



## POTTER'S HOUSE CAMP, FĂRDEA ROMANIA 20-27 JULY, 2009



I have had some wonderful experiences this summer so far and I am so thankful for the prayers that I know have been supporting all that has been happening. The Potter's house camp went really well and there was clear evidence that the Lord was and still is at work in the lives of those who went. Seeing some of the children experiencing the Love of God for the first time was very uplifting and encouraging to see.

For seven days we were surrounded by the hills near Lake Surduc, about 100km east of Timisoara. Leaders from Romania, Northern and Southern Ireland, Hungary (and me from Australia) accompanied around 60 children (ages 5-15) on a week long camp. The theme of the camp was 'Hide and seek' and those who gave the talks gave some great analogies for the kids to remember.

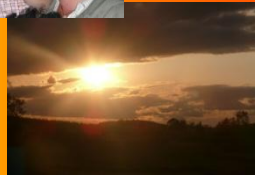
Nathan, from Ireland, gave a picture of a room which represented his life and in this room was a bin with all his rubbish. Jesus (played by Fuzzy) knocked on the door and Nathan had the choice to let him in or not. He let him in but the rubbish was still there in the corner. Jesus offered to dispose of the rubbish, and Nathan considered keeping some, but Jesus told him he has something even better to replace it with- His love and presence!

After this illustration we talked in small groups about what this meant for us. One of the groups decided to write all the 'rubbish' that's in their lives, on paper, and throw it away, they even burned it in the campfire on the last night. When they had all thrown their rubbish in the bin, some of them asked for theirs back again because they had remembered something else they wanted to 'get rid of'.

Later in the week we discussed with the children about the right that we have to be called 'Children of God' when we accept Jesus and let Him take away our rubbish. It was amazing seeing the kids come to realise what this means, and for some of them, becoming a member of a Loving family is a true hope and a foreign concept.

Sunday, the last full day of camp, all children and leaders from camp witnessed something rather rare. We all got dressed in what nice camp clothes we had, and walked to the river where we joined the locals for a Sunday service. Anything but normal, this service brought together the Romanian Orthodox, Baptist and Evangelical churches for a joint Baptismal service by immersion in the river. However, this being the case, pastors from each denomination all gave a sermon, and a few hours later, the 9 Baptisms took place, to which we only stayed for a couple before we had to return to the campsite for lunch. This example of the way people can be brought together with one common purpose got me thinking about the witness we show each other when we put up barriers between our churches.

Other happenings throughout the week, included spending the majority of the afternoons at the lake, which was about a fifteen minute walk away from the campsite; an afternoon of walking to and from the local monastery; campfire and talent show night; Irish, Hungarian and Australia nights; (and I should mention that I taught everyone Slim Dusty's famous 'G'day G'day', resulting in the kids coming up to me the rest of week saying 'G'day G'day'!!) and plenty of yummy home-cooked Romanian food. The kids are already asking about next years camp, so this is always a good sign. And hopefully, if the building project that's currently being proposed is successful, next year there won't be a need for forty tents to sleep in.



### Fedor



A boy whose entire attitude would change from minute to minute, Fedor would be laughing and playing with the other boys his age but the next moment would suddenly be unhappy or burst out in anger. To those of us who witnessed this, it became obvious that this was much more than a simple behavioural issue. When we would confront him about it, he would just cry and couldn't tell us why, but we realised that this 9 year old was being attacked by the enemy. What was even more clear was that when we would pray for him there would be almost instant results every time.

This same boy woke us all, screaming every night and every night we would pray over his tent for protection, to which we would hear nothing more after that. He never remembered a thing of these events by morning even if he talked it through with a leader when they were calming him down during the night. We saw God working in his young heart by the end of the week and we praise the Lord for His help through it all.

For me, seeing this opened my eyes to a reality and perspective that is so often overlooked and unrecognised in the western world. It made me realise the difference between praying in hope verses praying with faith. Realising that we have been given the authority in the name of Jesus, and seeing just how powerful God is, I was certainly encouraged and strengthened in being a witness to these events.

