

The Echo of Ecce Homo

Special Edition regarding March - April activity

We're living times of challenge, confronting with a major status quo and because owe it to you - partners and supporters of our projects, we want to inform you about the stirrings of these days:

The situation in Romania these days look like this: over 11.000 infested people and about 700 deaths. The measures imposed created a chaotic situation for many Romanians who, overnight, lost their jobs or are in technical unemployment. The statistics show that over 1.000.000 Romanians are in unemployment and a few hundred thousands were fired.



Many of those who work abroad came home these days, hoping for the better, but being placed straight in home isolation or quarantine, in the towns right after the border. In many towns the authorities don't have an established protocol to help these people and some, not knowing what to do have contacted us. In Cluj, the civic society proved excellent mobilization, many firms, companies and NGO's used their resources to support hospitals and medics.

Ecce Homo Organization continues its activity these days, our social workers from Cluj (Nicoleta and Gheorge), Simleu (Claudia and Dan), Targu Jiu (Liliana) and Zalau (Delia), are visiting the families and elderly, supporting them economically, materially, but mostly with encouragements, prayers and confronting them with the impending decision that Easter celebration puts before us - the one of choosing to make Christ the Lord and Saviour of our lives. The children's centers continue to be "home" for the 17 children. There's been a new disposition claiming that the personnel working in residential units, stays in shifts of 14 days and then remain isolated at home for another two weeks. It hasn't been easy for anyone, as they all have families at home, but the personnel accepted entrusted that God

will take care of every detail. The children continue to work from home for school, having classes online and homework, not being easy for them to adapt, but they're coping. During this isolation period, the mother of Alin, Roxana, Simona and Mirabela died of a heart attack and it's been a difficult time for the children, even though their relation wasn't close.



Each granny visited this period received the Gospel of John and was encouraged to read, especially to make the time go faster. For 15 elderly we facilitated receiving a hot meal daily from a local canteen. The effects of isolation increases their loneliness, especially since they're only allowed to leave home between 11 and 13 daily. We're trying to be close to them



and fight loneliness, talking daily on the phone, visiting them weekly and taking them radio cd's with the recording of the New Testament, because many of them have sight problems and can't read for too long. One of the ladies visited before Easter told us she's been cleaning her house several times a day, just to make time pass faster and to forget about hunger. We were happy to bring them food weekly, through a foundation that combats food waste and collects food that is about

to expire in stores. These are mostly vegetables and fruits, or yogurts, which are great for the elderly. Another lady was so happy to receive the visit of the social worker, on the same day she lost her husband a few years back. She was happy to have someone over during that sad day. We make sure they aren't risking eviction and that they can pay their utilities. At every visit we take all the precautions and safety measures.

This entire crisis has brought in our attention new cases that required our intervention. As you already know, we helped people in our community who couldn't do shopping by themselves. Beside this, in one of the villages we work we heard about 3 families that returned from Italy and have been placed by the police straight into quarantine, but had no food supplies at home, nor the right to leave the house. The neighbours alerted our colleague - George who continued to visit the families in these villages, and therefor he was able to bring food parcels to that family so they can get well through this period. Some others needed transport to get to town and buy food, not having shops in the village and we were able to bring them and take them home. Others were transported to the doctor, as otherwise they couldn't get there. The family in the picture above lost their father and husband, after he died of a heart attack. The four youngest children have been to camp and are also taking part to the children meetings we organize in the village. Because of the restrictions, only the family and the priest could attend the funeral. We've been requested by other people to help them with medication or other supplies and we gladly did it, every time we could.



Another side of this work involves sorrow and challenges for us - Claudia's mother died after her health condition deteriorated quickly and her organs failed, spending a few days in ICU. As I wrote above, the mother of Alin, Roxana, Simona and Mirabela passed away, one



day before Roxana's birthday. The personnel and children tried to make her day a nice one, but it was hard for her. Also, the family have been accusing the siblings for their mother's death, as they refused to talk to her on the phone a few days before she



had the heart attack. They need prayer and comfort through these times.

We had to close the second-hand shop even from the beginning of the emergency state, in March. We don't know if we will be able to organize yard sales in the near future, coerced by the restrictive measures. We're aware it won't be easy for our country to restore it's economy, but this will mean on one hand that more people will need help, and on the other that our resources from local donations will decrease. We want to answer affirmatively to as many requests as we can coming from people affected by this crisis, bringing hope and encouragement, but also the support they need so much to make it through.



We would like to ask for your support in prayer for all these situations mentioned above and we also invite you to take part to our actions, as much as God inspires you to. We want to start an action to collect food or raise money to buy food parcels and hygiene products for the elderly and for the families in the rural areas especially, as they have it the hardest. We also want to offer support to pay utilities and rent this period, to avoid losing their dwellings. And because schools courses are only made online and there are many families without computer or tablet, we would like to help the children have access to education.

Thank you for your support and care and we're asking for God's blessings and protection over you and your dear ones!

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"

2 Corinthians 9:8