

# Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities



These Gypsy children were all smiles as they were able to go to summer camp for the first time last year.

## Sponsors Sought To Help Gypsy Children Attend Summer Camp

Last year, more than 30 Gypsy children got an opportunity to experience summer camp for the first time ever.

For most of us, going to camp was a highlight of every summer. Our days at church Youth Camp, Camp McCall, Camp Rawls or Camp LaVida were times of making new friends, learning new things, or the moment we accepted Christ into our life.

Many of the Gypsy children who attended camp last year now have similar memories, and you can help them not only add to those but provide a chance for other Gypsy children to make new memories, too.

For only \$40 you can sponsor a Gypsy child for a week at camp this summer.

Pray that God will lead people to become sponsors so these children can come to know Him through the camp experience. Contact Meg Hunt at [mhunt21@msn.com](mailto:mhunt21@msn.com) to sponsor a child.

## One Family's Journey Of Faith Sets Course For A Community

By Floyd Parker

I remember when I first met Zozo Kalanyos. It was November 2006, and I was in Gornesti visiting Attila Toth. Bernard Kabarú Mwangi from Kenya was traveling with me to see the different types of churches and mission work in Romania.

In February 2007, Zozo and I prayed together about his decision to follow Christ in baptism and whether or not he should be a member of the Gornesti church. In July 2007, he was baptized.

In the November/December 2007 newsletter, we shared the story of his family's conversion at his baptism. Bonnie and I visited in Zozo's family's house in October 2007. So much has happened in one year.

Zozo's father, Istvan, mother, Dora,



Faith in the Lord shines through Zozo and Gornesti church leaders as their belief in Him helps them serve the people in their village.

brothers Isti and Lala, sister, Anika, and his grandmother have all made decisions for Christ. They began a family Bible study which grew into a community gathering. Lala had built a new house attached to the family

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Floyd enjoyed visiting with Zozo, his family and others who were there for Bible study and fellowship.

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# The Powerful Witness Of Romanian Believers

## Spirit Of God At Work In A Mighty Way In Apalina

By Floyd Parker

Despite many hardships, constant opposition, and desperate circumstances among the Gypsies, the mission at Apalina flourishes. Attila Toth and his group of young missionaries faithfully share God's love with the beautiful Gypsy people there.

Christmas time was the birth of a renewed Spirit in Apalina. Attila was so concerned about the future of the mission, but the Spirit of the Lord was already at work. Four were converted during the Christmas worship services. Others began to be serious about their growing relationship with Jesus Christ. The excitement of following Jesus Christ fills the air and streets of Apalina.

This winter, one family was sleeping in the surrounding fields. Now these new followers are going to provide a very basic place for the family to live. They volunteered to build the shelter and use their money to do so.

The Apalina mission desperately needs partners who will pray with them weekly. Partners who will invest time and resources in long-term mission partnerships are needed.

The opportunities for partnership are overwhelming. For exam-



**The mission at Apalina is thriving as the Lord continues to bless the faithful work of believers in that area.**

ple, Attila will begin adult education classes in the near future. He will need materials and assistance at times with this.

The exciting part of this is that the Apalina Gypsies are loving, open, and eager to learn God's word.

During the evangelistic meetings, Claudia and Denes came sharing with excitement their new discoveries from reading God's word.

We visited one family whose husband made a commitment to follow Christ in December. The wife has some very serious problems. We prayed with her and talked about Jesus Christ. There, in a one-room house, she knelt on the floor confessing her sin and acknowledging her desire to follow Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness. She said, "I know that He may not heal me, but I am forgiven and have peace in my life."

In just three short days, my life was filled with the overwhelming love of God that I received and had the opportunity to share. Join me in this great movement of God among the Gypsy people of Apalina.

**Floyd had the opportunity to share in the great movement of God among the Gypsy people in Apalina.**



## ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY

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home. This addition became the meeting place for as many as 40 people (mostly Gypsy) per week in worship and Bible study.

My great privilege was to worship with them on March 15 during my recent visit

to Romania. The Spirit of God was so powerful as we worshipped together. After the worship service, we enjoyed a very delicious meal together.

Please continue to pray for the movement of God's Spirit among the Gypsy people of Gornesti through the leadership of

Zozo's family.

