



## Asociația Neemia

Prayer Notes

April 2023

It has been a difficult few weeks for the AN team in Dorohoi. Goods imported from the UK are now regarded as being sourced from outside of the EU and some stringent rules have been imposed. As with many EU directives, there is a degree of variation in how they are applied; in Romania, non-conformity with the local expectations can be very stressful and is usually expensive.

Prominent amongst the new rules are those which govern what types of goods we can distribute and what controls they will now have to satisfy.

One of the rulings is that we can no longer import hand-knitted items. These are considered to be new items, subject to taxation and requiring labelling and documentation that we cannot obtain. We know that this will be a particular disappointment to the ladies and gentlemen of our knitting groups, and we take this opportunity to thank you for all your generosity up until now.

Another example is that the ingredients of items such as toothpaste, soap and sanitizer, need to be labelled, in Romanian. This makes these items impractical for us to send.

There are also stricter definitions of those who can benefit from our donations; individuals can be registered as beneficiaries but organisations such as churches, schools and other charities which have their own legal identity will be subject to extra scrutiny.

On a more positive note, we have received sponsorship for the purchase in Romania of fleece blankets; these are suitable for use during the Spring and we have started giving them to young mums and families with small children. In addition, we do still have a good stock of the heavier knitted blankets which are more suitable for older people.

### Give thanks ...

1. For the eventual resolution of the problems arising from rule changes.
2. For stocks of items sufficient to cover any delay to the next delivery.

### Please pray ...

1. For the resilience of our team as they have to adapt to more stringent ways of working.

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The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia

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## The Romanian Aid Foundation

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RoAF is essentially a faith-based organisation that relies on prayer. Below and overleaf we offer some prayer pointers, but please feel free to add your own items as they come to mind. Prayer is our connection with God's ultimate power source and, without prayer support, this work would achieve nothing of lasting value.

We in Horley continue to sort and pack dwindling donations of clothing. We continue with heavy hearts knowing that our efforts are not rewarding those our efforts are meant to help.

The many from around the country who have supplied us with beautiful blankets and other knitted items can be reassured that they will go somewhere else where they will be appreciated.

We have the next lorry load in our warehouse ready to go. What we don't have is a guarantee that the load will ever be accepted to unload. Every single box has been checked and complies with the current instructions from Romanian Customs. However in the past these rules can change even when the lorry is in transit. In a further complication, the requirements for the border inspection differ from those of the officers authorising the unloading.

In Swansea, we are in the process of revisiting boxes to check for conformity; back tracking is always a bit disappointing but we are not discouraged, trusting that in due course the things that we do send will be of benefit to their recipients. Sadly, we have had to advise many of our supporters that much of what they offer us is no longer acceptable.

The future of our activities is in the balance. We have the potential to continue here in the UK. It is, however, in the hands of the Romanian authorities as to how long we can maintain a viable aid operation.

### Give thanks ...

1. That God is still blessing our efforts despite uncertain times.
2. For the loyalty of our supporters whilst a transition is in process.

### Please pray ...

1. For an openness to potential change as we seek God's plans for the future of our work

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Working with Romanian people to bring help to the needy,

hope through the Christian message and co-operation through joint ventures.

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