

NOROC, Inc
Abilene Texas



Special points of interest:

- Baptism of a new believer
- Donations gratefully received
- Art exhibition
- Horse therapy for orphans
- Reaching out to those farthest away
- Bringing the Good News to Speranta

NOROC News

(New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children)

A publication of NOROC, Inc., Abilene, Texas Carol Schempp, Editor

Volume 8, Issue 2

January/February 2011

From the desk of Mary Ferris

Dear friends of NOROC,

In life and death we belong to God. These are the opening words to the Presbyterian USA statement of faith. I wrote about these words several months ago when we mourned the loss of one of our beloved friends, Stefan Ivanov.

Three months later, same church, same priests, same friends gathered around but not for a funeral. This time it was to celebrate the new birth of a young man as he was baptized as an adult believer in Jesus Christ. Standing with him as his God mother was his small group leader, Julia Ivanov, the recent widow. Cocosel, raised as a Muslim, chose Stefan as his new name. It was a very emotional time for all of us. Seeing the young adults from the orphanage and those who had left come together for an adult baptism was a Holy moment. The priests were moved by the situation and were very creative at adapting the sacrament. The baptismal font in the Orthodox Church is large enough for immersing an infant, but with an adult only the top of the head was immersed. Steven was anointed all over, but they only unbuttoned the shirt button over his heart and his feet were anointed at the ankles. The moment when the Holy Spirit infused us all



Cocosel takes a new name!

was when we paraded in a circle around the font holding hands with Steven and each other. (See additional photos on page 2.)

We have had a successful end of the first semester of school, with almost all the children passing all their classes. This has never happened before so we are very grateful to our big hearted teachers for their dedicated work.

We look forward to spring and what God has on store for each of us.

God Bless, Mary

Donations Exceed Expectations

Contributed by the NOROC Boards

The Holy Spirit has once again moved among us to fill our need for resources. Through the generosity of many NOROC supporters, both old and new, we received donations which exceeded our expectations and full-filled our needs for 2010. It would be an understatement to say that we are thankful and grateful to you all.

Our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness for your generous donations which allowed NOROC to end 2010 not only in the black but with a small surplus to begin 2011. In Romanian we would say, *Domnezeu e mare! Domnezeu e bun!* (God is great! God is good!) What a way to begin a new year!

Young Artists Display Works

contributed by Petru Solca



Poster for the exhibition of icons on glass, created by students from Speranta.

An exhibition of icons painted on glass painted by the art students from Speranta were recently displayed at the Museum of Folk Art in Tulcea for one month. This was a great opportunity for these young people to receive public recognition for their work. They are taught by NOROC's art teacher as part of our Big Hearted Friends pro-



gram. The Mayor and Vice-Mayor were both in attendance to honor the young painters!



A Day With The Horses

contributed by Mary Ferris

A highlight this past month was developing a horseback riding program for the children from Speranta. Even though the weather has been cold, we have been taking all the children in small groups to groom and feed the horses. The owner of the stables (a veterinarian) lovingly lifted or assisted each child up on a horse and

told them how to talk to the horse. One 16 year old girl from a center for children with special needs only grunted with "aahhh" and "ugggh" as she pointed at the horses. The vet said lovingly but firmly, "The horses do not understand that language. They only understand correctly spoken Romanian." She then responded in perfect

Romanian, "I want to feed the horse". Since then, she has talked to me using normal speech. Just being at the horse barn with 12 horses, one pony, and four wonderful dogs is amazing therapy for these children. To take the next step and let them actually have some responsibility for the animals is something to consider prayerfully.

"To take the next step...is something to consider prayerfully."



Stefan's Baptism

continued from page 1



The dunking...



the anointing...



and the cloud of witnesses!

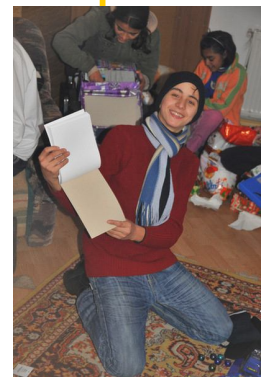
Last...But Not Least

photos contributed by Petru Solca

Sulina is a small fishing town at the end of the Danube River as it empties into the Black Sea, in the farthest eastern part of Romania. It is a beautiful, quiet town with a markedly Mediterranean look and feel. However, there is only one way to get there from Tulcea and that is by a 2 1/2 hour *vaporul* or speed boat

ride and, this is only one way to get back. Also, there is only one boat leaving to and from Sulina each day. If the weather is bad, the boat does not go. There is an orphanage in Sulina. Before Christmas thick fog prevented the boat from traveling to Sulina and the NOROC staff was not able to deliver the presents to

the orphanage there. So, the children and the presents had to wait until after Christmas when the weather improved. However, just like the mail, the presents must be delivered! Our faithful and persistent President of NOROC Tulcea made sure the presents were all delivered to the children in the orphanage!



Waiting a little longer did not diminish the joy of these children as they opened their presents!





**NOROC,
Inc.**

NOROC, Inc.
200 Hedges
Abilene, TX 79605

Phone: 1-325-692-0284
Fax: 1-325-692-2143
E-mail: NOROC9@suddenlink.net

**New Opportunities for Romanian
Orphaned Children**

NOROC is a Christ-based, non-profit organization. *Noroc* is a Romanian word which means "God Bless." We've adopted it as our name because it also reflects our mission: **To share God's blessings by providing New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children spiritually, developmentally, socially and medically.**

NOROC was founded to find ways to nurture these abandoned children. Currently, NOROC's programs are focused in the orphanages of Tulcea County, Romania. There we try to provide for children in material ways such as providing diapers, school supplies, or adequate shoes. But at an even more basic level of need our organization provides the loving relationships these children so desperately crave thanks to the day to day devotion of our **Big Hearted Grannies, Big Hearted Teachers, and Big Hearted Friends.** Churches and individual friends currently support this mission. Please join us in our work.

Christmas Pageant 2010

photos contributed by Petru Solca

The annual NOROC Christmas Pageant was presented on December 18. This time, because of harsh weather conditions, the venue was at Speranta, the children's orphanage, instead of the garden at Casa Noroc. In Petru Solca words, "This way we brought the Good News of the Gospel into a place that really needs it - the largest orphanage in Tulcea county. We also invited the kids from Somova." Speranta is translated as "hope" in Romania. What better way to bring hope to the forgotten and oppressed than through the message of Christ's birth? As always, both youth and young adults from the small groups and Bible Study worked together to bring the Christmas story to the orphans.



This year some new costumes were added to make the pageant even more professional looking!