

Ambassadors to Romania

A Short-Term and Long-Term Plan

MAP OF ROMANIA



Fellow Brethren and Sisters,

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gave the wide commission for His servants to go into all the world and reconcile all its inhabitants to Himself. As long as the Church continues to exist on this Earth, it is the whole duty of its members to evangelize and reach the lost. For this is the command of the Lord.

The churches of Christ in the United States have long prioritized mission work domestic and abroad. Nonetheless, the European field has been neglected and is in dire need of more workers. And the workers are in dire need of more financial, emotional, and spiritual support.

Thus, the purpose of this booklet is to raise awareness for future mission work in Romania - a country situated in Eastern Europe. The purpose, aims, goals, and plan (both short-term and long-term) are outlined in this booklet.

The reader(s) of this booklet are encouraged to be mindful and prayerful of the contents within. If this is a work that sparks interest in the heart of the reader(s), then he or she is encouraged to locate the contact information on the second to last page.

Yours truly
- Joshua C. Dykes

“We thank God always for all of you as we mention you constantly in our prayers, because we recall in the presence of our God and Father your work in the faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Paul (as quoted in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; NET)

AIM and MISSION STATEMENT

The MISSION STATEMENT is as follows:

“To fulfill the commission of Christ by teaching others the Gospel by preaching and living out the Word of God. To give as Christ gave and to live as Christ lived. To make disciples that make disciples that make disciples. And to bring honor and glory to the Lord.”

The AIM of this particular work is as follows:

“To teach the Gospel in Iași, Romania and baptize individuals into the body of Christ; in doing so, reconciling their souls to Christ so that He may be glorified.”

GOALS

The overall goals for this work is as follows:

1. To develop a congregation rooted and grounded in the Word of God (the Holy Bible).
2. For the congregation to be a unified body of believers giving only God the glory.
3. To develop strong leaders in the congregation that can eventually govern it.
4. To develop a congregation that can eventually take control of its own funds, and not fully rely on funds from other congregation.
5. For the congregation to make disciples that make disciples.
6. To develop a congregation to be a beacon and example in the community and to surrounding communities.
7. To develop a congregation that can serve as a base to launch other missionary efforts in the region or in surrounding regions.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

These Objectives are to be achieved and/or mostly accomplished within **one to two years** in the mission field:

- A. Learn the Romanian language and culture.
 - Acquire a native tutor.
 - Make conversational Romanian a daily habit and practice.
 - Become familiar with layout of the city.
 - Establish daily routine.
 - Identification process.
- B. Establish relationships and connections.
 - Buy from local businesses and engage in conversations.
 - Visit community parks.
 - Become involved in community events.
 - Give to and build relationships with neighbors.
- C. Engage in Benevolence.
 - Visit hospitals, orphanages, schools, and homeless shelters.
- D. Establish personal outreach efforts.
 - Begin studies with some established connections and relationships.
 - Start producing flyers and newsletters advertising the congregation.
- E. Have a worship location.
 - A store front, house, or church building. Not an apartment.
- F. Increase church membership to ten to fifteen members.

MID-RANGE OBJECTIVES

These Objectives are to be achieved and/or mostly accomplished within **three to five years** in the mission field:

- A. Fluency in Romanian.
 - Most or all conversational language is in Romanian.
- B. Conduct all services in Romanian.
 - All five acts of worship are done in Romanian.
 - Powerpoints.
- C. All materials and literature produced in Romanian language.
 - Bible correspondence courses.
 - Songs Books.
 - Tracts.
- D. Expand personal outreach efforts.
 - Local campaigns.
 - Invite some American and Romanian missionaries to help establish more studies in the community.
- E. Begin implementing multiplication strategies.
 - Missions seminar.
 - More sermons on the importance of making disciples.
- F. Consider other options for a new worship location.
 - Have a new location, or consider adding to the original.
- G. Begin teaching more difficult lessons to mature the faith of older converts.
 - Milk to meat (Hebrews 5:13-14).
- H. Increase church membership to fifteen to twenty-five members.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

The Objectives are to be achieved and/or mostly accomplished within **six to ten years** in the mission field:

- A. Establish a Bible School.
- B. Begin the process of developing or selecting elders and deacons.
- C. Have Romanian men do the work of evangelists in the local congregation.
- D. Establish a church camp for kids and teens in Romania.
- E. Make additions and expansions to the church location and building (if necessary or possible).
- F. Develop Romanian missionaries that can do work both domestic and abroad.
- G. Continue to facilitate mid-range goals, especially those involving growth and leadership of Romanians in the congregation.
- H. Increase church membership and average church attendance to twenty-five to thirty-five members.

