

The Kimmel Family

Reaching Romania for Christ

December 2011

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-2)

This month we remember the birth of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the many blessings the Lord has given us this past year. It is hard to believe we were preparing to move to Alesd one year ago. God in His mercy has helped us get established once again—to make new friends and to begin building relationships with our church family in Luncsoara.



Luncsoara News

Since our last letter we have begun to see new families come regularly to our services each week. We are praying that they will desire to be saved and to join with our church family. Dave has recently begun visitation in the community with Florin, one of the men from our church. This has allowed him to not only get to know people better but likewise help them get to know us better.

Dave had not necessarily planned on any of the men going with him on visitation, especially at the beginning. But the Lord worked in Florin's heart, and he agreed to go. Florin has been a tremendous help filling in details that Dave misses or that are difficult for him to explain in Romanian. Dave has also seen signs of spiritual maturity in Florin as he gives testimony to what our church is like and how we should live.

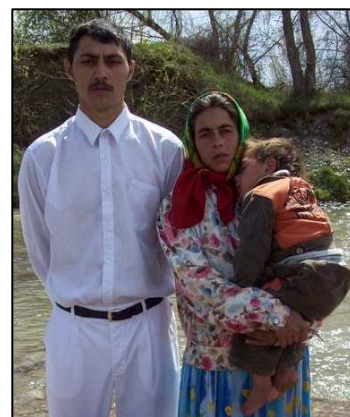
Lately we have faced increasing opposition from another group that is also seeking to plant a church among the Gypsies. We are not against another church, but we have heard rumors being spread, and members of our church are being deliberately targeted. We have been very careful not to be drawn into making this a competition. On the other hand we know that some of the ones visiting our church now have been to the other church and have decided they prefer the emphasis in our church on Biblical preaching and teaching.

Prayer Request Update

Here is a quick update on some of the items we asked you to pray about. We have not made much additional progress on our team's association. We have done all that has been asked of us thus far, and we believe our activities are within the scope of what the law stipulates. Please continue to pray.

We also asked you to pray for the children of a man who took his life in September. They are still living in the community and being cared for by their grandmother. Their mother also recently returned, but we are not sure if she is planning to stay or not. We are especially thankful that the children are continuing to come to the children's classes each week.

Pray for Florin and his wife, Marigica. As I write, she is in the hospital awaiting the delivery of their fifth child, while Florin is at home with their children. He is convinced that they need to give the doctor extra money in order for her to receive proper care. We are really trying to change this perception, but it is often the way things work in Romania. All we can do is ask him to trust the Lord. They cannot afford to pay more than is required.



Employment is still a concern for our members, especially Florin. He knows how to work but needs to be encouraged to stay at it day after day. He told Dave he would like to try working at the company that collects trash here in Alesd. There may also be a possibility at a shoe company. It would be harder work and usually 5-6 days a week, but the pay is better.

Praises

- New visitors and opportunities to meet new families
- The children who lost their father are staying in the community and continue to attend children's classes
- Spiritual growth in the lives of our members

Prayer Requests

- Steady employment for the members in the new year
- Continued prayer to complete our team's association
- As we prepare to assume more ministry responsibilities when our teammates, the Warners, are on furlough

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Kid's Korner

During the first week of October our team held its first ever "Camp MK" for the children on our team. It was intended as a time to step away from ministry responsibilities and focus on our children. Events included geocaching, swimming at an indoor water park, a movie night, and a cookout. The children enjoy any opportunity to play together. We hope to do this every other year.



Celeste and Amber have resumed taking piano lessons. Their teacher comes from Oradea every Tuesday and teaches several children in our area. Celeste also recently visited the eye doctor and was told she needed glasses for distance. She immediately commented how clear things were.

A Day in the Life...

Recently Dave was asked how he spends his time in Romania. We thought you might like to read his response.

Despite being here already two years, we are still very new in the ministry. Much of what we have done so far is lay the groundwork for future ministry. My primary responsibility is serving as the assistant pastor in Luncsoara. I have recently started visitation one night a week in Luncsoara for 3-4 hours. Typically we have a chance to be in 4-5 homes each night.

I am also currently preaching 1-2 times a month, and that will continue to increase over the next year. Writing a message from scratch in Romanian takes considerable time with numerous revisions and practice. I am working toward a goal of preaching once a week as we get ready to assume full ministry responsibilities while the Warners are on furlough starting in August 2012.

I still take one two-hour Romanian class every week, and that will continue indefinitely. When I am not studying I read the news on Romanian websites and listen to Romanian television and radio stations. This immersion has been a huge benefit in helping me become more and more conversant in the language.

I also have numerous financial responsibilities. I am the treasurer for our team, and I keep track of the church finances in Luncsoara. These are in addition to our ministry finances and personal finances. Everything takes a little longer since we are dealing with three currencies at various times—Lei, Dollars, and Euros across two continents and with a minimum seven hour time difference with the US.

We frequently have projects here at the house where we need to hire help. This has been a tremendous opportunity for ministry with the men from Luncsoara. When anyone comes we begin the day with a brief devotion and prayer. I also have significant time to interact with them.

As Ruth is heavily involved with the girls' schooling, I help out with things around the house as well as all the usual things related to the maintenance of our vehicles and the house. Even though we don't own our house, we are responsible for its maintenance. If something breaks, I need to either fix it, or hire someone to do it. Again, whenever someone comes I have to be available.

Life in general consumes more time than in the US. On the other hand, time seems to go by very quickly. There is more paperwork to do and fewer business hours to get things done. Many of the government offices work part-time or shortened hours on certain days. Keeping track of holidays and when places are open is a challenge as it isn't always possible to call ahead or make appointments.

We are enjoying living in Alesd as it allows us to be much closer to our ministry in Luncsoara. Although we do need to make regular trips to Oradea, which is 45 minutes away, it is not a burden. We have found Alesd is the best place for us, both in terms of our ministry opportunities and financially.

We hope this gives you an idea of Dave's responsibilities. Every day is different, and there is never a dull moment. As we continue to mature into ministry and the church in Luncsoara grows our responsibilities will also continue to evolve. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in 2012!

*Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support,
Dave, Ruth, Celeste, and Amber*