





Encourage & Equip

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Sept - Nov 2023

Please pray...

Praise for:

- The abundant blessings that God pours over us, including an encouraging community.
- The positive start of a new academic year & recommencing of activities.
- Restorative time away in Santorini with Anna T.
- Opportunity to attend coaching seminar.
- Treasured time with old & new ECM Romania colleagues.
- Progress on our home.
- Our faithful partners from all over the world.

Prayer for:

- The ongoing implementation of our local church's renewed mission statement.
- For patience & wisdom to know how to help Anna & Luca thrive.
- Creative ways to continue to encourage & support our ECM Romanian colleagues.
- For financial provision to enable us to be able to move into our home.
- Our confidence & assurance to be grounded in Christ's work, not our own effort.

Dear Friends and Family,

Growing up in Australia, the concept of a Thanksgiving celebration was relegated to the "American Holiday" list along with Halloween and Valentines Day. But here in Romania, Autumn thanksgiving services are part of the church calendar, based on the Harvest festivals described in Exodus and Deuteronomy. The Feast of Weeks (Shavout) marked the first fruits of harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering (Sukkot) marked the end of harvest. As we celebrated this year, we were particularly thankful for the community that God has surrounded us with. We are thankful for our partners who enable us to serve here, thankful for our local church community, for Anna and Luca's teachers, for friends and neighbours, for doctors and medical specialists, and even for strangers like Ben, an Iranian Jew who recently helped me with my residency permit complications. God has surrounded our family with people who love, care, share, help and encourage us and we give Him all the thanks and praise for that. We give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! (1 Chron 16:34)

Start of a 'new year'...

As always, September brings the beginning of a new academic year as well as restarting activities that took a break over the summer. It has been a joy to be able to start up Sunday School again with a faithful team of five volunteers as well as recommencing meeting up as a discipleship group each fortnight. The church also had its annual getaway and we focused on the implementation of our new vision and mission statements, including a restructuring of the 'departments' of the church to aid in getting more members actively involved. Please continue to pray for our involvement in our local church, as we seek to encourage the members, as well as sharing the gospel with the community. Luca and Anna started the new school year with energy and enthusiasm. Anna was eager to see her friends and her teacher Eliza is proud of Anna's ongoing efforts and progress. The decision was made for Luca to repeat the last year of preschool and we are very happy with his new teacher and her willingness to communicate and collaborate with us and Luca's therapist, to help him thrive.

Takeaways from time away...

God has very generously and graciously allowed both Adi and I have some time away in the recent months. I was given the amazing opportunity to have a short holiday in Santorini, Greece with one of my best friends, Anna, who was visiting from New Zealand. It was a treasured time for just the two of us to rest, relax, recharge and refocus. There were times of fun and adventure, as well as peace and encouragement found through the Scriptures, reflection and prayer. Adi's time away was somewhat different, as he attended a week-long training on coaching facilitated by ECM. He learnt a lot during the week, especially in relation to active listening and we pray that he will be able to use the skills with those he serves now and in the future.

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

Old and new come together...

What a joy it was to be able to help organise and facilitate the annual Romania Prayer Days at the end of October. We were able to welcome two new Romanian families who have recently joined, making us now a team of five families, one couple and one single lady. One of our cluster leaders, Andrew, joined us (Kate was needed back home in Bulgaria with sick sons) as well as our International Director, Simon Marshall, who encouraged us from the Scriptures. Because our members are scattered over the entirety of Romania, we are so thankful to have this opportunity to gather together and encourage one another face to face. Technology assisted us with connecting with one family that wasn't able to come due to injury and another family from New Zealand who is preparing to come. Whilst it may have been only a short time together, it was a treasured time of sharing, praying, praising God, and having fun together. We are thankful for our colleagues and pray that we can continue to find ways to encourage one another the whole year through.

Home wasn't built in a day...

Since the previous update we are happy to share that the electricity wiring has been laid, a team rendered the inside walls, an electrician finalised the fuse boxes, the water pipes are being finalised, and we even have one functioning flushing toilet! The next major step is under-floor heating, which will take some time and expense to complete. As we have mentioned previously, the money that we had saved and receive monthly for housing, hasn't gone as far as we had hoped and anticipated due to rising costs of both materials and labour. Our Cluster Leaders, Kate and Andrew Blackwell, have encouraged us to make the financial need known to our partners to enable our family to move into our new home as quickly as practically possible. As many of you know, our living situation for the past 5 years has been with Adi's parents in a small 2-bedroom apartment on the 4th floor. We have been thankful for this provision, but it was never meant to be a long-term solution. It isn't an ideal living situation for a family with two very active kids, parents who primarily work from home and grandparents who have increasing health concerns, including their mobility. Having the finances to get the house to a stage to which we can move into it, will not only give us more space as an extended family, but also for ministry and hospitality. Because of our chosen occupation, we are unable to get a bank loan from either Australia or Romania. A part of our monthly budget is set aside for housing which goes towards the construction of our home, so we are in a position to be able to pay back a no or low interest loan over a period of time of between 5-10 years. We understand that this is a big ask, but we have discussed this matter with many people, and they have encouraged us that it is a wise way to proceed considering the urgency of needing to move into our own home. If you are a situation where you may be able to assist us, and would like to know specific details, please get in touch with us and we are happy to discuss the matter further.

We thank God once again for all the support, encouragement, prayers and partnership that we receive from all of you. We know that we are not alone in our endeavours to share the love and word of God with those around us. We are blessed to be partnering with you in how God is at work here in Timisoara, Romania. In His Strength, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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