



hospices of hope

making every day count
for terminally ill children and adults in
Romania and surrounding countries

PRAYER LETTER

May – August 2009

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch,
or weep this night, and give your angels charge over
those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary,
bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Amen

(Book of Common Prayer)

Hospices of Hope cares for people of all faiths or none, motivated by God's love for us and His people. Prayer and church support are interwoven with our activities. Hospice care itself provides an holistic approach that lays due emphasis on the spiritual as well as the medical care of patients with a terminal illness.

The banner in the Hospice chapel illustrates this with the words from Matthew 25 v 35:

'I was sick and you visited me'

MAY

Meditation on Hospice

At a recent prayer meeting we mulled over the word ‘hospice’, and how it could be a useful mnemonic for bringing out the best of what we aim for together. Use this word to aid your prayers for these two months.

H brings to mind hurts, hopes, holistic care, holiness. “Holiness, not happiness, is the chief end of man” Oswald Chambers wrote. The challenge for us at work is to have “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” as “God’s holy and dearly loved people” (Col 3:12).



O brings to mind opportunities, obedience. “And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.” (2 John 1:6). Thomas à Kempis wrote that “The only safe leader is the person who has learned to obey willingly.”

S could stand for salt, as it adds distinctiveness. “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?” (Mt 5:13)

P - peacemaking, painstaking, patient, prayerful. (1 Pe. 3:12) “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer.”

I - inspirational, invaluable. “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Mt 10:31) As Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the worldwide hospice movement said, “You matter because you are you, you matter to the last moment of your life.”

C - caring, calming, compassionate, Christ-like, chosen. (1 Pe. 2:9) “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.” A motto at St Christopher’s hospice has been that “We will do everything we can to help you, not only to die comfortably, but to live until you die.”

E - efficient, enthusiastic, excellent. (2 Cor. 8:7) “But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in the grace of giving.”



JUNE

JULY

The **Holiday Club** is an annual event, encouraging the children attending the hospice.

Do pray for:

- The kids themselves to have fun
- Volunteers to get on well and enjoy the club
- Staff to be encouraged too
- Anna Perolls leading the UK team
- Jenny Chambers coordinating



Holiday Club 2008

Please pray for funding to introduce the notion of Transition Care into the Hospices' services.

Transition care focuses on addressing the needs of adolescents and young adults with chronic physical and medical conditions as they move from child-centred to adult-oriented health care systems.

AUGUST

The **Summer Camp** helps children who have, or have had, a close family member who has been cared for by the hospice. It is organised by the hospice's social workers.

Do pray for:

- The children enjoying the activities
- The UK volunteers loving it
- Safety and good health for staff and children



Pray for **Hospice Angelus** in Chisinau, Moldova.

Dr Valeriu Isac has to steer the hospice through the current political turbulence while maintaining services for the adults and children.

Referrals have increased since the hospice officially opened last September, and there is good cooperation with Hospice Casa Sperantei in Romania helped by a common language.

Hospices of Hope is the leading palliative care charity in South Eastern Europe. We think that everyone deserves the best possible care at the end of life. But in developing countries like Romania, Serbia or Moldova many patients still die in pain, without being offered any physical, psychological or spiritual comfort. Its' work started in 1992 with a home care team based in Brasov, followed by the construction of an Education Centre in 1997 and in 2002 the first in-patient teaching Hospice in the Balkan region was opened. In 2004 work was started in Belgrade, and in 2007 Hospices of Hope invited Hospice Angelus to become their Moldovan partner in Moldova's capital Chisinau.

Church links:

Hospices of Hope is interdenominational, having staff, volunteer or church links with Anglicans, Baptists, Catholic, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Romanian Orthodox and United Reformed.

We have a range of speakers from different backgrounds with recent first-hand experience of our projects who can visit one of your church groups to talk about the work.

If you would like one please ring and ask for a free copy of our DVD to show to your church.

Insight Visits:

During the autumn there will be another visit to Romania to see at first hand the work of Casa Sperantei, both in the in-patient unit and by visiting patients at home with the home care team. This trip includes some sightseeing to give newcomers to the country the chance to experience both rural and urban cultural activities. Please email carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk to request further details.



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