

**November 2017**

„I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds”. Ps 9,1  
Thanksgiving is a time when all of us get to see just how blessed is our life walking in the narrow path. We thank God for you. Your faithful prayers and generous donations are making the difference in inmates life here... Thank you!

Viorel wrote:

October

This month we had an exceptional time in the prison, each meeting was special. Lesson 8, we spoke of the love of God shown in the Lord Jesus Christ. I encouraged them to pray with me, and more of the inmates opened their heart and prayed. This month we will complete the course and celebrate in the penitentiary, each prisoner will receive a Bible, a diploma and some sweets. I invited the young team of my Church to sing. I need to mention and thank the RMS Mission from Oradea who helped us with literature, Bibles and other materials that we will distribute to the inmates on this meeting.



November 7-8. Parliament of Romania - Breakfast with prayer:

This was the most solemn moments I have lived this year. I was invited to prayer breakfast in the Romanian Parliament. We were around 400 guests, Romanian lawmakers, parliamentarians from the European Parliament, ambassadors, state secretaries, pastors, priests, civil society leaders, etc. The chosen theme was „Integrity in public sphere”. Every speaker was applauded, we sang together, prayed, listened to the Word of God. The most beautiful and solemn moment was when the Bodnariu family with their six children were invited to say a few words and sang. The whole audience got up and applauded good seconds.



November 19th. The first inmate who visited our church (72 km the distance between my Church and the prison) The most beautiful and blessed moment we have lived in our church when Tibor visited



us (from my last study group). He was released on November 13th, and his first visit he made was our Church with all his family. He announced late Saturday, so it was quite a surprise to our Community. Our brothers and sisters was full of joy, and also Tibor told me that he have not lived such moments in his life and God has completely changed his life. He was so excited.

November 20

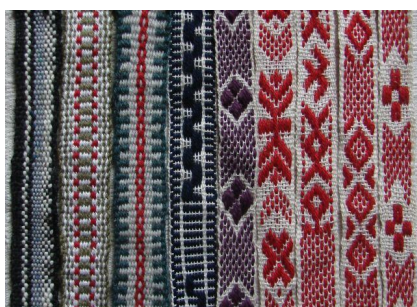
We have completed the Path to a happy life course, so we organized a celebration and over 40 inmates took part. A group of young people in Codlea sang, each inmate who completed the course received a diploma, a Bible, a generous sweets package. I preached from Luke 19, Zacheu, a sinner in search of the Savior.

Sometimes we travel our wife weaves in the car (woven bands), this time on the way for activity in the Iasi Prison. For me it is a great blessing that she helps me in the ministry. Teaching weaving to inmates is considered occupational therapy. Unfortunately, they are not credited for this type of activity, and for this reason there is not much motivation to participate in a large number, however, it is very much appreciated by the prison management. Recently I discovered there is a movement in Maryland, USA named „Knitting behind the bars”. Our „weaving behind the bars” it is not a direct evangelisation, but it brings the chance to spend and talk two-three hours with inmates. The benefits of weaving together is huge, as bringing something into the existence that was not there before, gives a feeling that is hard to put into words. It is wonderful to see every times their joy and satisfaction. When we create, it pleases God. When we accomplish a job it makes us optimistic about the future.



We have a very good relation with the leadership of these units, it is a blessing to us. These days we are very busy to make a new program with Brother Onu for the Iasi Prison. We ask for your prayers to deal with this task and to glorify Jesus using it between inmates.

In Bala Mare we met this month a very good group of inmates with whom I could talk a lot about



their chances in the future, about how God may intervenes in their lives of those who want to repent. It is very interesting that also in the Romanian language the word „repentance” is generally means a change of religion rather than a decision to follow Jesus. It is very difficult to explain the notion, if the listeners do not manifest an opening for the Word of God.

Unfortunately, many have a misperception of their chances of being released, and many concrete examples have to be made that there are other possibilities than relapse and continue an offender lifestyle. They tend to blame everything (system, government, financial situation) than to recognize the importance of discovering a new way of life by their personal decision for Christ. I can say this time the topic of our meeting has brought results. Most of the participants expressed their total agreement with the received exhortations. We pray for these people to find the way to surrender to God,

Brother Baboi sent his report and a picture as well of the Church he is attending. He works earnestly by the grace of the Lord. He has a great love for the prison ministry and greets you all in the name of Jesus.

Good news from the Christian Policemen Association: Sister Irma Marasescu offered to help the Gypsy mission in the village of Vidacut with a project worth 2000 euros. Brother Ion Circota wants to build a common fountain and a pipeline to have the neighborhood drinking water. We pray that the Lord bless this project.

With love in Christ,

*Kövendi*

