

The Kimmel Family

Reaching Romania for Christ

May/June 2011

And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done. And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life. (2 Kings 8:4-5)

It was no coincidence that the Lord brought Gehazi and the Shunammite woman together before the king at the same time. Her presence validated Gehazi's story, and it made her situation much more credible as she appealed for her land to be restored after she had been living in the land of the Philistines for seven years. Recently the Lord placed Dave in the right place at the right time to talk with the owners of a company that offered work to four men from our church in Luncsoara. God is in control, and He doesn't make mistakes. He will always guide and direct us as we depend on Him.

Luncsoara News

Immediately after our last letter we were thrilled to see six people from the community of Luncsoara be baptized on Palm Sunday. That was an important step toward forming a church in Luncsoara. On Easter Sunday those who were baptized were asked to join the church and agree to a church covenant. Grace Baptist Church of Luncosara was born!



Dave listening to Manax read after the Easter service

The following Sunday Luke Warner began a series of messages on each of the key points of the church covenant that each member signed. It was a very difficult period as Satan worked very hard each week to create a situation among the members that tested the very issue that Luke was going to be preaching about. What amounted to only six weeks felt like six

months because of the nature of the problems we encountered. Several of the members have since stopped coming to church.

While we have experienced discouraging events over the past two months, we have also had some very positive things take place. Recently four men from the church were offered full-time jobs with a company that cuts and prepares wood to be sold in pallets for heating. One day Dave was on his way to pick up several men who needed to attend a funeral in another village. On the way there, Dave stopped to inquire about work. The man said the owners would be back in a couple hours. Just as he said that, they pulled up. After a brief conversation they said that they wanted to help the Gypsies as long as they were serious and committed to being at work on time every day. The owner has since offered them two-year contracts, and will be paying their taxes on top of their salaries.

Dave spent the first week taking them back and forth to work, which required about an hour in the morning and the evening. However, with gas being well over \$7 a gallon we could not continue driving them. Two of the men ride the bus and the others get their own rides. Hitchhiking is very common in Romania and fairly reliable. Once they get paid they may be able to purchase a bicycle or pay someone else to drive them. But the important thing is they have been making it to work on time and every day on their own. **Continued on page 2**

Praises

- First baptism and formation of Grace Baptist Church in Luncsoara.
- Wonderful time with Dave's parents during their visit.
- Full-time work for four men from the church.
- Visas arrived on time for the Gravleys and our family.
- Successful men's retreat with over 30 men participating.

Prayer Requests

- That the Lord would bring unity among the families in the community of Luncsoara and especially those in the church.
- As we host Sarah this month through BMM TeenConnect.
- Resolution of issues with our team's new association.

Ruth's article about BMM Team Romania, entitled Shunned by People but not by God was featured in the Summer issue of Advance, the BMM quarterly magazine. You may read it online, or request a copy of the Summer Advance from BMM.

Thank you for all you continue to do to help us in ministry.

Dave, Ruth, Celeste, and Amber

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Luncsoara News (Continued)

As is often the case in Gypsy ministry high points are followed by discouraging news as we learned this week that two of the men are no longer working there. One quit and the other was let go. Pray that the two remaining men will stay faithful. Having full-time work is a real blessing but requires discipline.

Men's Retreat

In May we held a men's retreat on a Saturday with all four churches with participating. Over 30 men came together for fellowship, delicious food, preaching from the Word, soccer, and hiking. The weather was perfect, and we all made it back home in one piece!



Group photo from Men's Retreat

Visas and New Association Update

Continue to pray that the new association is approved soon as it impacts our ability to eventually purchase property and build a building in Luncsoara. Related to the building is the fact that the property where the community is located is not currently zoned, so we would need to have that done before we could legally purchase property. Then we would need to talk to the association that owns the property where the Gypsies live and negotiate a price for the land, if they will sell it to us. Like many things, this process will be a learning experience and could take many months to complete.

On a positive note our family and the Gravleys both received their visas through our team's existing association on time. We did not receive quite a full year as they begin the time from the application date, but we are thankful that the process was not quite as difficult as it was in Timisoara last year.

Summer Programs

We also are beginning a children's summer school program every Thursday afternoon. The classes will cover areas such as reading, writing, math, classroom behavior, hygiene, and logic/problem solving. We have divided up the subjects so that each child will meet with one of us individually every week. At the end of the summer, each child who completes the program will receive a package with two sets of clothes for school, shoes, and school supplies. Like in the U.S. every student has a list of supplies they must bring to school, depending on their teacher and grade. Our goal is to make sure each child has what they need for their teacher and grade level.



Ruth teaching a song during the children's program

Ruth and Kim Warner are also gearing up for VBS which we will be holding in each of the four churches starting with Luncsoara on 7/17. This will be our first time helping with VBS in Romania. We are also excited about two short-term missionaries our team will be hosting. Jesse arrived on 7/13 and will be staying with the Warners, and Sarah will be arriving on 7/19 and staying with us for three weeks. We thought it would be great for both ladies to be here during VBS so they could help with and observe as many ministry opportunities as possible.

Sarah is coming from a supporting church in Columbus, OH. During deputation we made a point in each of our meetings to challenge people to consider short-term missions. Sarah contacted us shortly after we arrived in Romania stating her desire to come visit us as she felt the Lord's leading during our time at her church. We were not prepared to host anyone at that time, but Sarah stayed in touch, and we are excited that she will be here very soon.