

Encourage & Equip

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 **ecm**
European Christian Mission



January-February 2019

Please pray...

Praise for:

- An encouraging time at the Foundations Course.
- A great start to the Bible Overview series for the monthly "All Age Service" at Sfanta Trieme.
- Understanding and compassionate teachers at Anna's preschool.
- Continued provision through generous and faithful supporters.
- More connections with Children's Ministry Organisations in Romania.

Prayer for:

- An encouraging time at the Romania prayer days between 7-9 March.
- Our meeting with AMEC in Sibiu on 6 March.
- For persistence and perseverance in continued language learning.
- Anna as she continues to adjust and that she would develop friendships despite the language barrier.
- For the health of our family, as both Anna and Luca have been ill again.
- That we would support and encourage each other in our marriage.
- That God would raise up partners needed for 100% financial support.

Dear Friends and Family,

A new year has started, bringing new opportunities and adventures which we eagerly anticipate, but we know that struggles and trials await us too. Whether we go through times of joy and excitement, or hardship and disappointment, we know that God is with us every step of the way and we have encouragement in His word to "be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

Building on a Firm Foundation

From the February 4-9, our family attended the ECM Foundations course in Sinsheim, Germany. It is ECM's main orientation course for new missionaries, to help facilitate ongoing adaptation to culture and serving in ECM teams. Each morning we had talks examining what the Bible says about shame and honour and how this effects how we share the gospel. We also covered topics such as managing transitions, ministry planning and projects, working in multicultural teams, ECM history, vision and values and many more. Whilst these were very helpful in our continued adjustment to serving with ECM in Romania, the highlight for us was reconnecting with two families - the Borgs (Malta) and the Reeves (Albania) who we knew from our days at SMBC. We also met other ECM families from all over the world (including Brazil) who are serving throughout Europe. Hearing their joys and sorrows, struggles and successes ignited a fire in us to be more fervent in prayer for our brothers and sisters serving in every corner of Europe.



Coming together

A highly anticipated event for us is coming up on March 7-9 - ECM Romania Prayer Days! We are looking forward to traveling to Câmpina (490kms west of Timisoara) for the chance to gather together with other ECM missionaries and associates from all over Romania. It will be a time of sharing how our ministries are going as well as a time to encourage and pray for one another. We will also spend time planning and seeking guidance and wisdom for the future of ECM Romania. We will be driving there, and we are thankful to be able use this journey to meet face to face with some children's ministry workers from AMEC (Child Evangelism Fellowship in Romania) in Sibiu.

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

“Journeying through the Bible”



What a joy it has been to not only get back into teaching Sunday School at Sfânta Treime Baptist Church, but also to recommence planning the monthly “All Age Service”. This time I (Jennifer) proposed an overview of the Bible based on “The Bible in 10 easy lessons” by Phil and Louise Campbell. Each month we will look at a significant event in the Bible and teach it through song, bible memorisation, a kids’ talk, short sermon, making a banner and prayer. We pray that through this series the church may be able to get a better understanding of the big picture of the Bible and how God works his amazing plan of love and

salvation throughout Scripture. In January we looked at Creation and Adi prepared and delivered his first sermon here in Romania. I led the kid’s talk and other children’s activities, but I must admit, getting up the front of the church has made me more conscious of my grammatical deficiency in Romanian. So I am working on improving that to be understood more clearly. We are thankful though that it is ultimately God at work through His Holy Spirit and our prayer is that God’s strength outshines our weaknesses.



Anna’s Adventures

“Mum she speaks English and she’s from Australia too!” Anna’s enthusiasm was tangible when she ran up to us after meeting Rose, a 5 yr old girl from an Aussie family serving in Malta. And then it hit me. Anna has no friends her age in Romania that speaks English. There are adults who speak English with her, but none of her peers speak English. I took a moment and thought what it must be like. Even when I first came here in 2003, there were people my age that I could communicate with in my first language, but not for Anna. Her friends at preschool, at church, even the children of my friends, none of them speaks English. There aren’t even other ex-pat families that have children Anna’s age. I think I knew this, but up until I saw her excitement of being with a peer who spoke English, I don’t think I ever fully comprehended what it must mean for her. Whilst we are so thankful that Anna has done exceptionally well in some areas, we need to acknowledge the struggles as well, and as a family help each other to transition well. Unfortunately, her language has not come along as well as we would have hoped and whilst she is definitely trying to communicate, the lack of understanding and comprehension on both sides has resulted in frustration and aggression both at home and at preschool. We are thankful that her teacher has been understanding about this and we are doing all that we can to make preschool an enjoyable place for all the children in the class. Please pray with us that as a family we would have the patience, wisdom, grace and compassion to help each other continue to go through this time of transition.



Domnul cu voi (God be with you),
Adi, Jennifer, Anna & Luca

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across Europe

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