

# The Kimmel Family

## Reaching Romania for Christ

### Summer 2018

*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.* Acts 20:24-25

One of the hardest things about being a missionary is saying goodbye. We have become keenly aware of this over the past 3-4 months as we prepared to say goodbye to our friends and co-workers in Romania to return to the US only to make new acquaintances that are only temporary. We know a difficult goodbye awaits when Celeste stays behind for college. As missionaries we long for more time to linger and fellowship, but time is short, and our tasks in this period of transition are many. Paul indeed knew what this meant. One of the most poignant and emotional goodbyes recorded in Scripture is found in this passage. Paul was deeply invested in the Ephesians. He didn't want to leave, but he knew his destination was Jerusalem. He was steadfastly focused on fulfilling God's plan for him even though the danger was clear, and it meant saying goodbye once more.

### Preparations for Furlough

Our last few weeks in Romania were spent in a flurry of activity. Celeste finished her orthodontic treatment and had her wisdom teeth removed in two separate operations in April and May. After the girls finished school, we had two weeks left to pack



and say goodbye. During that time, we enjoyed Celeste's high school graduation, senior pictures, graduation party, and farewell party with Romanian friends. We also celebrated Amber's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. We also found some friends to take care of our dog, Peanut. Thank you for praying!

### Furlough Activities

It has been two months since we returned to the US, and we have already traveled quite a bit. We spent part of the month of June visiting with family and friends in Ohio and Indiana. Amber also enjoyed spending a week at the Wilds Camp.

Then in July, the three of us (minus Celeste) traveled to Colorado Springs, CO for a week of debriefing and renewal with other missionaries and their children on home assignment. It was good for us to reflect and reorient ourselves in a beautiful yet neutral setting after our second term. While we were away,

Celeste enjoyed staying with her aunt and uncle and their two daughters.

Upon our return from the seminar, it was time for the Baptist Mid-Missions family conference. While we attended the conference, Celeste went to her own debriefing seminar just for missionary kids (MKs) entering college. It was a powerful yet emotional time for her and most of the other attendees. Please continue to pray for her as she moves through all the changes happening in such a short period of time.

One of those changes in Celeste's life has been learning to drive. In Romania, it is much more difficult to obtain a license, and you cannot begin the process until you are 18. Thus, she had to wait until our return to begin learning. She has completed driver's ed, and with some more practice, she'll take her test.

### Luncsoara News

Our teammates hosted a team from First Baptist Elyria during the first week of July. They were responsible for helping not only with VBS, but also with our second annual teen Art Camp. One of the most moving times was when a Romanian woman on the team, who has spent much of her life in the US, shared her testimony with the teens. We pray that the Lord continues to use her words and the team's involvement with the teens to encourage them and draw them closer to the Lord.

In early August, we learned that the home in which one of our teens lives with his grandmother and several of his relatives was damaged in a fire. No one was injured, but there was extensive damage to the roof and contents. Please pray for this family that they will turn to the Lord through this loss. Pray as they rebuild and deal with the emotional challenges of a house fire, especially the little children.

### Praises

- Safe return to the US and time with family and friends
- Celeste completed driver's ed and is hoping to take her test soon.
- Opportunity for all of us to attend a debriefing seminar

### Prayer Requests

- Celeste begins classes at Cedarville University on 8/22
- For Amber as she adapts to life without her big sister
- Stamina over the next four months as we travel and report
- For the family in Luncsoara whose home burned

*Testifying the gospel of the grace of God together!*

*Dave, Ruth, Celeste, and Amber*