In one year, so much can happen when God's people become serious in prayer and mission. You, too, can be a partner in this ministry in many different ways. For more information, please contact me at [floyd.parker@teliosministry.org](mailto:floyd.parker@teliosministry.org).

# Gornesti Church Experiences 'Day Of Firsts'

By Floyd Parker

March 16, 2007, was a great day of firsts for the Gornesti Church...

- Members held their first fellowship day as a church.
- Members had their first meal inside the church building.
- They played their first game together as a church.
- They had their first "cookout" at the church.
- They held their first teaching time on "Fellowship of the Church."

The time together was great. In fact, they have already planned another fellowship day for May.

Gornesti is a diverse church, but it is a very strong mission church. Within their body of members are Gypsies, Hungarians, people of different economic levels, age ranges, even people from different communities.

This new church continues to grow in fellowship with one another and with those who do not know Christ. In fact, a large number of people at this first Fellowship Day were not members of the church or believers.

The day was marked by joyous singing. Delicious mici (a Romanian spicy skinless sausage) and pork were grilled and served with fresh bread, pickled vegetables, and cabbage. Everyone also had a great time playing the game. So much so, that after the third time, Attila had to say "No more," to the pleas of adults saying, "One more time." The day ended with a study on Fel-



**Fellowship Day at Gornesti Church was a day of many 'firsts,' including sharing a meal inside the church building.**

lowship in the Church from Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 1 and 3.

The exciting part of what is taking place at the Gornesti church is that despite what some may see as obstacles – just over 20 members and an unfinished church building – they already have a mission in another village and are preparing for the second mission this year. They are reaching out.

As mentioned above, the Gornesti church needs assistance in completing their church building. The greatest needs are toilet facilities, running water, and finishing the inside of the church. Please pray that God will lead partners to help them finish the work to their building as they seek to continue serving Him.

## The Barnabas Group Continues To Provide Stimulus For Pastors

By Floyd Parker

The Barnabas Group met at the Agape Hotel for their semi-annual gathering.

Twenty young pastors came together for fellowship, follow-up on their three-year leadership development plan, and a dialogue session led by Floyd Parker on "How What You Believe About God Affects Ministry Leadership."

The ministry of this group is an informal partnership with Hungarian Baptist of Romania leaders, Teleios Ministry, the Agape Hotel, and leadership development partners. The pastors meet once a month in small learning



**Barnabas Group members helped chop wood as a way to give something back for the generosity shown by the Agape Hotel.**

clusters and twice a year in large group settings.

This year's gathering had lots of laughter, prayer and conversation along with excellent accommodations and meals provided by Agape.

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## Partners Needed For Growing Gypsy Mission

We are seeking partners who will make specific, long-term commitments with individual Gypsy churches and/or missions in Romania.

The Tream Gypsy church is a prime example of how the Spirit of the Lord is moving among these people. This church was started by the Satu Mare Hungarian Baptist Church under the leadership of Zoltan Vekas. What began as a mission in a small Gypsy house has grown into a church with its own building. Every Sunday, the renovated house is filled.

Partners are needed to commit to pray for the church and to communicate with the church. Partners are needed to invest time and finances through mission trips and projects.

The Tream church is moving to begin mission

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## Faithful Servant In Kenya Takes Step Of Faith

*Partners Sought To Assist Bernard Mwangi*

Teleios Ministry is seeking partners to assist Bernard Kabaru Mwangi beginning June 1.

Bernard's calling has led him and other Kenyan leaders to establish Springs of Katartismos, a newly formed NGO. Bernard is the director.

Each newsletter shares stories of Bernard's work in many different areas. Most recently, he has been deeply involved in reconciliation and healing after the post-election violence in Kenya.

Bernard also serves as pastor of the Koinonia Baptist Church and as a leader with the newly formed group, Fellowship of Baptist Churches of Central Kenya or FOBOCK

However, Bernard receives no salary from any of these groups. Since each one is less than two years old and developing, we are seeking partners who will com-



**Bernard Kabaru Mwangi continues to follow God's call on his life, most recently by stepping out in faith to become director of Springs of Katartismos, a newly formed organization in Kenya.**

mit to provide prayer and financial support for Bernard over the next three years.

Please pray for the Lord to lead people to commit to support His servant, Bernard, through their prayers and, if so led, to help financially.

