



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

December 2025

A Christmas also for the vulnerable and marginalized

As I sit down to write the last newsletter of the year, we have just celebrated the first Advent. We have thus left the winter dark November behind us and entered the somewhat brighter December. Life becomes a bit lighter, as we enter December, much due to all the decorations we put up. It is such a special season for so many reasons.

In this newsletter we would like to begin by thanking you all for what you have contributed during this year. Thank you for your prayers and for your donations. In this newsletter, we share about Pastor Florin Popa's work among the Roma who live in Tinca, Romania. In this Roma community, Pastor Florin started a small church that now meets many needs in both a physical and spiritual sense. He appeals for our support in what is the Roma church in Tinca's Christmas work. For this cause we are raising funds in this newsletter.

We have also received a greeting from Pastor Laurentiu Pascuti. He shares a short review of his work during the past year. We feel grateful for the work he does for the kingdom of God and the lives that are touched by his work. In this final newsletter of the year, undersigned also share some thoughts about Advent and Christmas. Christmas is for many a special season and it marks an important celebration in the life of us as Christians.

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We would also like to inform you that the ministry will (partly) change its name, beginning in January of next year. Due to a name conflict with another EU based organization in Brussels, that has the same name as us, we had to change the name of the organisation. From January of next year we will work under the name of Breadgate International.

From us to you, we wish you a blessed CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

[Signature]
International President



A woman takes care of her household chores outside her simple homemade of mud and bricks.

In the small town of Tinca you will find one of the largest Roma colonies in northwestern Romania, with a few thousand inhabitants. The colony is like a parallel community to the rest of the town. Together with Pastor Florin Popa, I have visited the area on several occasions. I have also met the people who live there. You're moved by the great need you see that is still very evident.

On several occasions I've also had the privilege of preaching in the small Roma church that was started by Pastor Florin. Since the congregation started its activities, the situation in the Roma community has changed dramatically. Through the presence of the church, the light of Christ has begun to seep into these dark places that were previously dominated by violence, drugs and crime. A place that neither the police nor social services dared to visit, has now become significantly safer.

As people have been saved, the congregation has grown. A living faith in God changes circumstances. Men stop beating their wives (and vice versa), people stop drinking alcohol, which also changes the dynamics, not only in families, but in society at large. The power of the Gospel transforms circumstances and gives people new hope.

Christmas in Tinca

For several years we have been raising funds for various initiatives in Tinca. The most recent initiative we have taken was to renovate a restroom for the church that previously used an outdoor toilet. It was

basically a boarded shed with a hole in the ground. We have also, on a few occasions, purchased firewood for vulnerable families who otherwise risked living in unheated houses during the winter. This year we have received a request from Pastor Popa to make Christmas more memorable for some of the children in Tinca. Pastor Popa writes:

"As Christmas approaches, we have a wonderful opportunity to bring joy to about 50 Roma children from the Tinca church. Many of these little ones come from challenging backgrounds, and their parents are unable to give them Christmas presents this year. For these children, even a small gift can mean more than we can imagine.

We kindly ask for your support to help us provide gifts to every child. Every small contribution helps us show them love and hope this Christmas.

This project is a beautiful way to reflect the love of Christ in a practical and meaningful way. Together, we can ensure that no child is forgotten this Christmas.

Thank you for standing with us and for bringing light into their lives this Christmas."

Warm greetings, Pastor Popa

Together, let's make Christmas a memorable holiday for these children. The overall budget is 1000€. Thank you for your gift!

A year in review - a year of thankfulness



Many Roma children participated in the summer Bible school. An activity appreciated by the children. Many different activities were arranged for the children.

The end of the year is usually a time for reflection and gratitude for God's grace and provision. In addition to the daily activities in the churches of Tabor, Les and Batar, there have been some important events that have shaped my work. I would like to mention just a few of the most important events in and around my work as a pastor.

Evangelism Conference

In the spring, we organized a conference on evangelism in the Tabor church, Oradea. The goal was to teach our pastors and members how to share their testimony using the "One Minute Witness" tool provided by an organization in the United States. Pastor Jeff Davis trained our staff on how to become better witnesses for the Lord.

