

Encourage & Equip

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Please pray...

Praise for:

- God's provision through His people that allows us to continue serving here.
- God's guidance and grace over the past year.
- How God has continued to work for His glory and expansion of His kingdom here in Romania.
- The opportunity to enjoy a family holiday together.
- The beginning of a new school year.
- For Primii Pasi teachers at both their school and preschool.
- For opportunities online to be challenged and encouraged.

Prayer for:

- Planning this coming year, in the light of ongoing uncertainty.
- That we would continue to be guided by God and His word and priorities.
- Anna and Luca's continued adjustment to school and their language development.
- Upcoming Sunday school teacher training with EGM in November.
- Continued grace, patience and love towards our family, neighbours and community.

Dear Friends and Family,

A new year has started! Really? Even after all these years it still feels weird to have the beginning of the school year in September. The end of European summer also gives us the opportunity to do a yearly reflection and planning for the coming year. Whilst the pandemic fog made it almost impossible to remember what was 3 months ago and what was 1 year and 3 months ago, when we looked back over our calendars and prayer letters, we marvelled at the ways that God had been at work over the past 12 months, even when we felt we were wandering aimlessly in the desert. Looking forward to the coming 12 months we are continuing to trust in God's guidance, making tentative plans, whilst keeping our eyes and hearts open for opportunities that He brings into our paths. "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." Proverbs 16:9

Ongoing Online Opportunities

We've all seemed to have got the hang of online events and people are continuing to make the most of it- including us! In the past three months I (Jennifer), had the chance to participate in two online events. Firstly, a Trauma and Christian Recovery workshop held by Ridley college. It was a great blessing to hear from Scott Harrower and his reflections on how God can help us experience a new sense of safety, identity, and community in the wake of trauma. Secondly, I attended a Lament Conference held by the Angelina Noble Centre. It was both challenging and comforting to hear Dr Cathy Ross share about how the biblical theme of Lament gives us a practical and theological means of reflecting on and responding to the current challenges of Covid. Both these events spoke clearly and biblically into the current circumstances that so many of us are wading through. Another online opportunity has presented itself closer to home. We are going to participate in the online Sunday school teacher training that EGM Romania (Every Generation Ministries) are offering in November. It will be great to see what training they offer and how this can benefit the church and children of Romania.

A time for everything, including rest...

In the past, a vacation during summer was unthinkable, due to the busy load of camps, conferences, holiday programs etc. But with ongoing uncertainty and reluctance from many to hold programs over the summer, Adi and I took the opportunity to take 10-day holiday. We travelled to the south-west of Romania and enjoyed seeing waterfalls, museums, working water mills, a zoo, caves, national parks, lakes and we even got to go on a scenic train ride and a river cruise down the Danube. It was so restoring and refreshing to have some dedicated time away with the family and to enjoy time together in God's incredible creation.



One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
PSALM 145:4

A camp! Yes! A camp!

It was almost surreal, being asked to be come and assist in a camp this summer. A real, live, face to face, sleeping overnight, camp! The request came from our friends at AMEC (Child Evangelism Fellowship) to help out at a camp for youth in Timis county. Whilst it was a small camp with only 30 youths and 10 leaders, it was exhausting, but hugely rewarding. After not working with youth for some time, we had forgotten just how much energy they have and we were very thankful for the younger leaders who still had the energy to do the midnight shifts and keep everyone in their respective rooms. Because we attended as a family and Adi and I were leading a small group of 10 of the youth, I was originally very concerned about how Anna and Luca were going to be supervised. We were unsuccessful in finding someone to come and help us with them, so we prayed for a solution. Of course, God knew what we needed more than we did. Instead of providing someone to look after the kids, he provided another leader to help with our small group. After our first session with our group, we knew that is exactly what was needed. When I shared with her that she was the answer to our prayers, she shared with us that she'd had a dream that the director of the camp had texted her and she was to agree with whatever the text said. She awoke from the dream and there was a text from the director asking her if he could come and help out. Her answer was an immediate yes. She used a week of her work holidays and came and blessed us all immensely! Her contribution to the small group was immeasurable. Anna and Luca had a blast too, the youth were really great with them and everyone pitched in. We could see that once again, God provided what was needed, not what we wanted.



And so it begins...



As I mentioned earlier, a new school year has begun and this has brought new beginnings for our family also. Anna has started her first year of formal education in Romania. After so many prayers and discussions we are very thankful God made a way for Anna to be able to continue on with her education with Primii Pasi (First Steps), the same group that run the preschool she attended. The school was only opened last year, but we have every confidence in its teachers and leaders to teach and encourage our children with care and wisdom. Anna is loving it there and we are immensely thankful for this. Luca is now in Grupa Mijlocie (Middle group) at preschool and seems to be more settled than last year. We are thankful for the patience and understanding of his teachers and pray that this year will be less tumultuous than last year. We have also had the joy of being able to start up face to face Sunday school classes again at our local church. I have taken on the role of coordinating a team of five other volunteer teachers, including Adi. Unfortunately, all of this joy may be short lived, as it is no surprise that the number of COVID cases are on the rise and restrictions may be put into place again. We have no way of knowing what the future holds, but God does, so we continue to trust in his direction and provision in all things.

Thank you once again for your partnership, prayers, support and encouragement. May we know the all-encompassing peace that comes from our Heavenly Father in troubled and uncertain times. "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thes 3:16 God Bless, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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