

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

Gypsy Children's Camp Set For July

By Bonnie Parker

Gypsy children's summer camp is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that in less than six short weeks our team will be winging their way to Romania on July 8 to spend time with the children in the beautiful mountains outside of Sibiu. While being one of the more physically challenging trips we participate in, it is also the most fun!

Returning as the Teleios contingent of camp staff will be Anna Horne, Katie McClung, Paul Crook and me. Newcomer, Sarah Dyer from San Antonio, will also join us this year. We look forward to working alongside Attila and Adel Toth, Zoltan Dohi and others as we minister to the children from Apalina and Glodendi.

This year, we are trying to hold camp costs to the same as last year – \$50.00 per child – despite an increase in food and fuel costs. In addition, as of press time, the dollar was losing value against the Romanian currency. For these reasons, your help in funding camp again this year would be greatly appreciated.

Some have given scholarships for the children through the Christmas Catalog and others have contributed throughout the year for summer camp. However, more funds are still needed so all 100 Gypsy children can enjoy camp.

If you feel led of the Lord to partner with us to make the dreams of these children a reality, we would greatly appreciate your support. Contact us at 864-322-9775 or mail check designated for Gypsy Children's Camp to: Teleios Ministry, 28 Eula St., Greenville, SC 29609.



And All God's People Said 'We Keep Building'

By Floyd Parker

The building of the Apalina Mission Center has been filled with unbelievable moments of God at work in the lives of the Roma (Gypsy) of Apalina. Teleios Ministry partners provided the resources for the preliminary and required paperwork and drawings to begin work on the foundation. The foundation was finished last October ready for the walls to rise as soon as resources were available.

Attila Toth purchased food for lunch for the Apalina members and friends while they worked on the foundation. One of the Roma volunteers took his lunch and sent it home to his family. Attila asked him what he was doing. He said that his family had nothing to eat since he was working on the foun-

ation for their church. They live day to day on what can be earned. If he did not work, they did not eat. The volunteer had not eaten that day and was prepared to not eat at all.

Some would say how foolish that he would volunteer his time on the building and not work to earn money for food for his family. Jesus had changed his life. A day without food was nothing compared to what Christ had done for him and his family. This is not a unique story but the story of many of those you saw in photos working on the foundation last year.

In February 2011, we learned that the building where the Apalina mission currently meets was going to be torn

Continued on page 2

Inside This Issue	New Partnership To Strengthen Work And Ministry Efforts In Mures District..... 2	Tanzanian Women's Leadership Conferences Encourage And Inspire Participants 5	Updates And Current Needs From Partners In Romania, Tanzania And Canada..... 7	Reflections From The Green Chair..... 8
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New Partnership To Strengthen Work In Mures District

By Floyd Parker

Attila and Adel Toth have a new partner in the work in the Mures District in Romania. A leadership team from Leesburg Community Church, Leesburg, VA, met with them in Romania last month and visited the missions and churches in the area.

The visit exceeded everyone's expectations of establishing a viable partnership for changing lives in Jesus Christ. The team

visited each of the areas that Attila and Adel serve. Also, the team shared time with Zoltan and Abigail Dohi who serve as church planters in Glodeni with Attila.

Teleios Ministry is excited about the opportunities this brings for all the partners. Initially, the partnership will focus on youth/student ministry, evangelism, church planting, and construction projects.

WE KEEP BUILDING

Continued from page 1

down. The group that owned the building was planning to build another building on the site. This meant no place for the Apalina mission. I cannot forget the day Attila called and said, "Floyd, we have big trouble."

We all prayed together and committed to begin construction as soon as possible. Construction was begun without knowing how it would be completed. We believed that God would provide what was needed if we would just get started. Designated gifts from Teleios partners provided the resources to begin putting up the walls.

The Chapel Project*, an American/Romanian group, that assists in the construction of church buildings met with Attila to consider helping with the construction. They would put on the roof, help with windows and wiring. The Apalina building was larger than most of the chapels that they were building in Romania. Attila was so hopeful of their help. However, we received word that



they had decided not to help with the construction due to its size. Attila said, "What will we do?" We keep building.

Overseeing the building is Miklos, a Roma believer from Sarmasag (Attila and Adel's home village), and leader in the Sarmasag Roma Baptist Church. His son is also working with him. The walls were finished the first week in May. Construction was stopped for one week to allow the concrete to dry. All the funds were depleted. Attila asked, "Do we continue on Monday?"

Then, a second call from the Romania Chapel Project came. They had changed their mind and were going to help with construction, after all. We reached an agreement. The Apalina mission center building would be ready for the chapel project construction team in mid-July.

What do we do? No funds and a deadline for the Apalina mission part of construction was set for mid-July. There was no choice but to keep working after the drying week.

During that week, a leadership team from Leesburg Community Church, Leesburg, VA, visited Attila and Adel to talk about a potential partnership beginning in 2012. Their first worship service was with the Apalina mission. The next morning they took a tour of Apalina, met the people of Apalina, and heard from Attila the vision for the Apalina mission. A gift was made so that construction could continue. On Monday, the work began again putting the conduit for electrical wiring in the walls.



We were all reminded again that God provides. What God starts, God provides for and finishes. The journey of faith continues. The God-given vision is becoming a reality.

On June 12, the Leesburg Community Church will hold a fund-raising event for the Apalina Mission Center. I am not asking you to pray for the funds. I am asking you to pray for the movement of God's Spirit among His people. Those who are to give will give, those who are to serve in Romania during the partnership will commit to serve, and those who are to pray will commit to pray. All we ask is that God will be glorified and lives will be changed in Jesus Christ. We pray that the partnership will bless on both sides with changed lives and glory given to God.

**The Romania Chapel Project is an excellent American-based mission organization [501(c) 3] that has assisted in the construction of over 100 church buildings. They were involved in the construction of the Acas Roma and Gornesti church buildings. The construction of the chapels also has evangelistic outreach to the communities. I encourage you to check them out at www.romaniachapel.org.*

Fellowship, Worship Abundant At Gypsy Women's Conference

By Bonnie Parker

What a wonderful day of fellowship and worship on March 26 as 80-100 Roma women gathered at the Hungarian Baptist Church in Gornesti for the second annual Gypsy Women's Conference!

The group had grown considerably. Attending this year were Gypsy women from Gornesti, Apalina, Glodeni, and Chebed. Some came from as far away as Korond and Gheorgheni. It was very exciting because several different Gypsy tribes were represented this year. The church was filled with brightness thanks to the broad smiles and colorful scarves! A small group of Hungarian women from Peris, Reghin and Gornesti joined with the Roma women to give thanks and praise to God.

The day consisted of three teaching sessions, lots of music, prayers and testimonies from the Gypsy women. Anna Borzasi did an excellent job translating for me as I taught the sessions. Our theme for the day was Children of God. Session I dealt with what God has done and does daily for us as His children. Session II consisted of teachings on how we should model our parenting on how our Heavenly Father relates to us. In Session III we talked about how God's grace covers our past failures in regard to our pre-born children.

When they asked me to teach at this conference, Attila and Adel



Toth shared with me that many of the women struggled with guilt and shame that they had used abortion as a method of birth control before becoming believers. They asked that I prepare a session dealing with the sufficiency of God's grace in this matter. As I researched this topic in preparation for the session, I was astounded by what I learned. In almost every village, there is always



a woman who is the designated abortionist. The average number of abortions among Gypsy women of childbearing age in Romania is eight. Upon arriving for the conference I shared this statistic with Attila. He said he was surprised it was so low!

During the time of testimony, much to my surprise, the women confirmed his opinion. Several women spoke of their experiences and after repenting how they found peace through prayer and from God's Word concerning the darkness in their past life. One woman spoke of the need for all of them to be honest and share with others about the difference in their lives before knowing Jesus and after their salvation experience.

These testimonies were very touching. They revealed the desire in hearts of the women to help one another understand the tragedy of abortion and to prevent these high numbers of death for their pre-born children. They were living testimony to the suffi-

Continued on page 4

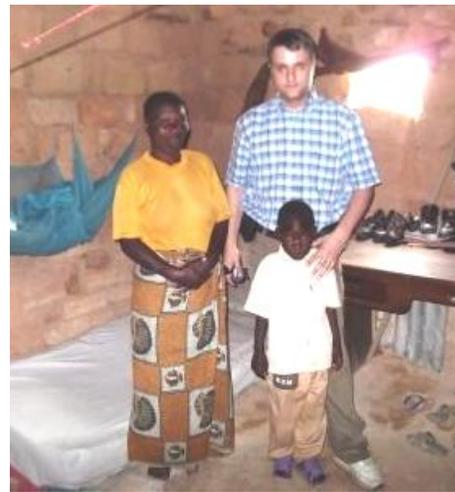


We Serve An Amazing God!

By Floyd Parker

Gornesti, Filpisu Mic, Reghin, Glodin, Apalina... I am struck by the uniqueness of each church or mission. The people are different and the churches are different. Each has its unique challenges and blessings. Nowhere do I experience more diversity in worship and "church personality" as here in Romania.

Whether through church planters, development of Gypsy leaders in missions, or evangelistic meetings, in His time and His way, God has brought together His servants to grow the Kingdom here.



Cigher Sorin, pastor from Abrud, Romania, visited Tanzania this past February and had an opportunity to meet Frank, the child he and his family sponsor through Pro-Africa. The team went to various villages and towns to meet with other children in the Pro-Africa program.



Pro~Africa Tanzania Grows

Pro Africa Tanzania now reaches 100 children sponsored through Daily Bread Life Children's Home. Pro Africa provides support for food, education, or other needs for orphans and vulnerable children. Pro Africa was started by Adrian Giorgiov after he visited Kenya several years ago as part of a Teleios Ministry team.

ABUNDANT FELLOWSHIP

Continued from page 3

ciency of the grace of God. Others shared the joy of their new lives in Jesus and the gratitude they have for God's love. They expressed thanksgiving for Attila and Adel because of their love and support and for the opportunity to gather at the conference.

Once again, the men served snacks at break time and prepared a wonderful lunch of Hungarian

goulash, bread and pickles. Anna had made cakes and brought them for dessert. What a feast! Also, thanks go to the men for providing musical accompaniment during the singing portion of the conference.

After many hugs and kisses, and long good-byes, the day ended as it had begun with lots of smiles and joy. All of us eagerly await next year's conference.



Tanzanian Women's Conferences Encourage And Inspire Participants

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series that will address the challenges and realities, as well as the hopes and dreams of African women of God in the 21st century.

By Bonnie Parker

Last December, Teleios Ministry was asked to partner with Daily Bread Life Ministries to organize a women's leadership development conference in Tanzania in 2011.

During the first week of April, Tina Thomas of Ware Shoals and I traveled to Tanzania to lead conferences in Iringa and Mbeya.



The nearly 100 participants were leaders from Pentecostal, Lutheran, Baptist, and Moravian churches. One woman in attendance was from a Catholic church. Some of the women were pastors' wives, some the wives of deacons.

Also, a pastor and several evangelists joined us at one of the conferences. Two babies were with us at the Iringa conference and a toddler attended with her mother in Mbeya. Some traveled long distances by bus to participate. There were women from cities, towns and villages in the bush.

It was exciting to bring them greetings from the Gypsy women who attended the conference in Gornesti, Romania, and the Hungarian Baptist women in the churches pastored by Attila Toth, as well as from women from the United States. They were surprised that women from other parts of the world were aware of their conference.



The sessions at both conferences were designed to guide the women in how to use Scripture, prayer and other spiri-

tual disciplines to grow in a deeper personal relationship with Jesus.

One session dealt with how to hear our calling and be assured of that call. Another was about defining roles and dealing with expectations from congregation and community in a healthy way. The closing session was dedicated to assuring the women that they are not alone in facing the challenges that come to servants of God.



During both conferences, as we spent time in discussions with the women, it was clear that there are many things that African women in church leadership positions share with women leaders everywhere. However, we discovered that there are some unique challenges faced by our African sisters due to culture and tradition.



During this trip to Tanzania I was deeply moved as I recognized how truly difficult the conditions there are for

women. Life in general is difficult due to poverty, disease and climate-related issues. Most of the world is aware of this. The reality of years of political mismanagement from within and without has continued to inhibit transition from third world status into a modern functioning nation. These situations, while very real, are not the ones of which I speak.

The women who attended the conferences in Iringa and in Mbeya are wonderful, hard working sisters in Christ. They have been blessed by God with nurturing spirits. This has led to a desire to meet the needs of their families and make their communities a



Continued on page 6

ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE

Continued from page 5

better place for all. They recognize that their ability to do this rests not in their power but in the power of their Heavenly Father.

Culturally, women do all the work in making a home and providing for the needs of their children. In the villages they do the farming, homemaking and home repairs on mud houses. Getting water often requires vast amounts of time and takes a physical toll as a woman may have to walk miles to find the water and then carry it back to her home. There are no modern appliances to help with cooking, laundry, and farming. Plumbing and electricity are rare and even when available are unreliable.