## Farm For Children's Home Beginning To Take Root

Daily Bread Life Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania, has a partner for its farm. A financial and prayer partner has provided the necessary funds for the development of the farm in the nearby village of Kidetete. Thank you for your prayers as we sought a partner for the Children's Home Farm.

As an added praise, Frank Strickland, from Marion, S.C., will be traveling to the farm in June to

assist with the development of the pig farm and other farm-related projects.

The purchase of pigs and chickens used for the start-up of this farm were made possible by the generosity of those gifts from the Christmas Catalog.

Please remember the farm and Frank in your prayers as he prepares to assist the Children's Home.

## Pro-Africa Initiative Launches In Romania, Hungary

*By Floyd Parker*

"This is unbelievable," exclaimed Adrian Giorgiov after returning from sharing about the Pro-Africa initiative with a Hungarian church.

Pro-Africa was created by Adrian after his return from Kenya in December 2007. (See January 2008 newsletter) The purpose of this initiative is to help children and displaced families who are identified by Bernard Kabaru Mwangi and the Koinonia Fellowship. Once identified, these children and families are sponsored by individuals, families, or groups from Romania and Hungary. The sponsorships cover a wide range of needs, such as housing, food, and/or educational needs.

The response has been overwhelming to Adrian. He never dreamed that the response would be so great. In fact, Adrian never dreamed of Pro-Africa until his mission trip to Kenya. In less than six months, this God-given dream has become a reality.

Partnering with Adrian are ITM of Romania and the Hungarian Baptist Convention of Romania along with Kenyan partners Koinonia Baptist Church and Springs of Katartismos, a newly formed NGO in Kenya by Bernard Mwangi and others.

Pray for Adrian and his Kenyan partners as they embark in this new and unbelievable partnership designed for meeting the needs of the displaced, abandoned and poor.

### GROWING MISSION

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work of its own in other villages and towns in the area. They are interested in establishing relationships that will strengthen and grow all partners. Please e-mail Floyd Parker at [floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org](mailto:floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org) if you would like more information.

### BARNABAS GROUP

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Pray for these young pastors in their continued growth as kingdom leaders. The timeline of their leadership development plan designates October as the time they will focus on developing mission strategy for their churches. In March 2009, the focus will be on developing transformative communities of faith.

# This Just In...

## From Kenya...

- Koinonia Fellowship in Ruaka needs help with the sponsorship of nine displaced families due to the recent violence in Kenya. For only \$200 per family, this group of refugees can begin to reconstruct their lives. Pray that God will work in the hearts of those who have the monetary resources to make it possible for Koinonia to assist these families.

- Plans are being made for another exciting week of Bible Camp at Koinonia Fellowship in Ruaka. Dates are Nov. 28-Dec. 10. Pray thanking God that the violence there has subsided. Also pray that He will lead people to join the Team for His work with the children of this area.

## From Romania...

- In March, Attila Toth was notified that he would have to vacate his apartment in 15 days. He was quite sure that he would not be able to find a new place in Reghim that quickly or even at all, as housing is at a premium in the city. His desire was to stay in the immediate area of the mission work. He contacted us to tell us of his plight. A group of Teleios partners joined him in praying about this situation. Within days an apartment of comparable size and price was secured. Praise God for His faithfulness to take care of the details of our lives as we serve and work to fulfill Kingdom purpose! Celebrate with Attila that he can stay close to those whom he has been called to witness to and serve.

- Two young women from the Nashville area will join Bonnie Parker in assisting Attila Toth with camp for the Gypsy children of Apalina in July. Pray as preparations for this summer trip are being scheduled.

- Pray for the four young men who will be graduating from the Hungarian Baptist Seminary at the end of this term. Ask God for His guidance for churches who consider calling these young men to serve as their pastors and for the young men to discern His will for their lives.

## From Tanzania...

Mpeli Mwaisumbe, Teleios partner with Daily Bread Life Ministries in Iringa, has been issued the required travel visa needed for him to be able to visit the United States. Teleios will host Mpeli in Greenville May 22-26. Praise God for making this possible.

## Grace Team To Conduct Medical Mission Work

Floyd Parker will be assisting members from Grace Church and Fellowship of Baptists of Central Kenya April 5-10 during a week of medical missions work at Sipili, Kenya. The seven members from Grace Church are Chuck Arnold, Mike Collins, Mark DeMoss, Gretchen Dobbs, Julianne Ellingson, Donald Spann and Ryan Voelkert. Please pray for safety in travel and for the people to be receptive to trusting those who are bringing medicine and treatments to them.

