



A Christian ministry to the street kids and orphans of Romania.

A lowly Romanian birth - Ioan's story



Mihai and Florentina proudly announce the birth of their son, Ioan (John). He weighed 6.5 pounds and was born in a Bucharest Hospital. Mother and son are not doing well, but will be released Sunday to their "home" in the underground canals of the city. Florentina is forced to leave the hospital early because she is only a poor "street kid" and has no money for the hospital stay.

Little Ioan will be forced to breathe the hot, humid, horrid air constantly rushing through the tunnels...bringing bacteria, dirt, and molds into his little lungs. When his parents aren't stoned and hallucinating from inhalants....they will give him

powdered milk mixed in a dirty bottle with the unboiled city tap water contaminated with chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals and giardia.... Little Ioan joins the numbers of homeless babies forced to live like castaways. Like the other babies living underground, he will be pale and sickly. His parents have social diseases and have permanent brain damage from aurolac....the inhalant they constantly sniff. So already in his short life of 3 days....he has been exposed to syphilis, TB...and possibly Aids and hepatitis. His parents have spent the past 6 years of their young lives living on the streets and sleeping in the underground canals/sewers. Their health is severely damaged and their sense of judgment is almost non-existent.. Their ability to raise him properly is almost "zero"....but they love him and want to try to take care of him....in their own very limited way. We have suggested to these and other parents that they put their children in orphanages. They are afraid that because they are on the streets that they will never get to see them again. Ioan will join the community of street kids living at a metro stop in Bucharest. His home will be clean compared to the babies who live at the North Train Station. I have looked down into the manhole where they sleep and have smelled the air. At the North Train Station.....the smell of the air will make you vomit as the smell of excrement, rats and other animals living underground, urine, stagnant water, fumes from the inhalants, unwashed humans, and filth pours out the manhole into the air above. A young lady asked us if we wanted to go underground and sleep where she sleeps. They sleep on these huge water pipes that are many times surrounded by the things I just described floating in the filthy water....if they turn over too quickly and/or lose their balance, they can fall into the unspeakably dirty water of this hell-hole.

Lovely, innocent, fragile Ioan will soon be joining the work force of babies and small children used to beg on the streets His parents will wrap him as best they can and hold him up in front of the passing cars in order to get sympathy and money from passers-by. This poor little fellow will do his share to earn a beggar's

New Heating System - Update

As of November 10, the new gas-fired furnace and hot water system was finished, and as things in Romania so often go, the gas to fuel the new system was turned on officially on December 12 - a full month later! Now, after several weeks of being warm for the first time in several years, the girls are so grateful. Hot showers, at last, with water to spare. However, with solving one problem another one has arisen. With more water filling the septic system, the age of the system forces it to be emptied more often to prevent it overflowing and causing a health hazard and also significant cost. The system must be replaced and soon. A matching grant has been promised, with a deadline of February 28. Details below:

NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM

A matching grant of \$15000 which must be matched by February 28 will be used to replace the old septic system with a modern one which will not need to be emptied as often. It is of the type used all over Europe. Our present system costs \$800 per month to be emptied and this new one will significantly reduce this major part of the monthly cost to maintain the Girls Home. Donations may be made in whatever method desired at this link: [donations](#)

SPONSORSHIP

The poster in the upper left of this newsletter contains pictures of all of the girls living at the Jubilee Girls Home. Jubilee does not encourage sponsorship of individual girls, but treats each girl as special without favoritism. They all are deserving of our love, support and all

living for his sad and sickly parents and the other street kids with whom they live. **are survivors of the "streets". You can become a sponsor by designating your gift to the sponsorship fund on the donations page of the Jubilee website. By doing so, an email attachment of the poster with the girls pictures will be sent to you. You may make a donation by check, or on-line by credit card. Receipts are tax-deductible. The link to the donations page is: [donations](#).**

Do these kids really want to live like this? Do they deserve our sympathy and help? Some are true orphans, some have run away from home for various reasons, many were abandoned.....but all have so much value to God that He gave His only precious Son to die in their place. After we describe God's gracious love toward these needy ones, the real question is - what is our attitude toward all these who have been treated as the offscouring of society?

Think a bit about Hannah's beautiful prayer:

1 Samuel 8 "The Lord raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes and to make them inherit the throne of glory..."

And think about this for a paraphrase: "The Lord will lift up the poor outcast children from the dirty sewers, he will raise the homeless beggars from the filthy streets and He will set them among His royal children and they will share His glorious throne...."

This true account of Ioan's birth story was written by Sue Bates some years before she died suddenly in 2007. Our Lord, the King of glory, was born in a smelly stable in similar surroundings, but not in a hospital.

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