** All of these objective lists are not exhaustive nor are they complete. These objectives just serve as reasonable expectations. Depending on the success of the work in Iași and the surrounding areas, these objectives are subject to change.

WHERE

The task of determining the location of mission work is not an easy one. There are over 195 countries in the world according to the United Nations. Within these countries, there are many villages, towns, cities, and regions with varying cultures and ethnic groups. However, after much thought, prayer, and careful consideration... I have chosen the country of Romania to be the place of my future work.

Why Romania?

There are many practical reasons for choosing Romania as a mission field. Some of these reasons are as follows:

- Only 30 years removed from a communist regime, Romania is open to free thought.**
- There are established congregations in Romania, all in need of further support and leadership.**
- The emigration crisis in Romania (and all of Eastern Europe) has weakened the Church.**
- A work visa should be easy to secure due to the emigration crisis.**
- A short-term mission trip (two weeks) in the Summer of 2019 in Oradea, Romania.**

Recent Romanian History.

In the 1940's, following World War II, Romania fell under Soviet influence and communist control. A long and brutal dictatorship characterized by purges, strong control over religion and thought, and egocentric propaganda ensued.

In 1989, the dictatorship was overthrown and a more democratic government was gradually put into place. Since 1989, Romania has been more open to free thought and exercise of religion.

Difficulties of Conducting Work in Romania.

As with any mission field, there are multiple difficulties that missionaries could run into. In regards to Romania, some of these difficulties include (but are not limited too):

- **Culture strongly influenced by Romanian Orthodox Church.**
- **Ethnic mistreatment amongst Romanians, Roma, and Hungarian people groups.**
- **A rise in secular thought and reason following the overthrow of the communist regime.**
- **Mass-Emigration.**
- **Securing funds and having a supporting congregation that understands the difficulties of European work.**

Strategies to overcoming these difficulties will be covered in later sections.

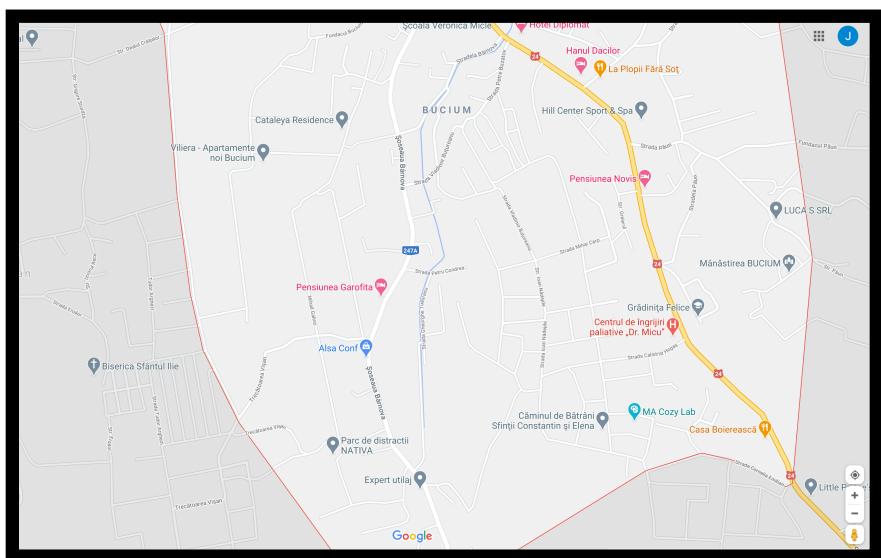
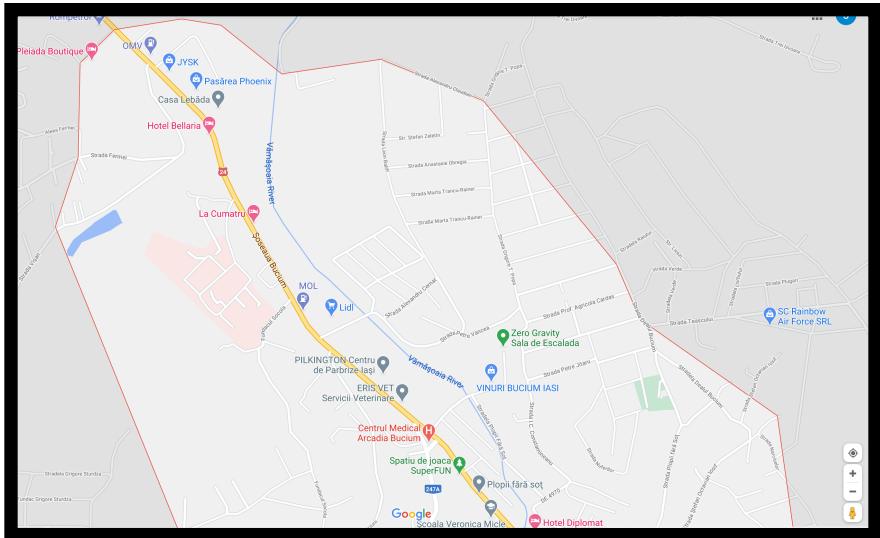
Where in Romania?

