

TIMISOARA 2010

October 22-25 2010



"Thank you for this wonderful night" - young lady who determined to follow Jesus at the Youth event



Alan Heavey in Timisoara, Romania A report on the outreach 22-25 October 2010

By Alan G Heavey

"It was so good to listen to your message and to be able to smile and laugh again. I work in a hospice and I watch people die daily; I'd forgotten what it was like to laugh". This from one of two Nuns who attended one of the many meetings during this short visit to Timisoara in Romania towards the end of October.

I had the pleasure once again to work with the European arm of the Luis Palau Association (LPA). I travelled from Luton in England with John Grant, the director of the mission and Ben Ansell (newly appointed member of the Luis Palau team and his first time in Romania). We met with Daniel Rus who is the LPA mission coordinator in Romania.

Much of what you will read here are extracts from John Grant's follow-up mission report - I thank John personally for helping me, not only before and during the mission but by also providing most of what you will read here.

The first meeting on Friday 22 October was a Lunch for Disabled People. We were amazed to see 170 people arrive and crowd into the Hotel Alexandria to be welcomed by very nice music provided by the three daughters of Nelu Mehedinti, interpreter for the event. Nelu was so impressed by Alan's message about the lost sheep, that he invited him to speak in his church the coming Sunday (Elim Pentecostal church

is one of the biggest in the country with 4,500 members.) Alan's message was well received by the guests at the Alexandria, and forty six people declared they had responded to the invitation to give their lives to Christ.

Later in the day the team travelled about 20 kilometers out of town to the Village of Samihaiu German to meet up with the ebullient, efficient, and excited Alin Suclicea, Pastor of the Siloam church in the village of 800 people. Alin's lovely and talented family and great church members got involved with him to put together a delightful evangelistic supper - he was asked to fill a gap created by the cancellation of the teachers

event in the city (because no church would take the event on).

The Eden restaurant turned out to be more like an American Western saloon, but in this delightful scenario where there was an almost tangible presence of the Holy Spirit, Alan poured out his heart for the lost and his love for villagers and a huge percentage responded. There are exciting Next Step plans designed and we thank God for people like Alin and such opportunities that are really appreciated, easily organised and have a genuine follow up planned. Alin is well connected in his village and is on good terms with the Orthodox



church, so the efforts in this village should prosper - what is thrilling is that 38 people responded to the gospel and 40 people represents 5% of the total community of the village. Will this make a difference - we think so !

A Medical Supper followed hard on the heels of Sanmihaiu German, and some dexterous driving by Daniel Rus got the team to the Bistra Restaurant in Timisoara, on time, to be greeted by a full restaurant and the lovely charming Doctor Ciucure, who had organised things so well, despite having other functions she was busy with at the same time. We rejoice in that souls got saved and will be followed up by the Christian Medical Association.

Saturday 23, October - this was a day of great variety and tremendous joy in the ministry of the team starting with a visit to a Young Offenders Prison in Buzais, approximately 25 miles outside of Timisoara.

Organised at a drop of the hat by young Carlo Micsescu from the Agape Church in Timisoara (the same person who organised the Youth Pizza in Timisoara for the Agape Church). We were so blessed to work with a man called Petre Doda who is obviously anointed of God for Prison ministry and has access to many of them. He set the scene for a tremendously appropriate message from Alan followed by an energetic and inspiring testimony of his teenage days by Daniel Rus, and a closing prayer by John Grant to re-assure those of many young men who had raised their hands to declare they had there-and-then asked Christ to be their Saviour, that God had become their father, the very best father anyone could ever have.

Meeting with the street people:

From the pathos of prison to the plight of the poor was the experience of the team whose hearts were touched and softened by both these events, and was reminded of the absolute privilege of being able by virtue of the flexibility of the

president being Ligia Dugulescu whose father was largely responsible for organising Luis Palau's outreach to Timisoara in 1990/1991.

Out in the open beside a derelict building where some of these people live, for the very first time, tables and benches were placed to form an open air lunch scenario where Alan could speak (no sound system and food brought in by caterers) to really needy homeless, unemployed and underprivileged people. Amongst them were some Christians, one of which had a tremendous testimony - Elisabeta is a young mother who is infected with the HIV virus, and has three children, she had to give up. As well as such a dreadful affliction, she has nothing, but she told us that when she accepted Christ as her Saviour, she had peace that carries her through her situation and compels her to witness to others in such unfortunate situations too. Alan prayed for her and then she prayed that God would increase Alan's ministry - a touching prayer indeed given the context. After



evangelism model to be able to work with all sorts of groups of people right across the spectrum of society. This event was put on by the Ecclesia Baptist Church (pastored by Laurentiu Timis) together with the Evangelistic & Charitable Association, "Jesus the Hope of Romania",

the message a large majority of the people prayed the 'sinner's prayer' out loud, and it is our fervent wish that many of these have come to real saving faith in Christ Jesus because the reality of "we shall not pass this way again" was on our minds. People like this desperately need

humanitarian aid, but even more so they need to embrace the hope of eternal life. From this open air situation where the Lord had given really nice weather compared to the cold weather of the past few days, the next event on the busy

This is very special because I had a sense of God saying before I went that someone would ask me to speak in their church, so I went prepared – but I didn't think it would be the largest Pentecostal

<http://www.elim.ro/#player>
Duminica dimineata - 24 Octombrie (Invitati din UK) - partea b.