Summer Bible School

During the summer, we organized a summer Bible school in two Roma communities. The first was the church in Batar, where it was the first time we had such an activity. The children were very enthusiastic, they got involved in the activities and appreciated the songs a lot. There were about 40 children. The second community was in Talpos, where about 150 children came to the summer Bible School. It was an exciting, but also challenging experience, as it was their first time as well.

Change in the Family

The fall brought a change in our family. Our son, Filip, married his beloved Lucia in September. It was a special moment for us; we experienced God's presence during the wedding. We were so moved and we are

convinced that God will bless their marriage.

Additional Work

In addition to the churches I pastor, I am also involved in two other works. We continue to teach leaders from the Roma community and the Roma school that I coordinate. It is amazing to see them asking questions, learning new things and being so enthusiastic. Our desire is to equip them for ministry and enable them to teach other people from their communities.

Christian TV Production

In October, we launched the new program we have been working on called "A Walk Through the Bible", on Credo TV. Together with another pastor, we go through the Gospel of John step by step and try to help viewers understand the Bible and love God's word.

Closing and thanks

I am so grateful to God for His guidance and provision this year. I am also grateful for all the support we have received through PTPI. Our prayer is that as we enter a new year that God will bless us with His presence and guide our steps wherever we go. Our greatest desire is to be in His will and fulfill our function in the kingdom of God. May God bless you all in a wonderful way.

Laurentiu Pascuti
Pastor



The word arrival awakens our anticipation

I would like to share a few words about Advent and Christmas. As many already know, Advent means *arrival* and stems from the Latin fraze *Adventus Domini* - the arrival of the Lord. The word arrival also leads our thoughts to travelling, but during Advent it also leads our thoughts to words such as waiting and anticipation.

About traveling

In my work there is a bit of traveling, foremost to the countries where we support various mission efforts. On every such trip, waiting is part of the game. You have to wait in line until it's your turn to either check in or go through security. Waiting is a kind of respite in our everyday life that may also invite some time for reflection. Every now and then, when I find myself waiting, I tend to reflect on one of the fruits of the Spirit - patience. Waiting can be a test of our patience. No waiting is as difficult or should we say challenging as the one that tests our patience.

Our arrival has therefore been preceded by waiting, but also expectation. What will we experience on our journey? What people will we meet? Practicing the noble art of waiting is not always easy. It tests our patience. Especially if we encounter resistance while waiting. Our arrival can be delayed for various reasons by things that are beyond our ability to influence. Therefore, our arrival can be a test for both the traveler and the one waiting for our arrival. If our arrival is delayed, it can lead to a long array of different feelings. Especially when our patience is exhausted and stretched beyond its ability to flex, we find ourselves in some kind of "survival mode", not adhering to our most basal instincts.

Having to wait, which in itself is a kind of delayed gratification for things to come, where the joy of reunion is the most prominent. That we soon will meet the one who returns, like the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:24 *"For my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."* The father's joy knew no bounds. Therefore the joy of seeing the one who arrives should not be underestimated.



"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, that where I am you may be." (John 14:3) What hope that is! His arrival is awaited by many around our world. During Advent we celebrate his arrival into this world. But it is equally true that we await his second coming.

Our faith is in many ways a certainty about what we cannot see. Jesus says, *"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:29) We belong to the rare group who believe, even though our physical eyes have not seen.

Advent is a foretaste of what is to come. With joy and gratitude, we enter Christmas, because we know *why* we celebrate: With the words of the evangelist Luke: *"For today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you, who is Christ the Lord."* In a superficial and materialistic time, it's easy to lose this focus. We celebrate his arrival into this world, but live with an anticipation of his second coming to take us home to himself.

Let the Advent season leading up to Christmas be characterized by this anticipation of his arrival. That He was born to take human form, but that He is also the only begotten Son of God, the Savior of the world, who will one day come again to take us home to himself. What a glorious promise! Wishing all of you a blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Meeting those who have been waiting for our arrival, is often a strong emotional experience. This becomes especially true if the wait has been long.

A second coming

During the last 2000 years we have been patiently waiting for the Savior's arrival. In just a few days we will be able to celebrate his birth - his arrival to this world. The fact that God became man, took on human form, is the cornerstone of the Gospel. His incarnation is a guarantee of our salvation and the credibility of the Gospel. But it does not end there, but the promise of his return is a living hope for those who believe. The evangelist John recalls the words of Jesus:

