

ROMANIAN CHRISTIAN ENTERPRISES

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CHRISTMAS 2007

An amazing story of grace!

Roza's house sits at the end of a quiet street in a typical Romanian village. Like generations before them the people there hire a shepherd to graze their cattle and sheep on common land. Roza's husband is the village shepherd, a poor living. The mud walls of their house are crumbling in places and could use some shoring up.

There is nothing unique about the house or the village where Roza lives with her second husband (she was widowed young) and their two teenage daughters.

There is nothing unique except that a miracle recently happened there. The good news of it has reached beyond the village, astonishing people as far away as Washington DC where it was celebrated by no less than the Romanian Ambassador to the United States when she heard the story at RCE's recent annual event.

The miracle – actually a series of miracles begun years earlier – took place in mid-August in the garden of Roza's neighbor. There she heard her neighbor's daughter-in-law, who was visiting from the city of Arad some 60 kilometers away, tell the most extraordinary story about a little boy at a place called Darius House.

"He desperately needs a family right now," the young woman (Adina) explained. "But who is going to adopt a teenage boy with autism." With much passion she told how everyone at RCE had been praying for a family for him with a target date of September 2007, before his 15th birthday. But September was only weeks away with no hope in sight.

Roza listened in growing amazement and realization that the little boy in question, rescued by RCE years before and now living in a recuperative home named after him, was her very own grandson.

Now it was Adina's turn to be amazed – as she listened to Roza explain how her son left the area after he abandoned his infant son (the mother also disappeared). She had tried and finally found her grandson in a state orphanage and then took him home to raise him. But he screamed when she touched him, refused to eat, and grew so weak she was afraid he would die. Defeated Roza took him back to the orphanage – where she assumed he died soon after.

But he didn't die, because God's people intervened. *Unknown to Roza at the very time she returned him to that terrible orphanage - a home designed to provide for his special needs was nearing completion.* Specialists in the US were right then training dedicated individuals like Adina and a month later the doors of Darius House opened for him and eight other special needs orphans.



Darius was about seven - but looked closer to three - when he arrived. Screaming was his only method of communication. Over the years he made slow but extraordinary progress eventually learning to accept love and even to return it. He learned to communicate through sign language at RCE's Sunshine School and how to do household and garden chores in the Vocational Training Program. He especially loved the animals – the dog and her puppies, his own rabbit, and the occasional lamb.

And that big, happy boy was the Darius that Roza met two days later when she visited him. She couldn't believe her eyes. And to his great delight she took him home for a visit. Two weeks later it was clear that this was where he belonged and Roza asked to keep him. **It was September the 5, 2007.** The thing that visitors notice first is the bond between Roza and Darius and the delight of her daughters to have a 'brother'.

RCE is providing some much needed support to the family, including helping them learn sign language and how to deal with his autism. The mud walls on the house are being shored up (although Roza did not ask RCE for any financial help). A bedroom for Darius plus



"If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always..."

Isaiah 58:9

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an indoor bath and kitchen are under construction and will be finished before Christmas. He walks to church with his family each Sunday. Kids in the village drop by to play with him, even giving him rides in their horse drawn carts, which he loves! He tries to mimic what passes for 'giddy-up' in Romanian.

And one day when spring comes, Darius can join his grandfather in gathering the animals and taking them out to graze. He knows more freedom in this village than children with his disability experience in much wealthier environments. Miraculously, wonderfully Darius has been restored to his own grandmother in a place just right for him *now*.

The God of all compassion heard his cries and our prayers and answered them in ways quite unexpected and inexplicable – an amazing story of grace.



This year RCE expanded to 3 Darius Houses with 30 severely disabled orphans. This is a huge challenge but also a wonderful opportunity to extend mercy to children who have known terrible suffering and abuse.

Sunshine School added another classroom and a Learning Center this year – expanding the number of children served.

And over 265 families in extreme poverty, with vulnerable children, were supported and strengthened through RCE's poverty prevention program.

Enjoy and rejoice with us that your investment has born the fruit of mercy, advancing the Kingdom into the darkness in Romania. The Gospel was preached to the poor, orphans restored to families, the widow's heart made to sing. Mercy is not free but is freely given, by God to us and through us to those in need.

Thank you for considering RCE, along with other Kingdom work, in your year-end giving so that we might meet the challenge of a growing ministry and declining dollar.



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