The early morning sun glared through the frosty window of the old Dacia as we jostled along the bumpy street, and strained to read faded, often absent house numbers.

This, our 4th try, appeared to be the correct place. This tiny house enclosed by its cluttered courtyard was to be my introduction to one of God's truly gifted, hidden jewels!

"With palms pressed hard against the window pane, he watched our approach through the courtyard gate and to the door.

"Once inside, I beheld a young man with large, tender, deep-set eyes that projected the sensitive gentleness of an artist. Framing them was a mane of black, unkempt, shoulder-length hair. His long, artistic fingers appeared both delicate and strong, and his shy, self-deprecating smile warmed my heart.

He stood unsteadily, as one leg was shorter than the other. His spine was badly twisted from scoliosis. Arthritis pain had etched deep lines in his face. Everything about this young man suggested familiarity with pain, longing and disappointment, but not a hint of bitterness marred his gentle grace.

Perhaps his grace flowed from the expression of his natural gift of painting with which he eked out a daily living at

(Another Gabi, cont'd)

the Constanta market place.

Most of his paintings were portraits of the same model, Jesus Christ, in every aspect and emotion: His sadness and tears, His smiling and loving, His reverent worship and prayer, His pain on Calvary, and His ascension into Heaven.

Through the expression of his very soul, Gabi displayed his reverence for God. Please pray for Gabi, that he may know the joy of the One his untrained hand paints so beautifully. Ω

Insert Gabi's picture here.

Successful 2003 Day Camp

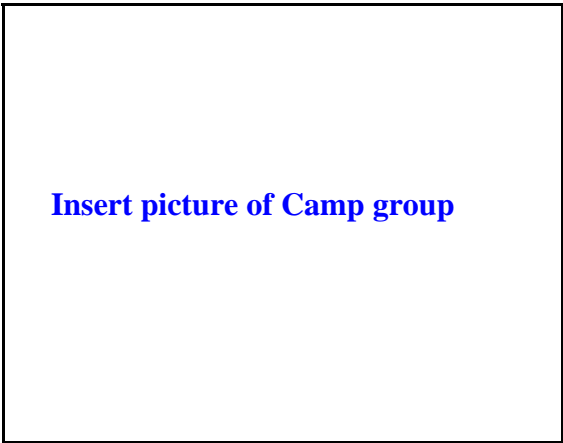
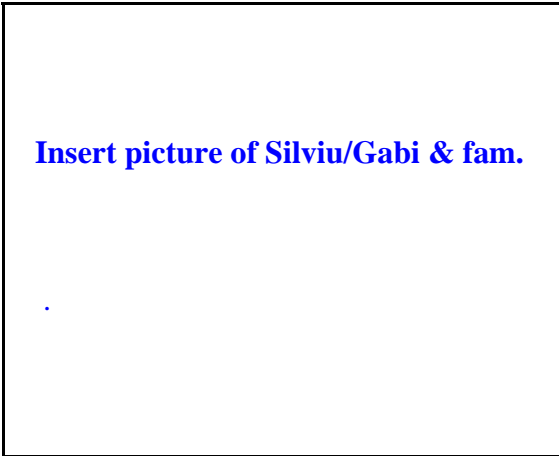
During the spring, busy preparations for were being made for June's Day Camp. Dr. Carmen Calin, vocational rehabilitation specialist in Bucharest, was our guide and translator for the 4th year. The team of adults and teens again included several Romanian teens from the First Baptist Church of Constanta.

The hotel campsite faced the Black Sea, where it was possible to take the children out into the fresh air and sunshine. The Vacation Bible School materials proved to be fun and best of all, several youngsters came to faith in Christ.

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*(Visas Denied, con't from pg. 1)*

But, we knew that if God allowed this disappointment, He assuredly had provisions in a different direction both for Silviu and Gabi as well as RHM. We needed to pause and listen for His further leading. Ω



**Above:** 2003 Day Campers

**Left:** RHM's on-site administrator, Silviu Ghereben, and pediatrician, Dr. Gabi Ghereben, with their children Neomi 7, Darius 4 and Sharon 3..

RHM's Praise and Prayer requests

- ★ Praise God for the wonderful surprise proposal from the church in Constanta.
- ★ Finances to move further to establish and open the clinic for children with special needs.
- ★ For the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to rest on the Board of Directors.
- ★ Traveling mercies for Jerry and Ed as they travel to Constanta in October on RHM business.
- ★ For Gabi. That God will draw him into a warm and intimate relationship with Him.

**If you want you share in this ministry to very needy children in Romania, please send your gifts to:**

**Romanian Handicapped Ministries**  
5910 Price Road Milford, Ohio 45150  
**PHONE: (513) 831-8733**  
**FAX: (513) 621-0262**

**Visit us at** <http://www.romanianhandicappedmin.org/>

**RHM is a fully tax deductible (501)(c) (3) corporation.**

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