

Romania



Romania joined the European Union (EU) in 2007. The cost of living is now virtually the same as in the UK - the elderly and poor in Romania live day to day, week to week, on almost nothing.

Many elderly have to survive on a pension of around **£70 per month** or less. Most live in a single room with a chair that doubles as a bed and a small wood burning stove that also provides some warmth. Water is mostly by a standpipe outside and toilets are usually still a latrine.



Pastor Daniel and Vetuta

Pastor Daniel Ispas is the minister of the local church in Carand in the north west of Romania. He looks after 3 other churches and is also Director of **Pro Community Romania** (the Romanian arm of **Community Action Romania**). He leads the work in his area to preach the gospel but also to bring help and relief to the poor and elderly.



A project called '**Adopt A Friend**' links supporters in the UK directly to a needy person in Romania. The sponsorship provided is transferred entirely into food and other basic essentials and distributed monthly. It takes about a week for Pastor Daniel and Vetuta to deliver the supplies to everyone. 'Adopt a Friend' scheme now supports over forty families and individuals each month. It is a much-needed lifeline to the most needy and poor. The recipients are always very grateful, praise God and thank the donors.

Pastor Daniel also liaises with local a Christian Doctor and Dentist who have agreed to treat individuals through the charity free of charge in recognition of some of the support given from the UK.