In the city, life is not much easier. Small cinder block homes, often consisting only of one or two rooms provide shelter for families. Again plumbing and electricity are not guaranteed 24/7. In most families women still are the primary bread winners. Some have jobs as teachers, nurses or small business owners. But the majority of women have not had enough educational opportunities to hold these types of jobs. Some set up kiosks to sell vegetables from small gardens or sale items they traveled by bus to Dar es Salaam and purchased wholesale for resale. Others have sewing skills and stitch for a living.

Whether living in a village or a town, women go about their daily tasks working



long, hard hours with very little affirmation or encouragement. Unfortunately this is true from within the structure of their local churches, too.

Women carry the weight of the work required to keep the church going. Ministry to the congregational families and others around them with food and assistance



during times of death, childbirth or other times of celebration falls totally to the women because that is how it is in the culture. There are no fast food places or grocery stores to make this task easy. They are responsible for the spiritual education of the children and their own spiritual growth and development. Resources for teaching and for studying are scarce making it difficult. They often sacrifice personal resources putting their family's well being at risk in order to minister to fellow believers and others in their communities.

It was very exciting and rewarding that the women in Iringa immediately decided to meet once a month to share and pray

with one another. In Mbeya, the women began to discuss ways to teach young boys the Christian view of family. Both groups asked if we could make the conference an annual event and include a session for wives and husbands on Christian family life.

It became very evident that these women need the continued and fervent prayers of their Christian sisters from around the world. I feel very strongly that the Lord is calling Teleios to continue to work alongside these women. We were told it had been over 10 years since any conference like this had been available to them.

The women have a hunger to learn God's plan and purpose for them; to walk daily in the ways of the Lord and help change the lost condition of the world in which they live. We must encourage them and partner with resources when the Lord brings about the opportunities.

There are some African traditions regarding women and marriage that contradict Christian beliefs. Conference participants shared how difficult it is for women who have come to know the Lord to stand firm as believers when they are married to men who are not, as well as how difficult it is to be of help to them.

In the next few newsletters, I am going to share some of these traditions and challenges with you so you will be able to pray in specific ways for our sisters in Christ in Tanzania and for the lost to whom they witness with the transforming message of gospel of Jesus Christ.



This Just In...

From Canada...

Floyd and Bonnie Parker have been asked to travel to Toronto in August to conduct a marriage enrichment retreat for Hungarian Baptists there. This retreat is still in the planning stages. Ask the Lord to guide and direct them as they partner with the Hungarian First Baptist Church of Toronto in preparation for the retreat.

From Romania...

Mures – Paul Crook of North Charleston will spend the summer working with Attila Toth in the Mures district. Paul participated in the 2010 summer camp for Gypsy children and has worked through other groups in Romania and Hungary in years past. He's a valuable asset for many reasons but especially for his ability to speak Hungarian. Pray for him as he is on mission this summer.

Satu Mare – Bonnie has been invited by Elizabeth Vekas to come in November to work with the women's ministry among Gypsies in the Satu Mare area. Specifically, they will be teaching and visiting churches in Acas, Tiream and Sandermorhook. These churches started as missions from the Satu Mare church during Zoltan and Elizabeth's ministry there. It has been exciting to be a part of what the Lord has been doing in these churches over the years. Thank God for the continued opportunity to partner in the work.

From Tanzania...

As the newsletter went to press, the Kip Miller family and Peter Heitman of Greenville are on mission in Iringa. Over the last six years, the Millers have partnered through Teleios to support the work of Daily Bread Life Children's Home. While Kip has traveled to Tanzania numerous times, this is only the family's second trip and Peter's first. During this visit they will conduct a mini-camp for the DBLCH children, do light repairs around the compound and visit Kidetete, Nzihhi and observe other aspects of the Teleios/DBLCH partnership work in the Iringa district. Kip asks that we pray for them to "be a people of impact" as they work there. Ask God's blessings on them and for safety as they travel.

Also, Derrick Miller brought his fiancée, Katelyn Rodgers, to introduce her to the DBLCH family. Two years ago Derrick spent the summer with Neema and Mpele Mwaishumbe working at the Children's Home. All the children and staff are excited about the opportunity to meet Katelyn and welcome her into the family!

40 Hungarian Bibles Needed

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105

The great challenge in planting strong Roma (Gypsy) churches is developing mature leaders in areas where the ability to read the Bible is very limited.

The Satu Mare Hungarian Baptist Church has a dream of teaching every Roma adult how to read using the Bible. A retired school teacher has volunteered her time to teach in the Tiream church weekly.

The critical need is Hungarian Bibles. The Hungarian Bibles cost \$15 each, and currently 40 Bibles are needed.

