



Copacioasa

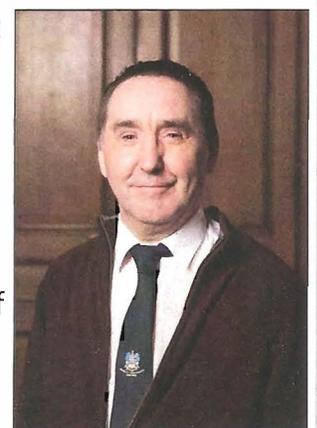
On the 25th. March 2001 a special mission was accomplished. This was the day that the Baptist church in Targu Jiu, Romania received delivery of the nearly new Volkswagen mini-bus donated by the International Miners' Mission. The vehicle had been collected from the VW showrooms in



Freiburg, South Germany where it had been spotted by our friends of the IMM Committee in Switzerland. It was driven all the way to Romania by IMM friends, Gordon Baker and John Newton accompanied by Beata Dixon and Alan Turner, our then Development Secretary for IMM UK. The story of how it was safely delivered to Romania need not concern us now, other than to say that the trip across Germany, Austria, Hungary and into Romania took four days. Beata's knowledge of German and Hungarian was invaluable. Amazingly all the paperwork was found to be in order. The minibus was received as a gift of God by the Christians of the Baptist Church in Targu Jiu, led by Pastor Cornel and Sanda Hudulin. Cornel said at the time that he was 'overwhelmed and I do not know how to thank God for it.' Over the ensuing years the minibus has been used to facilitate outreach into the mining villages around the area. It has been taken all over the place, often being used to transport church choirs to sing at open air witness services in the villages (see example in the village of Copacioasa in photo top left). As can be imagined after 18 years the minibus needed some serious maintenance and over the summer a brother in the church very kindly volunteered to give it an overhaul. As Cornel and Sanda reported recently, 'Praise the Lord, the minibus is repaired. There was a lot of work, but a member of our church did a good job and asked very little for his work. Mostly we had to pay for the parts he had to change. We now trust we can use it for a good number of years before we can afford to buy a new one.' The picture shows the repaired minibus today with the brother from the church standing by. He carried out the work giving his time freely for an overall cost of £1000. It certainly looks like new!

### **Our congratulations to ANDY DALTON on being awarded the British Empire Medal**

Andy Dalton is church secretary of Morley Baptist Church in West Yorkshire, a one-time centre of the coal mining industry and a long-standing friend of the International Miners' Mission. We congratulate Andy on being awarded the British Empire Medal by Her Majesty the Queen in the June 2019 Official Birthday Honours List for services to church, community and youth.



Supporting the IMM, Andy has invited members of the Committee to come and speak at services at churches the area and has devised interesting and ingenious programmes to support various projects of the IMM in various countries where outreach to miners and their communities is being carried out, i.e. Ukraine, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Kenya. He also instigated the first formal commemoration of the tragic Morley Main Pit Disaster of 1872 when 34 miners lost their lives following a massive explosion in the mine. This was in the form of a tapestry banner hanging in Morley Town Hall (photo left), reminding all who pass how often mining can be a dangerous occupation, even today.