



## [Forward to a Friend!](#)

### Misconceptions

Over the past couple of months we have been hearing from many with regards to our affiliation. There is a great misunderstanding in the United States with regard to the Jubilee Association. We hope to clear this up.

After the death of Ron and Sue Bates, information was passed to many supporting assemblies and individuals indicating that this ministry was going to the Romanian Orthodox Church. This information is completely untrue. Well-meaning brothers in the Lord received information leading them to that conclusion and desired to inform the U.S. supporters of it. Sadly it has severely affected the ministry itself.

To be very clear, after Ron and Sue died, their sons Bart and Dana came alongside the ministry to help see to its continuance. Neither had any desire to take over or change the direction of the work. It is true that Dana Bates is involved with a ministry that is sponsored by the Romanian Orthodox Church, but Dana is not in control of Jubilee, nor is Jubilee a part of his ministry. He and Bart contacted Carl Smith, a long time missionary to Romania commended by Forest Hills Bible Chapel in Michigan. They asked Carl to form a continuity plan for Jubilee.

This has been done. Carl contacted several believers in Romania and the USA and set up a board of directors for the Jubilee Association. Dana has returned to the ministry he is involved with in central Romania, and Bart has returned to secular employment. Both brothers have interest in the work, and keep in touch, but neither serves in any official manner. The active board of Jubilee is comprised of several Romanian believers, and several US believers. All are born-again Christians. None are a part of the Orthodox Church. The ministry is decidedly evangelical in nature. It is our desire to use the venue of a young women's shelter to reach young women raised in state orphanages or on the street with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sadly, as we make contact with past supporters, it is clear that an overwhelming majority are under the impression that this ministry is "Orthodox" - or somehow controlled or funded by the Orthodox Church. It is not.

In addition, the switch to Concern International from CMML as

## A Tender Heart, A Common Past

A young Romanian woman was in love, her heart was set on a young Romanian man. The two were married and began their life together when they were only 18 years old. But the married life they envisioned was not what reality held for them. Within just a few months, she became pregnant and she and her new husband began to have serious marital difficulties. Unsure what to do, her mother and sister told her she should get an abortion so that she wouldn't feel stuck to this man that she didn't think she could stay married to.

At 3 months into her pregnancy she got an abortion. After the abortion, she continued to wonder whether or not she should leave her husband and they continued to struggle. About 3 months later she began to feel abdominal pain, and noticed excessive weight gain. She went to the doctor and the doctor informed her that she was pregnant. She was bewildered. It couldn't be! She informed the doctor that it couldn't be true... it was simply impossible! The doctor smiled and told her it was true indeed and that she was 6 months pregnant!

Shocked even further she told the doctor he had to be wrong again, because she had an abortion just 3 months before. The doctor checked again, but the results were the same. She was pregnant. You see, she had been pregnant with twins. The abortion doctor destroyed one baby, but miraculously, the other was alive!

She decided to carry the baby to term and give birth. When she had her little baby, she named him Ioan ("yoo-ahn"), the Romanian name for "John", like the apostle of the Bible. In the months following his birth, she and her husband were able to work things out and began to enjoy their new little family. Ioan was born without even a single defect or health problem! The doctors were astonished. It was unbelievable to think that one baby could have survived the abortion. But it was true. One millimeter difference in the abortion procedure, and little

an agent for financial support was required (even if the misconception about the Orthodox Church hadn't happened) because there was no longer a CMML-affiliated worker on-site. The CMML board has since made it VERY clear that if an assembly in the U.S. commended a worker to this ministry, that they would be very happy to serve as an agent for financial support - as they would with any worker commended by a CMML affiliated assembly in the United States per their normal guidelines.

The misconceptions have led to many believers and assemblies in the U.S. to withdraw their financial support during the fall of 2007 and early 2008. For the past year or so we have been barely making ends meet. While *projects* have been funded, the *monthly bills* are the biggest challenge (we use money sent to this ministry only as directed by those who send the gifts - project money is not used for monthly bills). Concern International has been making up much of the difference where bills fall behind. We are presently running on less than 50% of the budget plan. The girls are being fed on 40-50 cents a day (the standard for this kind of ministry is about \$1.25). It is mainly rice, with a small amount of meat like chicken. We have no visions of grandeur, we are not desiring to turn this ministry into a restaurant, but at the same time, we desire to make sure that the girls have enough food to maintain their health and energy as we encourage them to obtain jobs and keep them. There are other areas that we are making deep sacrifices in as well, areas where this cannot be sustained.

If you have in the past supported this work and have a desire to support such labors again but would like more information, feel free to contact us, or Concern International to get further verification as to the direction and goals of the Jubilee Association.

### **Please Continue to Pray That...**

... the Lord would show us His will for "House Parents". We are waiting on the Lord's guidance and direction in this very needful matter.

For all US & Canadian donations,  
Jubilee Association  
c/o Concern International  
A-5734 - 143rd Avenue  
Holland, Michigan 49423  
Check memo section write  
"Jubilee Romania"

**Online  
Donations**

Ioan would have been scarred for life or killed. He could have been born crippled, with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, or a myriad of other possible outcomes.

Had he been injured, he could easily have ended up in an institution or state orphanage like so many other little ones born that way. But he wasn't! God protected that little boy. God had a purpose for him, a plan for his life.

*Indeed, He did.* For that little boy, grew up to have a tender heart for those who were born with various ailments and maladies, those who were raised in state orphanages, and the streets of Romania's cities. That little boy grew up to be a man of God, serving "the least of these" with Ron and Sue Bates for 10 years. That little Ioan... nicknamed "Ioanelu"... or "Nelu"... is our very own Nelu Nica!

When Nelu sees the most difficult cases, often due to complications during their birth, he sees in his heart what he himself could have been - but for the grace of God! And in turn, it is his desire to share that love, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with each of them - as it was shared with him.

Pray for Nelu, that God would strengthen him, that God would see to his needs. Nelu serves presently without financial support - other than the house in which he resides. He and his wife, moved to that house from his own home in Bucharest so he could be closer to the home. He left his family business to his children so that he could serve God by serving the young women in Bolintin.

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