

MISSION CONNECT: ROMANIA



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

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MERRY CHRISTMAS -- 2018

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born; to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called...Wonderful Counselor...Mighty God...Everlasting Father...Prince of Peace.

I am fascinated with the many different names of God, for each one defines a part of the Whole that ultimately explains His omnipotence. No where do these blessed differences show up better than in Mission projects. For example,



Beni and Gratiela Indru will have a new addition to their family in the spring. This is a little surprise blessing. (#4.) *"Unto them, a child will be born."* Gratiela has thyroid issues and will need to be monitored regularly until the baby is born.



Romania just celebrated her 100th birthday. (See picture above, left.) There were parades, speeches, and special programs at schools. Children dressed up in traditional costumes and ate traditional foods. This 100-year period includes 42 years of Communism. Despite severe hardships, Christians persevered, knowing that *"the government was on His shoulders."*



Women's Bible study in Lugoj, Romania



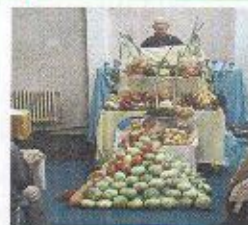
Women's Bible study in Fayetteville, GA

Women all over the world are blessed when they study the Bible together. The fellowship becomes a sisterhood of encouragement. When rough times come, a ready support group is available to help. There is comfort in knowing that the God we study is *"the Wonderful Counselor"* who walks beside us.



A Gypsy funeral for a man who knew the *Everlasting Father*.

Would you please pray for the Sacrifice Church in Craiova, Romania? This well-established, active church is struggling against a para-church organization that is trying to take over their building. The men in the para organization are slandering their minister and threatening the church with legal action if they do not turn the building over to them. They need the *"mighty God, Everlasting Father to be the Prince of Peace for them.*



"Harvest" at the church in Craiova.



Christians worshipping at the Sacrifice Church in Craiova.



Ciprian Mustata and his wife minister to a church in Valcale Village, eastern Romania. He is a tent-maker minister, working a regular job while attending to the needs of the church. On Saturdays and Sundays, they have programs for the youth and visit elderly members. This summer, they had VBS (L), and in October, celebrated Harvest. (R.)



Even though Romania is a member of the European Union, there is still a lot of poverty. The Efrata Church in Lugoj is trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus this Christmas season by helping with special needs of the poor around them. They have provided a new roof for a house; shared food bank supplies, and even filling the wood sheds of those who still heat their two-room huts with wood.



We are still saddened by the recent death of a dear friend and Mission Connect medical team participant. When Jerry took the first Medical Mission team to Romania in April of 2002, KEITH EXUM went as our pharmacist. Everybody admired him for his obvious knowledge of medicine, but also for his sense of humor. He kept the atmosphere light! Rest in peace, brother Keith. Your magic is still being felt.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

PRAISES:

- We are seeing many of the projects we've started in Romania now being finished by Romanians themselves. They have grown in their faith and in the sense of responsibility. This is the result we hoped for. What a big praise!
- The continued support of so many faithful Christians over the years has humbled us as it brought relief to many fellow Christians in Romania in myriad ways.
- We are so thankful that our children and grandchildren have embraced an active faith in their own lives as well as encouraging our mission work along the way.

PRAYER NEEDS:

- We always need wisdom and discernment concerning which Mission projects to focus upon.
- Please pray that both of us continue to be healthy enough to serve well.
- Gheorghe Sporea is recovering from kidney stones. He's had a long rough road.
- Damaris and George Varuti continue to work with a remote Gypsy church.
- Please pray for Mark Essick, our Timothy in Romanian Mission work, as he begins a new and expanded ministry in Eastern Romania, where we first started.