

Y's Men International TOF Project 06-04
IKE/YMCA Camp & Conference Centre, Geoagiu/ Transylvania/ Romania

Report of the protestant Church Youth Halle/Westfalia.

Construction + Vacation in Romania

During the autumn vacation 60 youth and adults of our church travelled to Romania, to help the IKE/YMCA restore the YMCA Centre in Geoagiu, a small village in Transylvania/Romania.

The centre consisted of two big buildings, one church with tower, a watchtower and a rather big surrounding. BUT...there was no heating, the sanitary equipment and the kitchen were very provisional and the walls were wet. Most of the electrical wires had to be renewed. And the area around looked like a big garbage dump. The authorities were about to close the centre and the IKE/YMCA had no means to do the necessary renovation and repairs.



This was a big challenge for our team. The team consisted of one chimneysweeper, three electricians, two gardeners and one telephone-specialist. To this was added a group of highly motivated young people ready to spend their autumn vacation/holidays to work with us at this good work.

During the nine days on the spot amazing actions happened: New walls were erected and old repaired, electric wires and sewer pipes were laid, trees cut and walls waterproofed, room walls protected and painted with pictures, floors restored with new wooden planks. In addition we had to do the work in the kitchen, to bake bread and to clean the house.



But we did not only work hard. There were also services in the morning and evening, one church service and many good conversations during the work and at the evening camp fire. All this created an intensive international fellowship. The reason being that if people work together they are coming much closer to each other than for instance during holidays.

What did this vacation create?

First of all there was the experience for us that we were able to change something. Everybody was able to do something. "To help your neighbour" gives you a feeling of joy and satisfaction, which one can gain only very seldom.

Secondly this kind of workweeks is able to reach people who perhaps never would come into a church circle. Not everyone likes to discuss, some rather like to do practical things and finds with that a way into our parish.

What was the benefit for every one of us? In any case there is an unforgettable experience and the knowledge to be able to some work in the kingdom of our Lord.

We are planning to travel to Geoagiu again in the coming autumn and to continue the work at the YMCA centre. One thing is fact: there is still a lot of work to be done there.

Bernd Eimterbäumer, Reverend

Remark: Thanks to the first instalment of CHF 5.000, which we sent with the team, they were able to immediately buy the necessary material and work with it.