

MISSION CONNECT: ROMANIA



On our first trip to Romania...and 19 years later.

"Connecting willing servants and visionary churches with Mission opportunities in Romania."

Jerry and Mary Sweitzer

145 Millstone Drive; Fayetteville, GA 30215

Phone: 770-461-4778

jnsweitzer@mail.com mcsweitzer@mail.com

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March is our birth month at MISSION CONNECT! This year we celebrate nineteen years of working in Romania. Our first challenge was learning the culture and history of the country. Some of our "lofty ideas" worked, and some didn't. We quickly saw that "Mission Projects" can take many forms: agricultural; medical; educational; spiritual. Through it all, God has been faithful. He has covered our mistakes and made our paths straight. He has also provided abundantly for our missional needs through faithful supporters. We are anxious to see what God has in store for our upcoming 20th year.

"In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6

NEWS FROM THE EFRATA CHURCH IN LUGOJ



(L) Grati, the pastor's wife, has a Ladies' Bible study at her home on Wednesday evenings.

(R) On March 8, the International Day of the Woman, the church sponsored a one-day conference for local women. These events help encourage women in a culture that can be hard for them.



Bro. Nicu (L) is a handicapped widower who has a green thumb! He grew all the flowers for two ladies' conferences inside his little house. Now that's using one's talents in a positive way!

CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCHES IN CRAIOVA



Christmas at the two churches in Craiova included buying and wrapping gifts for all the children; meeting together as a church to sing carols and read scripture; handing out the special gifts to the sweet little children; and lastly, visiting the local nursing home to sing carols and pass out gifts to all the residents there. What a busy time that was!

Early in our Romanian ministry, we met **Dr. Cornel Butas**, a wonderful Christian dentist. He worked along side our doctors and nurses on several Medical Mission trips. He has a heart for poor people who have limited resources. With support from MISSION CONNECT, he has been able to continue leading Medical Mission trips, using the experience as training for medical and dental students. They recently held a medical clinic in Mondial (The Brickyard), one of the poorest places in Romania. The Pictures below are from that clinic.



PRAISES AND PRAYER NEEDS



PRAISES:

- The Craiova Church is sponsoring a conference soon. The topic will be "Discipleship." They have bought new chairs in anticipation of a great crowd. Praise for their faith in action.
- The Efrata Church has ended building and started ministering to their community. They often have special speakers or musicians as outreach to their neighborhood.
- Gheorghe Sporea has continued to minister to several villages inspite of kidney stones.
- All of the Women's Day Conferences have encourage many ladies who rarely have opportunity to be blessed in such a beautiful way.
- We, Jerry and Mary, keep plugging away at this work, thinking retirement is just around the corner. God seems to have other ideas.

PRAYER NEEDS:

- Rick Jett, the director of International Disaster Emergency Services, and a good friend of ours, is, as I write, in ICU in a hospital in Jordan. Please pray for healing and a safe trip home with his wife Nancy.
- Dick and Cora LeSage, supporters for many many years, are both sick. She has a broken arm; he is fighting late-stage cancer. Their friendship goes back to the 60's!
- Pray for all the churches around you. We sense that churches are struggling everywhere.
- Pray that we will continue to have good health and energy to finish well what God has called us to do.

RANDOM PICTURES OF HAPPENINGS IN ROMANIA



Oops! A boo-boo.



Nursing home lady at Christmas.



Levi. His daddy's Mini-me!



Let it snow, let it snow.



Christ is risen!
Easter is coming....