



Căminul Felix

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Dear Sponsors & Friends,

First of all, we want to wish you all the best for the New Year.

Being at the beginning of the year, certainly each of us are making plans for the year ahead: what we need to accomplish this year, what we would like to change in our lives so that things work out better, plans concerning our jobs and, last but not least, plans concerning our family, our children. There is no doubt that the plans involving our children are priceless to us, as parents. They say that the thing you invest the most time, energy and money into, that becomes the most important thing to you. Therefore, as parents, what could be better and nicer at the beginning of a year, than to decide to spend more time with our children, strengthening the relationship, building a beautiful character in them and being there for them whenever they need it?

The year that passed was a good year for us at Caminul Felix, and we also owe this to you, the people who support this ministry. With gratitude and joy that we can hardly express into words, we look at the way this ministry continues in these times of economic crisis which affected most people. Therefore, we appreciate and we are thankful for the support you have been giving us in helping our children have a hopeful future. We thank you and we hope you will have exquisite blessings this year!

**Paul and Dana Luncan, parents in “Calvary” House,
talk about their son Iulian and about what it means for them to be parents:**



“Why we do what we do as house parents?”

A Romanian saying says: “Sometimes we can’t see the forest because of the trees” and this happens to us quite often in our daily life as house parents. It is like looking closely at a painting – in order to have a better view of it, it is necessary to step back a little bit and see the whole picture. The same happens when parenting children in a family. We, as house parents, are so focused dealing with the ongoing life’s issues which need to be solved, that many times we get caught in the daily routine and miss the big picture and forget the main reason why we do what we do.

Talking about “the picture” of bringing up the children God has gifted us with as house parents, the Scriptures give us the right size of it and reminds us when we read the Word of God the reason why we do what we do.

From the very beginning of the mankind, God created the family. The Garden of Eden was not just the perfect place to live for man and his wife, but it was the cradle where, first, the relationship between Lord God and the man created by Him was born, and secondly, where the relations in the family were born, as a reflection of the very first relationship which God has stated. That is why, when the sin crept into the world, the first thing it attacked, in order to destroy, was not just the man as individual, but the family and its essence – the relationships. But right at that moment, the Lord God Almighty brought the solution which was in His plan before He even said “Let there be

light!” and His solution was a Person, the solution was His beloved Son, as the history will prove it.

God’s promise had walked through history, from a generation to the next one, until a dark night, when, on the field of Bethlehem, “with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host were praising God, and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Everything changed with God’s only Son coming into this world and with the pure life He lived among impure people! Through all He did, Jesus Christ redeemed man from his iniquities and restored the relations, not just by turning “the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers”, but by turning the heart of “the lost son” to his father who was waiting for him for such a long time...

So, why we do what we do as parents for the kids with whom God gifted us? Because through everything that we do for them every day, from administrating the house to the most sensitive issues which could show up – health issues, school problems, emotional struggles, spiritual challenges – we show and set for them the path to become someday, according to God’s grace, from kids of our families to people of God’s nation and turn their hearts to their Godly Father.

May God bless all the families to see someday this becoming a reality in their children’s lives.

Child story

Iulian Gavrilu arrived at Caminul Felix in September 2001. He was born on July 10, 1999 and comes from a family with three children. The other two children are: his sister Cristina (22 years old) and his brother Mihai (21 years old), who live in our house too.

At the beginning, many years ago, their family was a normal family, without big problems, but as the years passed by, alcohol and promiscuity started to destroy the family's life. His father started to drink a lot and he lost his jobs a couple of times because of that. In the same time the mother began to have an extramarital relationship with another man. Unfortunately, in a very short time, the children became neglected. We can say that even if they were still living with their parents, they were abandoned by them. In order to have something to eat, the kids had to go almost every day to their grandparents who lived in the same area, but who were quite poor people. Anyway, the grandparents did their best to take care of the children, but after they died, the children's situation became desperate. They were in a big need to be helped.

Therefore the Government commission which protects the children's rights decided to take them out from their natural family and send them to Caminul Felix and to our family. Cristina and Mihai came in August 2000 and their brother Iulian

came a year later, because of some legal and family issues.

When Iulian arrived in our family, he was two years old. Because of the lack of care and food he looked like a sick and very unhappy child. In fact he looked like all the kids who come to Caminul Felix, but what was very moving were his eyes, which looked very sad all the time. On the other hand, he was afraid of people and wasn't able to speak as it was normal for his age.

But very soon after coming in our home, being surrounded with so many kids and meeting his sister Cristina and his brother Mihai again, he started, step by step, day after day, to speak better and better, to get more active and eager to learn new things, to run and play all kind of games with the other kids in our house. That is why, very soon after he came in our family, Iulian turned into a very nice and happy boy. This way, in a very short period of time we could take him to kindergarten, where he continued to make new friends and learn new things.

So, along the years he has developed very well and now he is at school, in the fifth grade. He is there together with one of the girls from our family named Andrea. Being a quite intelligent boy, he is a good student at school and gets good results there.

As we said before, Iulian changed a lot since he came in our family, so now he is an active boy and, as he grows



up, he wants to do and experience something new all the time. He plays a lot with the other kids, riding his bike, but he likes to play soccer the most. He not only plays soccer, but he is very passionate to watch soccer games with the older boys in our family.

At the same time, Iulian joins us at church every Sunday. There he attends the Sunday school class, together with four other kids in our family. So, being part of this group of children of his age, Iulian had the chance, along the years, to enjoy Vacation Bible Schools and summer camps and every week to take part in the Awana program which we have in our church.

Iulian is a happy child now, having a family where he can have a happy childhood, as all the kids on this world deserve. We are so grateful to God for his grace and provisions which He gives us every day, to accomplish our daily work, and on the other hand we are so thankful to all of you for your generosity and loving hearts, doing so much in our children's lives. Thank you very much!

Paul & Dana Luncan

Simona Pușcaș, Editor



THE HAPPY HOME

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Estate Planning and Living Family Memorials

In recent years we have become a comfort to families who initiated contributions to the ministries of Caminul Felix as part of their estate or as living memorials. It is our desire with humility and respect to become the living testament for your family and friends in their time of grief, offering some comfort as a life giving partner in ministry to these once abandoned children. Such a decision should only be made in complete confidence, so we invite you to contact us directly or through our partner organization for more information of ways to establish a living family memorial.

Greetings to all of you, from the sponsorship office!

We hope and pray that you all will have a blessed New Year, 2011.

Warm thanks from our hearts, to those of you who sent Christmas gifts and donations to the children, families and the Ministry. What a joy and blessing!

We know that during the New Year, many of our young people will move out to their own apartments and new children will move into our families. The vision of giving children a new home will continue as long as we see the need for that. For that, we as Felix parents, need your help!

Eli Filip and Lisa Egerbo



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