

Encourage & Equip

Adi & Jennifer Grocott serving in Timisoara, Romania

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Aug-Sept 2020

Please pray...

Praise for:

- God's sovereignty in all things.
- The beauty of changing seasons.
- Anna and Luca's start of school for 2020.
- The dedication of staff at First Steps Preschool.
- The new online Sunday school program and those contributing to it.
- Overall health of our family.
- Collaborations with other children's workers.
- Increased mobility and reduced back pain.

Prayer for:

- Ongoing health and wisdom in decisions regarding health.
- That we use our 'kid free' time to God's glory.
- Adi as he prepares the workshop on suffering.
- God would guide us as new opportunities present themselves.
- For staff all over the world as they teach under challenging conditions.
- That families would prioritise time with their children to study the Bible together.

Dear Friends and Family,

As many of you know one of my favourite aspects of living in Romania are the four distinct seasons and watching the changes take place in nature around me. Because of lockdown earlier in the year, we basically missed the wonderful change from winter to spring, and even spring and summer kind of melted together, but thankfully we are out and about now and revelling the crisp change from summer to autumn. Just today in our local park, Anna ran to me in excitement yelling, "I saw this leaf falling, right off the tree, look at it!". She crushed the dry leaf up with enthusiasm and watched the fragments falls the ground before running back to the swings. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens", and whilst this has been far from a pleasant or desirable season, lessons have certainly been learnt, new opportunities have been created and most of all God has been at work. May we continue to trust in God's sovereignty and ability to keep building his church, no matter the season.

School sagas

Although numbers are still high in Romania with 119,683 confirmed cases, 4,633 deaths and over 1,600 new cases daily, on the 7th September it was with great excitement (and some uncertainty) that Anna and Luca were able to start preschool for 2020! Thank you for your prayers, as this time has been wrought with uncertainty, anxiety, expectation, joy, fear and excitement. Like schools the world over, it has been challenging to apply COVID restrictions, especially with young children and we appreciate all that the staff at Grădinița Primii Pași (First Steps Preschool) have been doing to keep everyone safe and healthy. Anna has loved being back with her teacher, friends and classmates and although there is some 'settling back in' needed, she is thriving. Luca on the other hand is a mixed bag. Some days he rushes inside with uncontrollable enthusiasm, other days there are tears and outstretched arms as he calls for me and needs to be carried inside, as he'd rather be watching the road works in our neighbourhood. His teachers have commented that he is rough with other children and has a hard time following the rules. On discussion, it seems that language may still be a barrier for him, as he seems to respond better when addressed in English. Please join us in prayer for both Anna and Luca as they settle into preschool life and for their teachers who need immense wisdom as they teach under tricky circumstances. This has also meant a change for Adi and I. From 9-12 each weekday morning, we are kid free! It feels rather strange and we are still getting used to it, but we are thankful for the extra time to be able to focus completely on other tasks. Please pray that we will use this time efficiently, profitably and to God's glory.



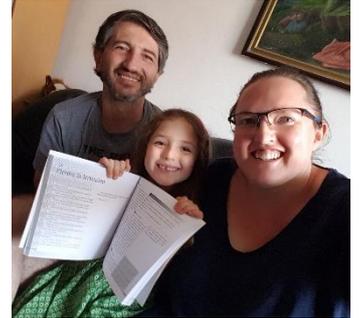
One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

PSALM 145:4

Church changes

With the changing seasons and school starting, this has meant changes at church too. Normally our regular Sunday school classes would start meeting, but our leadership has decided to provide alternate ways to teach and encourage the families and children in our church. After surveying the families, reviewing our resources and praying, we decided to create a weekly video which corresponds with a family devotional book that the church purchased for all the families. Each family is encouraged to watch the video and then work through the devotional together. We pray that this will be not only a great teaching tool for the kids, but an encouragement to the families as they study and apply God's word together. I've already had my first lesson in video editing and am looking forward seeing what we can create together. Who knows where this may lead...

As a family we have continued to participate in services from home, considering the COVID restrictions and Adi's assistance in streaming, which necessitates him being on his laptop from home. The church is reconsidering how they stream their services, so this may change in the future, so please pray that God will give us the wisdom to know how to continue to serve our local church and fellowship with our brothers and sisters here.



Opportunities opening...

Whilst many of the conferences that we have participated in previous years were cancelled or postponed, we were excited to hear that Alo Copii was going ahead with their annual children's ministry conference in October. We were keen to be a part of it again and had thought of topics to present in the workshop sessions. We met with the organisers who shared their plans to hold an online conference over 3 nights, consisting of 3 sessions each night. This meant only 9 sessions rather than 20+ that would normally run because of concurrently running workshops. They also shared their excitement of having overseas speakers, without the prohibitive travel costs. Whilst there was not 'room' for us to be able to lead sessions this year, they were very interested in our topics and we talked about the possibility of doing follow-up webinars. We are very keen to pursue this idea of online workshops through Alo Copii as it would provide us a platform to encourage and equip children's workers throughout the entire country. The next step is for Adi to prepare the content for a workshop on how to share what the Bible says about suffering with children. Please pray with us that God will guide us in every aspect of this new possibility.

Another new opportunity that God has put before us is assisting the ministry a fellow ECM team mate here in Timisoara. Casa Mitspa is a home for at risk mothers and their children and they needed a vehicle and driver to help with their weekly shopping trip. Adi willingly accepted and we are thankful to be able to support this ministry during a time of need.

Thank you again standing with us through these ever-changing times. We treasure your partnership in prayer and ongoing encouragement. May the Lord continue to give each one of us the wisdom and courage to keep proclaiming the gospel in both word and deed to all those who God brings into our path, no matter the season. "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Timothy 4:2)

God Bless, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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