

Romania 2010 - Mount Pleasant Mission Team



The mission team from Mount Pleasant

A team of us went from Mount Pleasant Baptist church in England to Galati in Romania. It was an experience indeed. Temperatures over 40 degrees, plans changed at short notice and other miscellaneous challenges thrown in. We had the chance to work with the Bethesda foundation. They are a Christian group who run help homeless and disadvantaged children. Among the work we did was to take part in a youth camp which was productive. We have worked together well as a team and it's really developed. One of the first outings we had was to a place called Toflea where a revival had broken out. Based in that town in the Gypsy region of Romania is a large Pentecostal church packed to the rafters with people. Along with another member of the team I had the chance to share a message before Paul, our pastor, got up to preach. There's anointing in that place!

Probably the highlight was the day we got to take to the streets with the gospel. I've missed this very much. With the help of an interpreter I had the chance to share the gospel with a young couple sitting nearby. It was amazing. They were so open and took in every word. I stopped to reiterate the message and especially what this commitment meant and they were sure about it. They wanted to put their trust in Jesus and follow him. God has given us such liberty in a country that less than a generation ago would have seen you arrested and tortured if you ever dared share the gospel so openly.



Preaching on 'Getting the attention of the Holy Spirit' at a meeting in Toflea.

We also had the chance to visit the Grace church in the impoverished Valley area of Galati. It was as we walked into that area God spoke to me and confirmed I would return {see the report above}. The Valley area is a place of great material and spiritual poverty where prostitution is commonplace and education is virtually non-existent. It has seen its first church only in the last several years and so this is the first time most of these people will ever have heard the gospel. There is a great open door here and a great need.

In the city centre itself we had the opportunity to share the gospel at a concert event and put on a dramatic presentation of the salvation message. This was a fantastic outreach opportunity in a popular location among young people and something I am passionate about should be done more often. Let's throw those nets over the side of the boat!

One of the most moving moments came on an outreach to some of the local homeless people who were camped in horrific conditions. We had the chance to share food and I had the chance to share my testimony. Some of these guys are coming to church. I had the chance to share a passionate message about God's character and living life in the light of who he is and not our circumstances. It was another Holy Spirit moment. That word just bubbled up. I struggled to contain it.

There was one other thing of note among many that comes to mind. During the youth camp, on one particular morning, it was my turn to do the morning devotional for the team. We were joined by one or two of the leaders and one was very touched by the message. On the plane on the way to Romania, God gave me a message from Psalm 23 showing all the things that passage shows about who God is to us. One of the

leaders was going through a long period of discouragement and depression. That word transformed her. She was so touched by it and I was so encouraged to see what God had done. A year later, when I was back in Romania, I saw her again in passing and she still lived in the glow of that message. This is what really stirs me about mission.

God can give you one thing to say and it changes someone's life.