

Encourage & Equip

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Please pray...

Praise for:

- Our Father who creates each & every day for us to rejoice & be glad in.
- Family time together.
- Warm reunions with dear friends.
- How the gospel has grown in Socodor & all those who have played a part.
- Encouraging fellowship with Puls church.
- Progress on our home.
- Our faithful partners in prayer from all over the world.

Prayer for:

- Beni as he seeks to share the gospel with the children of Socodor.
- The implementation of our church's renewed mission statement.
- Resuming Sunday school, discipleship group & bible study.
- For Anna & Luca as they start a new school year & for their teachers to have abounding patience, creativity & wisdom.
- For ongoing wisdom & guidance as to how to continue to be a part of what God is doing here in Romania.

Dear Friends and Family,

This summer was a scorcher! Whilst the temperatures soared, we tried to keep ourselves cool and calm. It wasn't the summer we were expecting (but honestly, when is anything ever what we expected), but our summer was full of God-given opportunities. Anna attended a church camp with her best friend, we got away to Sibiu for some family time with Adi's sister and her family, and we enjoyed adventures in Timisoara including a medieval festival, circus workshop, cinema outing, and a fun day at a water park. A true joy of this summer was reuniting with old friends and colleagues from USA, Canada and Australia as well as celebrating a baby dedication. Sadly, we also said farewell and helped a family move. In amongst all of this, Adi and I also found time to work on the house. We employed a team to render the inside walls, so that's one more step towards a liveable house! The summer truly flew by, but we are thankful to God for each day He gave us, for He has made each one of them for us to rejoice and be glad in (Psalm 118:24). So, we rejoice in the fun, the rest, the reunions, the family time and more...

Gospel growth in Socodor

It was my 43rd birthday and as Adi and I drove the 120kms back to Timisoara from Socodor, my heart was overflowing with joy and thanksgiving. I reflected, "One of the most amazing privileges for having served in one place for 20 years, is seeing God at work and how He has used so many different people to grow the gospel in that place." Adi first took me to Socodor in 2003, along with two others, to help clean up a piece of land that his uncle had bought with the intention of planting a church there. It was a large piece of land with a derelict house and a dilapidated barn. In time, the house was demolished, the barn was transformed into a one room church and a small local church was born. This was the location where Adi and I ran our first summer programs in 2006 with a team from Harrow, London. At the same time we encouraged and equipped the local youth to engage with kids in the community. In the years following this, we trained and equipped local leaders to run a regular children's program, which they then replicated at another nearby village, Varsand. The children's ministry has had various ups and downs over the years, but God has kept children's ministry firmly in the heart of Beni, one of Adi's cousins. Beni has now completed a degree in Theology and is passionate about continuing to reach children and youth in the area. A huge encouragement for him was being able to be part of the recent baptism of Florin. Florin attended our summer program in Varsand back in 2007 was one of those mischievous kids, constantly



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



causing disruptions and it was tempting to send him home some days. But God had plans for Florin and he is now a young man, a husband, a father and a follower of Jesus. Beni shared with us his joy of having witnessed Florin's growth and this encouraged him to keep investing in children's ministry. With a new and larger church built, there is now room to be able to hold a Sunday school and Beni is passionate for more children in Socodor and surrounding villages to hear about our Lord and Saviour. So it was with great joy that Adi and I were invited to hold the kid's program during the inauguration of the new church building on 13th August. We created the program from the Romanian

translation of "The Big Wide Welcome" by Trillia Newbell, based on James ch 2, which teaches children that Christians and churches are called to be like Jesus: to give a big, wide welcome to all kinds of people so that they can hear the good news for themselves. We had a great time singing, listening, playing, memorizing and learning that Jesus doesn't play favourites and the church is open to all because of what Jesus has done on the cross. We are looking forward to further collaborations with our brothers and sisters in Socodor and await to see what God will do in the next 20 years!



Church contributions

Our local church has never been so full over summer! Combining with Puls church certainly made for a full house. It was wonderful to collaborate with them, join them in praise and worship, as well as hear about some ministries that their church has. The preaching was also shared and Adi had the opportunity to preach in July. I have taken an active role in the implementation of the church's renewed mission statement and have been working on a plan to help church members discover their giftings and use their gifts to encourage others, build up the church and reach the community. It is a work in progress and appreciate your prayers in this matter. Sunday School will be starting up in September, so we are working with the teachers to make a plan for what we will be teaching the children this year. Also, the discipleship group I run with some of the Sunday school teachers will be resuming. While sometimes it may feel overwhelming or daunting with everything starting back up at once, we trust in the Lord's guidance, strength, creativity and grace to keep us serving.

Partnering in Prayer

What an encouragement it was to be able to join together on 18th July for the monthly ECM "Partners in Prayer" event, where we focused on Romania and how God is at work here. It was a blessing to see familiar faces as well as new ones. We shared about some changes we have seen in Romania over the past 20 years and how we can be praying for God's work here in Romania. We were also joined by Liz Preotesea-Wagner, whose family are candidate missionaries from ECM New Zealand, planning to serve in Cernavoda, in eastern Romania. It is always such a joy to share and pray together with our partners, so if your church, bible study or small group would like to share in an online time of prayer, please drop us a line and we would love to make that happen.

As always, we thank God for your ongoing partnership, encouragement and prayer. What God is doing here in Romania is the work of the whole body of Christ and we are so blessed for the role that each of you play in sharing the gospel where He has placed us.

In His Strength, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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