**April 3-4:** Floyd travels from Greenville to Nairobi

**April 4-5:** Seven persons from Grace Church travel from Greenville to Nairobi

**April 6:** Team travels with Kenyan partners to Sipili to set up the medical treatment area

**April 7-10:** Daily Schedule for Medical Mission Week

7:30 a.m.: Breakfast

8 a.m.: Medical treatment work begins

4 p.m.: Medical treatment closes for the day.

**April 11:** Team travels to Nakuru for debriefing on Medical Week

Visit Lake Nakuru National Park

Floyd Parker departs for Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

**April 12:** Team travels from Nakuru to Nairobi for shopping, dinner.

**April 13:** Grace Team worships at Koinonia/Departs for Greenville at 10:15 p.m.

Floyd in Dar es Salaam with Frank Mwaisumbe

**April 14:** Floyd travels to Iringa, Tanzania to meet with Mpeli Mwaisumbe

**April 15:** DBL Children's Home and Farm

**April 16:** DBL Children's Home

**April 17:** Return to Dar Es Salaam

Departs for Greenville at 10:15 PM.

**April 18:** Arrives in Greenville in the afternoon

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## Koinonia Member Opens New Business In Ruaka, Kenya

Jesse Thiuri Mahianyu, CPA, started his own business on April 1. With the assistance of Teleios Ministry partners, Jesse has been able to put together an effective business plan and secured investors for his new business which opened in Ruaka, Kenya.

Jesse's dream is to be a businessman who offers accounting services and business development planning with integrity. He believes that the work we do during the week is our testimony of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Being self-employed, he will be able to have a more flexible schedule for assisting Pastor Sammy and Pastor Bernard of the church. Pray for Jesse as he begins the business and fulfills his calling as a businessman.

Jesse is one of the leaders of the Koinonia Baptist Church in Ruaka. He and his wife, Peris, have one daughter, Faith.



## Reflections From the Green Chair....

First, a request of you: Please read the entire article before you start talking back to me about it as you read.

I have heard about all I can listen to and read on for tolerance by Christians. The Scriptures do not allow for tolerance by followers of Jesus Christ. In the teachings of Jesus, you will not find the teachings of tolerance. Today, the word tolerance has had a slight change in meaning. Now, tolerance includes being fair and objective. We are not called by Jesus to be fair, objective, or permissive in our attitudes toward others who are different.

Jesus gave two statements that deal with tolerance. In one, He said to His followers on how they are to treat other followers: "A new commandment I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you." (*John 13:33-35; 15:12, 17*)

In the other, He said to his followers: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expect-

ing nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (*Luke 6:27-38; Matthew 5:43-48*)

Maybe I am just splitting hairs, but tolerance does require me to genuinely, actively, love another person who is different from me. Even the best definitions of tolerance do not include mercy. Mercy is not fair, objective, or permissive. How are the above statements fair?

More is required of me as a follower of Jesus Christ than being tolerant of someone who is different from me. Love demands my full involvement in serving them. Love involves my head, my heart, and my hands. Mercy costs me something.

You see, tolerance allows me to put up with differences but requires really nothing of me. I cannot, as a follower of Jesus Christ being true to His teachings, hide in tolerance, nor can I hide behind a shield of interpretation and tradition that allows me not to love

(serve) without cost.

One statement needs to be added. The greatest act of love is to give one's life so another might have life in Jesus Christ. So, if I seek to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ to a person of a different race, religion, nationality, gender, language group, etc., then I must do it as an act of love and service. I cannot tolerate the difference because I deeply love them. I have to let love not hate, rules and tradition, motivate and guide me, and, yes, call me to serve them.

Here is the warning if you do this: You will be persecuted by religious people and by our culture. In fact, you will be seen as an intolerant fanatic by some and as a tolerant liberal by others. But, you will be a true follower of Jesus Christ—you will be like your Father.

*(Some translations, like NASB, use the word "tolerance" in a positive sense. Space does not allow me to go into the use of this English word to interpret translation of the Greek word and meaning.)*

Love In Christ,

*Floyd*