

TRISH'S ROMANIA INSIGHT

I wasn't sure what to expect from my trip to Romania with Martin in the middle of March 2020. So as we arrived at the Foundation I kept my mind open; and my Duolingo App on my phone so I could learn Romanian! We were blessed with stunning weather throughout the week, as well as some encounters I will never forget. A lot of the program was rearranged due to the corona virus, but we took the opportunity to explore the beautiful kindergarten and meet with families and friends. [Photo of Trish, Methodist Youth Worker, with Director - Ana Melente, at the Foundation kindergarten].



We were presented with a stunning portfolio of prisoners being baptized in Aiud Prison; explored Roman ruins at Alba Iulia, which spoke to my Chester heritage; and saw the Monastery and stunning mountains at Ramet. The diversity of those we met really struck me from families living in one room to those living with room to share. I was reminded of the widow's mite as time after time people shared what they could whether it was food, knowledge and news or their gifts and skills. Worship on Sunday was very special with a service in three different languages, Romanian, German and English.

*While I was privileged to see the beauty of the country and the people I feel I was also privileged to see people's needs. The simple gifts of pencils and pens, and of time spent listening to concerns and prayer meant so much more than I had encountered in the UK. We helped people we met with things they needed, sometimes it was by simply giving someone a lift or by providing something they needed. Romania and the people I met have a firm place in my heart and I would love to visit again and be able to see more of the work the Foundation is doing. Mulțumesc (Thank you!) to everyone who is contributing to this wonderful cause – you really are making a difference. *Trish Earlam**