As with any country, there are many regions and subcultures within Romania. The region of Romania that needs the most work and workers is Moldova. Moldova sits just west of the country of Moldova, and its principal city is Iași. Iași is the second largest city in Romania with a population over 500,000 in its metro area. The city is

home to several universities and is considered to be the cultural capital of Romania. In Iași, there is a congregation that still exists. However, the number of members regularly attending services has drastically decreased due to a lack of encouragement and emigration to other European countries. The current numbers (at the time of writing) is three.

The goal would not be to plant a new congregation, but to encourage and help grow an already existing congregation. Most of the members attending are from a single neighborhood / subdivision of Iași called Bucium (see maps below and next page). The hope is to make the meeting place in this subdivision.





The weather in Iași, Romania is very similar to the weather in Flint, Michigan. Summers have an average temperature of 70° F, and winters are on average 30° F.

ACCESS AND MEMBERS

GAINING ACCESS

One of the most difficult parts of planning is determining how to gain access to Iași, Romania. Given the emigration crisis, it should not be overly difficult to gain a work visa for Romania. The reason for emigration is NOT a shortage of jobs, but rather higher paying ones in other European countries. As a result, many places around Romania are hiring or are open to new businesses.

If a work visa cannot be obtained, then another visa will be obtained on the grounds of teaching English to foreigners.

TEAM MEMBERS

The hope is to have 4-6 team members from the United States of America. The preference is for couples to be involved in the work, but it is not a requirement.

All team members are required to have taken at least one missions class in college, or to have attended a lectureship in which Missions was the focus (eligible lectureships include the Global Missions Conference, AIM, Freed-Hardeman Lectureships, Faulkner Lectureships, or another conference approved by other team members).

A questionnaire will be given to all team members to ensure that all individuals are doctrinally sound and fit for foreign mission work. All team members will also be

required to secure a sponsoring congregation and to make contributions to the overall work fund once in Romania.

Approximately one year before leaving the United States for Romania, all team members will be required to sign a contract binding all the members to work together for **three years**. If members of the team decide to continue with the work, then another contract will be implemented while on furlough.

All alleged team members will take at least **one survey trip** before signing the contract and moving to Romania. The contract will contain all the rules for conducting the work as well as the aim and mission statement.

In order to be considered for membership, the last page must be signed as proof that the booklet was read in its entirety.

Gaining Support

Each member or couple will be responsible for finding congregations to support them. However, if members or couples are having trouble finding support, then they are encouraged to ask other members or couples to help establish connections. It never hurts to ask.

In addition, every individual (regardless of whether they are a couple or not) will be required to make a working budget for Romania and the returning furlough.

NOTES

Contact

If you are someone who is interested in possibly joining the work, please contact the following email, or call the following number:

Email:

gospeltraveler1@gmail.com

Phone:

(205) 937-1021 (TEXT ONLY)

Write:

Joshua Dykes
8512 Brooke Lane
Trussville, Alabama 35173

If you have read this booklet in its entirety and would like to have more information on this work, please sign the line below.

X _____

If you would like to be considered in joining the team, please sign below.

X _____