

# Encourage & Equip

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## Please pray...

### Praise for:

- God's steadfast character, his eternal word & faithful promises.
- The immense blessing of meeting together for the ECM Biennial.
- Recovery from sickness & celebrating Easter.
- Fellowship & encouragement received from meeting up with Ionut.
- God's provision through our faithful partners to enable us to serve here.
- Our ECM family that encourages, supports and challenges us.

### Prayer that:

- God would continue to guide our steps as we contact churches to gain feedback and advice.
- Churches would have creativity and courage as they seek to reach the community.
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, each member of our local church would catch the vision and actively engage in living it out.
- God would continue to equip us to raise Anna & Luca to know & love the Lord.

Dear Friends and Family,

Anyone else feeling a little bit 'buffeted' and knocked about? There have been some fairly significant highs and lows these past few months, but we have found comfort and peace in the sure knowledge that no matter how uncertain things feel and no matter what circumstances change around us, God is our rock, our firm foundation on which we stand. When Adi gets covid, when the car breaks down, when the kids miss school, when there are complications with the house build, when grocery prices continue to rise, when the weather is capricious, when the electricity fails, when the oven needs replacing- when you are very aware that everything around you is transient and unreliable- it is our prayer that we will continue to find our peace, our hope and our assurance in God's steadfast character, his eternal word and faithful promises.

### It happened!!!

Ever since the ECM 2020 Biennial was cancelled due to covid, we had all been waiting (some of us impatiently) for the time when we could meet as the whole ECM family. That time finally came! From 29 March-5 April, the ECM family gathered in Umag, Croatia. For many of us it was our first-time attending and it certainly didn't disappoint. We were blessed with challenging Bible talks, uplifting worship, focused prayer, encouraging field reports, practical electives and loads of time to meet and share with old friends and make new ones too. The kid's team did a superb job at the kid's program and Anna and Luca had an awesome time there each day. We also linked up with some key people to support us in our marriage, family life and ministry. We left filled and blessed and so immensely thankful to be part of such a diverse but supportive family.



### Easter events...

One down side to the conference was that not only did we share fellowship, but we shared viruses too. Adi tested positive for covid and whilst the rest of us were negative, we were all under the weather. We still enjoyed a few days enjoying the beauty of Plitvice Lakes National Park and returned to Romania to celebrate Easter with family. Unfortunately, due to health we were unable to attend events on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, but thankfully were well enough to attend church on Easter Sunday. Anna and Luca were able to take part in the kid's program that one of our faithful Sunday School teachers organized. Easter Monday, Anna & I made the journey to check out the inaugural "ALIVE: alergăm spre Înviere" (Run towards the Resurrection), a fun run supported by local churches as an evangelistic opportunity with the local community. It is so encouraging to see churches being creative in ways to connect with a society that becoming more complacent about God and indifferent to faith. May God give each one of us the creativity and courage to know how we can reach those around us.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.  
PSALM 145:4

## Action!

We have shared with you previously about the steps that our local church has taken to renew its vision and mission. We have continued on this journey with our local church and at our latest meeting it was discussed that we have now reached the 'action' stage. We now need to start putting into practise everything that has been so eloquently put down on paper. But for this to work and be fruitful, we need the church as a whole to be engaged and participate, not just a small group. Even though our membership numbers have dropped significantly since 2020 (for a multitude of reasons), those of us in leadership believe that if the church can be unified and actively engage in our new vision there is hope that new life will be breathed into the church and we will be light and salt in our city. Please pray with us as our church seeks to find ways to engage our church as a whole and that each and every member would have a closer walk with our Father God that would bear fruit in their lives, our church and city.



## Steps ahead...

I'm sure that many of you are very curious as to how things are progressing with our vision to encourage and equip local Christians to share the gospel of Jesus with the children of Romania. With encouragement from our field leaders, we have continued to pray and seek guidance for ongoing direction and wisdom. We have been working on a document outlining the various ways in which we can offer assistance to local churches, both to individuals and the church as a whole. We have also been working on sets of questions that will help us assess and identify how we can best encourage and equip a specific church and its members to reach and teach children. Adi has been meeting regularly with Ionut Mateescu, the Child Evangelism Fellowship local workers for our county, Timis. We are encouraged by his willingness to meet for fellowship, accountability, sharing of ideas and prayer. He is passionate about sharing the gospel with children and equipping others to do so. We are thankful that God has brought about this relationship and we are looking forward to seeing how God will continue to use this for his glory. We have also started the process of contacting pastors, leaders and ministry workers who we are already in relationship with to get their feedback and advice as to how we can continue and what the next steps may be. These processes may seem drawn out, but we have been encouraged to make prayerful, considered foundations first. We are being intentional about praying about all these various stages and we pray that you would join us as we continue to seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom as to how best to serve local Romanian Christians by encouraging and equipping them to reach children in their communities with the lifesaving gospel of Jesus.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Eph 3:16-19)

May this be our prayer for one another. Thank you again for your partnership demonstrated through your continued support, encouragement and prayers.

In His Strength, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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in Europe*