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“Seeds of hope”, “MAD projects” and “Investment”, best describe my work here in Romania.

90 amazing people attended a recent event which I organised entitled “Seeds of hope”. I use the word “amazing” because many are working with, and supporting, vulnerable and marginalised people. The event provided a platform to hear “real stories” about struggles of ‘day-to-day life here in Romania. Participants included 5 Americans working in different regions, 4 from Ukraine looking to develop work with special needs in their country, 2 from Scotland, 8 from England and 1 from Republic of Moldova. Projects included work with special needs and disabled, prison visiting, children’s work, social outreach to poor families, youth work, Pro-life, “Pathways –special programme for ex drugs/alcohol addicts, Street Pastors, Orphanages, Bible college training, Hospice, homeless, working with girls – prostitutes and trafficking.

The aims of the event are the perfect example why I decided to come and live here – to find those “Seeds of hope” and where possible, offer my skills and support to help their work to grow. Another way of describing this is “helping those who want to make a difference”.



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Sadly, many young people leave Romania for 'a better life', often leaving Grandparents to look after their children. They travel to the places like Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK for work, often ending up in very basic jobs desperately trying to earn money to build their future. Many creative and skilled young people in whom churches have invested, need to see they are "Seeds of hope" for Romania.

"Seeds of hope" was networking to bring together Christians who will benefit from sharing resources and gaining mutual support, something which is very rare and in most cases, never been heard of before. Young people and University students were invited to see themselves as "Seeds of hope" and a challenge was made to church leaders how to share their Christian faith in more relevant ways, thus moving from their 'comfort zones'. "Seeds of hope" was also a celebration of what God is already doing in Romania.

MAD projects, is an acronym for "Making A Difference". The aim being to invite teams/groups from the UK to support some of the work I'm doing, thus help make a difference. Together, we can support projects who attended the "Seeds of hope" event based in my region. My hope is by working alongside amazing people here, this will also make a difference in the lives of those who come. My responsibility is to handle the logistics and ensure as best I can, to make the experiences positive for all involved. Groups from churches are especially encouraged to be part of this, but also non-church community groups are invited. Providing placements for university and colleges will be available and/or short-term mission opportunity for young people. A special hope is to have a small team committed for 6 or 12 months to work alongside me and help build up Romanian teams of volunteers.

Investment will help to take the work forward – investment in finance but also in practical ways. A great example is the support structure for good friends called Tijs (sounds like Tace) and Jessica. They sold up everything from their home in Belgium to come with their two very young children, to live and serve in a village called Vaidei, approx 45 minutes from my town of Alba Iulia. Behind their work are a team of 4 or 5 families who meet occasionally to plan fund raising events and coordinate delivery of humanitarian aid.

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They also arrange for small teams to visit the work and get involved. Once a year, Tijs and Jessica spend two weeks in Belgium, speaking in churches, visiting supporters and hosting an annual fundraising event which brings together mainly non-churched support. To put things into perspective, I organised the “Seeds of hope” event with the use of an old laptop and an unreliable mobile telephone.

Springtime is ‘planning time’ as I prepare for the rest of 2017. Exciting times are ahead, hence I hope this report encourages you to get involved – to invest in, and be part of my work. Currently I’m bringing together a small team chosen from those who attended the “Seeds of hope” event to develop something similar in other regions of Romania. However, a significant development is taking place just now.

From 7th May, I’ll be living in the village of Ghirbom, 21 km from Alba Iulia. With the help of friends in my church, work will be carried out to refurbish an old house which has a piece of land. The whole area is 4,000 sq metres. This is a huge challenge.

The house will also provide holidays for people who just need a break, workers facing ‘burn-out’, families with special needs children or small teams coming from the UK. On the land will be 4 large tents set up for the summer, to be used by Romanian groups and/or teams from the UK. Those who stay will also help with practical projects in Ghirbom and nearby villages. A storage area will be available for humanitarian aid. I call this a “miracle unfolding” and already 6 berth tents have been promised. Recently a request was sent out for a caravan to use while work is being carried out on the house. This is an urgent need.

Please consider how you can help my work here in Romania. The most urgent need is finding a caravan, but there’s so many ways you can ‘invest’. To have a support structure similar to Tijs and Jessica would be amazing.

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Mother Theresa once said, "It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts". These words are important for me as I plan work ahead.