Teleios Ministry is seeking partners to pray for the teacher and the Roma who are learning to read and to provide the gift of a Bible. If you would like to be a part of meeting this life-changing need, contact Floyd Parker at floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org.

Sacele Ministries Outgrowing Space

By Floyd Parker

Otto and Elisabeth Kis have a dream of a mission center in Sacele. They have been serving as church planters in the Sacele area for the past six years.

Together they have established a significant ministry with the disabled in the area. Also, they have started a couples group with an emphasis on family life. I had the opportunity to lead Couple's Night with them in February. More than 17 couples participated.

In addition, Otto and Elisabeth host a weekly children's club. Recently, the parents have begun to assist with the club.

Otto and Elisabeth have a critical need for space for the growing ministry. Their dream is to develop a mission center in Sacele as a place of worship, family devel-

opment, ministry with the disabled, and the children's ministry.

Teleios Ministry has made meeting this need a priority. Teleios partners have been faithfully giving over the past few years to provide a building for the mission. This is a great beginning. I was with them in March to survey property, as well as explore opportunities for developing the mission center. The result was a deep conviction that the center is desperately needed.

The cost of property in Sacele is expensive. The real temptation is to just find what can be afforded now. We have discovered this is not the way.

Please join in prayer for patience as God prepares the place, the partners, and the way for this center to develop.

First Class Of Pastors Set To Graduate

Pray for the Sipili Bible School in Kenya as it graduates its first class on June 10. Fifteen pastors will be graduating.

Celebrate with them and the churches they serve during this

exciting time by thanking God for the opportunity they have had to study and learn. Thank the Lord, too, for those who have given time and resources to teach and make this school a reality. May all the praise and honor be to Him.





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Reflections From the Green Chair.....

In January, I committed to read through the Psalms this year. I found that I did not get very far before the richness of encouragement and challenge began to slow me down. Psalm 34 caught my attention and has occupied a great deal of reflection time. In fact, it became the basis of most of my preaching and teaching in the past months of travel. Everywhere I went the truth of this Psalm opened my eyes to the great truth that it captures.

The Psalm begins with David praising and blessing the Lord for deliverance. He is boasting in the Lord — this is what the Lord has done and I am confident that He will continue. What caught my attention was why David was praising, blessing, and boasting.

What are your fears? We all carry secret fears. David was on the run for his life from Saul. His family, friends, and his own life were in danger. He had been anointed by Samuel as the future king, but that anointment seemed distant as he traveled in foreign and enemy territory.

What do you fear — failure, what people think, what people say or do, illness, appearance, exams, for your future, or the discovery of your past? The truth is that all of us live our lives in fear.

Bonnie and I spent more time traveling from February to now than we did at home.

Except for four days, our travel was not together. In one stretch of six weeks, we saw each other for only four days. People in almost every place I traveled asked me about fear for my travel or for Bonnie as she traveled. We attempted new work and found fresh challenges.

In thinking back over the past years, I could see the road of life for so many people littered with abandoned dreams and visions because of fear... churches and people living in fear rather than pursuing their calling. We all live in fear. We either live in the fear of the things of this world and the people of this world or we live in the fear of God. These are our two choices.

When we live in fear, distrust and the negative dominate our lives. We say something like *"What is going to happen to me (us) if this takes place."* Fear always destroys. When we fear the Lord, trust and hope dominate our lives.

Back to Psalm 34, David caught me with this powerful statement in verse 4, *"I sought the LORD (prayed), and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."* He follows the deliverance from the fears of the things of this world and the people of this world with this statement in Psalm 34:9, *"O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want."*

Fear the Lord in this reference doesn't mean a cowering, immobilizing fear. It is a recognition of who He is and who we are in relationship to Him, a reverence, a healthy respect. He is God and there is no other.

Psalm 27 begins with *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?"* (See Psalm 56). David ends Psalm 27 with *"Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."* Fear drives us to do very regrettable things. All because we did not trust the Lord and wait on him. Fear drives us to make hasty decisions and wrong ones.

Space is running out, so here it is. Be honest with yourself and with God, put your fear or fears openly and clearly before Him. God will answer and will deliver you from your fear or fears.

John 4:19 says *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear..."* You will either live in fear of the things or people of this world or in the fear of God. Trust Him! Read Psalm 34. Take courage, do not be afraid — *"I sought the Lord, He answered, and delivered me from all of my fears."* From ALL of my fears.

In Christ's Love,

Floyd

