

The Kimmel Family

Reaching Romania for Christ

January 2007

Dear Ministry Partners,

For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. (Colossians 2:5)

In our Thursday morning men's Bible study we have been studying the book of Colossians. It has been a blessing to me to see how the apostle Paul cared for these believers even though he had never met them. Yet there were some real issues that needed to be confronted in Colosse, and Paul made a point of writing this letter, not only set the record straight, so to speak, but also demonstrate his love for them.

As we labor for Christ during deputation, we can look forward to the day when we will be in Romania serving people that we do not know now, but like Paul, we have a love for through the bond we have in Jesus Christ. Young believers in Romania need to be nurtured in sound Biblical teaching. They need to be steered away from false teaching like the Colossians. That is why we are going—to see souls saved and help them grow to become mature believers, grounded in the Word.

Romania in the News

You may have heard by now that Romania and Bulgaria officially joined the European Union as of January 1. Of the 27 nations now part of the EU, Romania and Bulgaria are the poorest. It is already apparent that EU membership will bring unprecedented change on a number of levels—politically, socially, and economically. But on a spiritual level we know that prosperity and financial stability do not bring lasting peace and satisfaction. It is only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that they will find true happiness and joy.

Romania's joining the EU has impressed upon us the urgency of going to Romania soon before people are swept away by the influx of western culture and the drive for economic growth and prosperity. Likewise, this change will make it more expensive to serve in Romania as inflation rises and the Romanian economy moves toward adoption of the Euro.

Another significant event involves a new law that will limit the number of religious institutions officially recognized by the government. Here is what Joseph Grieboski, Founder and President of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy had to say:

[I]f we're looking particularly at Evangelicals and Baptists who have a very 'congregational' approach to ecclesiology, [or] if you establish your religious community around an individual church [or] parish ... rather than a larger conference or a larger diocesan model the way the Orthodox or the Catholics do, then you've got a real problem in Romania under this legislation.

Pray for this matter as it may affect the planting of new independent Baptist churches in Romania.

Deputation Update

As of January 1, I have officially moved from full-time to part-time. This will allow even more flexibility, in my work schedule. Currently I am working out of our church 1-2 days per week. We are so thankful for God's provision in this area.

Praises

- We have 12 meetings scheduled for 2007 so far. Six of these have come since our last letter!
- My employer continues to be supportive of me as I transitioned from full to part-time.

Prayer Requests

- The month of March as we have two meetings in each of the first four Sundays
- Preparation for upcoming meetings and that God will use us to challenge hearts and be a blessing
- New meetings to be scheduled throughout 2007
- Salvation of friends, neighbors, and co-workers

Thank you for your goodness to us and your prayerful support.

Dave, Ruth, Celeste, and Amber