Lunch for Business People followed the church service, and it was rewarding to see the work of event co-ordinator Viorel Tarziu come together in the form of forty five attendants at the Bistra Restaurant. Vio had just under a fortnight to put the event together, struggling as he did starting from scratch - made one wonder why others could not grasp such a simple model, but joyous that somebody did and that of the ten business people present, 70% of them made a commitment to Christ - we had a great testimony from a Christian businessman who thought he had lost a million Euro contract because of the recession, but his faith saw the end result by the power of God becoming a four million Euro project instead !

agenda was Couples Dinner at the Best Western, Ambassador Hotel. Because of much preparation beforehand it was anticipated that this would be a really good event with all the planning in place, BUT upon arrival we found that the restaurant area consisted of two rooms that had hardly any connection at all, and could be catastrophic in terms of communication. Here again the Almighty stepped in and the expected 100 people did not materialise, but rather as the 88 maximum came and sat down in the hastily re-arranged larger room, the event proceeded well and the Spirit of God drew many to his kingdom of grace, to be followed up properly by Adi Maghet our very capable event co-ordinator.

Church in Timisoara! It really was an honour and a privilege to be able to preach the Gospel in this church and to see 25 people or so confess to giving their lives to the Lord following an invitation. Maybe there were more who didn't put their hands up – God knows. It was a great pleasure to have Pastor Stefan sat next to me encouraging me and sharing stories of when Luis and others had been there. A man came into the church on Sunday morning late, clutching a Bible as I was speaking. You would have thought he was a 'believer'. It was so great to see him indicate that he gave his life to Christ following my invitation."

Ladies events never fail to come up trumps, but this one was different to the usual combined churches event because it was organised (and paid for - 30%) by the Ladies Christian Association. Aurica Leontiu and Leti Coinnca doing a fabulous job to get a restaurant packed with ladies eager to hear the Word of God. 76% of them responded positively - what joy! The day ended with a Youth Pizza, rather disappointing in that there seemed to be a high percentage of Christians there, and the co-ordinator had no follow up plans, nor response cards. We were saddened about this event, but were glad that many of the youth boldly raised a hand to declare they had asked Christ to forgive their sins and enter their lives.

Sunday 24 October started with the Sunday morning service at Elim. To quote Alan's words - *"I have to say that this was very special to me. Following the first event on Friday I received an unexpected invitation to speak at, 'Elim Pentecostal Church' in Timisoara on Sunday morning*

John was able to share about the Luis Palau Next Generation evangelistic model and it would indeed be something to consider for the future doing an entire mission with this gracious and Spirit filled church that obviously caters for so many different parts of the community - this service can be viewed on the Elim Church website -

Now to Monday 25 October. This was a very different day, one the highlights being a first time 'Retired Railway Workers Lunch', organised by Dan Males and his Emanuel Baptist Church. It lasted three hours in

total because Dan did his “own thing“, but amazingly at the end of it the men listened intently to an inspired relational message by

them of how fragile life is and that we could die at any moment, and therefore to be sure of their



Alan (God has given him a remarkable gift of getting any audience on his side) - listen to Alan’s words *“This was quite special for me. It reminded me of ‘Dad’s Army’, especially when their ‘Mr Mannerling’ came in late and he lifted his arm in exaltations! These men who must have experienced really hard times under communism were so touched when the Lord gave me the ability to ‘understand’ where they were coming from as mechanics and engineers. It was really special for me to be able to share the story of the steam locomotives in York Museum and the fact that I could relate to steam boilers and latent heat energy etc just took them back! It was then very special to link this to the divine power that is available to us; that if received by faith would turn us from a rusty old piece of metal ready for the scrap heap and turn us into a powerful locomotive with pistons pumping and wheels turning, allowing us to race down the railway tracks of life here and now, and for all eternity, with the ability to pull the steam whistle and let it rip – WHOOP, WHOOP!!! Even the very long heart presentation by the local Cardiologist enabled me to remind*

salvation is a priority.” 30 of the 44 guests responded to the gospel and prayed audibly to receive Christ. Powerful stuff.

Carlo Micsescu from the Agape church organised a “cracking” event for young people and the Lord inspired and energised Alan because he had to “canter” between two rooms to speak to the youth - due to higher than expected attendance. Alan was on top form and not a few young people surrendered their lives to Christ - Carlo will do a good follow up, we know that.

“Since this is the first time I was at such a meeting, my heart was beating harder than usually. It was something new, especially that I received the coin with the 10 commandments. Thank you for making our life pleasant. May Jesus be blessed!”. This came from a waitress at the same event. She also said that she gave her life to Christ that night. The coin that she talks about is a ‘tract’ that Alan used to ‘enact’ the parable of the lost coin that Jesus delivered in Luke 15:8-10.

Men’s events are traditionally extremely difficult but Remus Runcan who had in earlier meetings expressed reserve about the model, had gathered together a few churches and

involved as well the Men’s Association that does a good job in Timisoara, and the last event of the outreach was a good one underlining that the persistence of LPA in Timisoara had brought dividends and had enriched the kingdom of heaven, for the Lord’s glory.

In conclusion we give thanks and praise to God for what he did in this Mission to Timisoara. We give thanks too, for a remarkable bonding together of the team from the UK with the Romanians to accomplish his purposes, and for the sacrifices made by many to make this outreach possible.

A special vote of thanks needs to be given to Daniel Rus for his invaluable mediatory work and for taking the initiative in so many different avenues to enrich the outreach, and also to Ben Ansell, whose presence for a day added an extra touch, not forgetting the great work of interpretation done by various interpreters, and the input from event co-ordinators without whom this outreach would not have been possible.

To statistically recap: 1171 people attended the events - 1185 were projected, so a 99% figure was achieved, but included in this figure was quite a high percentage of Christians - 47% with musicians and team members. 607 non believers were guests at the events, 305 of these indicated on the response forms that they had given their lives to Christ. 197 wanted more information. 187 said they would like to attend a next step event following the first step of accepting Christ.

