

Ambassadors to Romania

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023/2024

Vol. 1 Iss. 5



Two Months Left

MISSION:

To fulfill the commission of Christ by teaching others the Gospel through 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.

PASSAGE ON MY HEART:

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 ESV

What's Inside...

- What Will This Next Year Have In Store For Me
- Learning The Romanian Language: UPDATE
- Visa Update

ALSO IN THIS VOLUME:



What Will This Next Year Have In Store For Me?

2024 will be a very busy, exciting, nerve-racking, and memorable year! A newsletter article would not be adequate in explaining all that will be planned and accomplished in 2024, but nonetheless, it is something we all need to consider and pray about!

LEARN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

For the first six months, I will familiarize myself with the Romanian language and culture and combat culture-shock. As Romanians speak a different language than we speak, it is crucial for me to learn their language and to have spiritual conversations in their mother tongue! I will continue to take lessons through a native teacher and tutor, and I will begin the identification process.

ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS

As I advance in my language skills and defeat culture shock, I will continue to maintain my relationships and connections with those who worship in Arad; and I will become involved in community events. Regular church events and benevolence efforts will be started to ensure that the congregation (and myself) focus on in-reach and outreach. Those who worship in Arad that are not yet Christians will be studied with and hopefully baptized within the first year (Lord Willing)!

MAINTAIN THE BUILDING IN ARAD AND FIX THE CHURCH PAPERWORK

If this has not been done prior to my arrival, I will make necessary updates to the building in Arad

and also update the paperwork that ensures the Church can keep the building and worship / evangelize legally! Building updates are a necessity in Romania as non-Christians looking for a Church home expect a clean and tidy building.



Learning the Romanian Language Update:

Learning the Romanian language has been a higher priority over the last few months, and I have buckled down on verb conjugation! I have two Romanian teachers with whom I have been studying via Skype. One of them is a Christian from Bucharest, and the other is a secular teacher in Moldova.

When I get to Arad in March, I will be prioritizing my Romanian language learning more than ever! I have three Romanian notebooks (one I have already filled up) and I will definitely need more as I continue my studies!

I will be posting on my blog more as I journal my experiences with culture shock and language learning. If you go to gospeltravler.org, you can find sermons that I have preached as well as many other resources and missionary updates!

Visa Update

Anyone who wants to immigrate to a foreign country must understand 2 really important rules:

1. Be prepared and have all your documents ready.
2. Governments are really frustrating to work with - go with the flow.

Choosing the proper visa was difficult since laws have changed since 2019 (my first trip to Romania) and obtaining a long stay visa requires overcoming much red-tape. I decided relatively late that having a Religious Worker's Visa is the best option as having a Worker's Visa could limit my time working with the Church.

As it stands now, I have most of the paper-work ready and done for March 2024, but I am still waiting to find out if I have the endorsement from the Secretariat of State for Faiths (a Romanian Government entity). If my visa cannot go into effect by March 1st, I will have to prepare to leave the country temporarily after 90 days - during which time I will have to worship and work with a Church in a surrounding country, in addition to continuing to work on my visa.

As I continue to navigate this long, frustrating, and bureaucratic process, I ask for your continued prayers and support!

Pictures from 2023 Trips!



A Ukrainian Bible Class student posing with a craft she had made (Cluj Summer 2023)



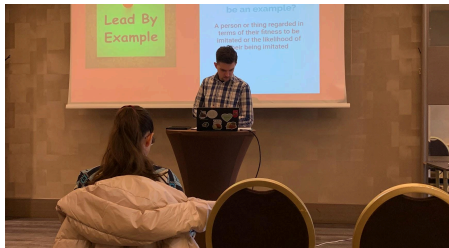
Dragos from Cluj baptizing a Ukrainian for the remission of her sins (Cluj Summer 2023)



The view from my hotel în Târgu Mureș, where I spent 3 days to encourage members who worship from their home (Târgu Mureș Summer 2023)



Studying with a couple of Pentecostals in Arad
(Arad Summer 2023)



Bogdan, a Christian from Oradea, preaching for
the gospel meeting in Iași, Romania (Iași Spring
2023)



The workers for the Iași campaign worshipping
together in a hotel room (Iași Spring 2023)

Announcements

Dates to Remember:

March 1st, 2024 - Move to Romania (ticket purchased!)

Prayer Requests:

Florin and Costel - members of the Church in Iași!

Ukrainian refugees

Joshua's Visa Process and Move

Contact Joshua Dykes:

(205) 937-1021 (TEXT PREFERRED)

Or email: gospeltraveler1@gmail.com

VISIT MY BLOG: gospeltraveler.org

If you would like to donate to the work-fund overseen by the Deerfoot Church of Christ in Alabama, please make a check out to the "Deerfoot Church of Christ" and put in the memo line "Romania Missions" And mail it to:

Deerfoot Church of Christ

5348 Old Springville Road

Pinson, Alabama 35126