

ROMANIA MISSIONS

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Dear Pastors and Churches,

November 11, 2016

Mission trips: Last month was a busy one for us. After my return from Peru, South America, I made one trip to Bucharest, also visiting several places in Southern Romania including one trip to Filiasi which is also in the South. Then I made two trips to Timisoara in Western Romania. Aurel Miclea moved from Cluj (central Romania) to Timisoara (one hour Northwest of Bocsa) and both he and I had meetings with some of the people that want us to start a Bible study group there. Aurel Munteanu continued the meetings in Filiasi, his native town, but also travels by train every week to Bucharest where he meets with those that can attend the mission work there. We haven't officially started the work in Bucharest yet as we are still working on finding a way to cover all the services at the mission points and the meetings in Bucharest. Right now, Aurel holds meetings in Bucharest on Saturday in order to be in Filiasi, to preach on Sunday. At the present time I can be in Bucharest only once per month. Some people there got offended at church truth and quit coming while others are still chewing on this as it is hard meat for them and yet others asked to be scripturally baptized. This is a good sign that the Lord is working there. Please pray for us and the work in Bucharest, Romania's capital city.

Prayer Needed: There is something else for which our church needs and covets your prayers. Each time we have started a new mission work we have been strongly attacked and opposed by the devil. We expected this when we considered starting the work in Bucharest which is the greatest missionary work we have undertaken so far. We expected attacks from without and so we called for watching and fasting and prayers and the strengthening of our private and public devotion to the Lord in order to resist these attacks. But the devil managed to breach our lines. It started with some gossip and desire for power in one member who was one of our preachers. Then doctrinal issues surfaced from another preacher, both of whom were supposed to be actively involved in the work in Bucharest. We tried to deal with them wisely, biblically and patiently giving them time to repent and make things right with the church. But both of them refused to listen, hardened their necks and decided to withdraw from the church. They influenced a few other church members, too, who did the same. This was heart breaking for us to see our brethren so blinded and hardened. We did everything we could to help them see their error, but to no avail. Therefore, we had no other option but to exclude them until they repent. We are still suffering after this hit from the devil, but even so, we are actually more united than ever and more determined to do the Lord's will. Losing two preachers is very hard, especially since there is so much work ahead of us. We don't know yet how we will handle the mission works, but the Lord will open a way. Please pray for us as a church in these hard times. We have never been through anything like this. We are not discouraged, but it is hard, nevertheless. I plan to write a letter to all the churches that sent love offerings or support to these two preachers that left us (Bro. George Vladu and Bro. Dumitru Creosteanu). I also ask you to join us in our prayers for them and for their families that the Lord will open their minds and hearts and bring them to repentance. Though we are disappointed in them we believe they are saved and that the Lord is not through with them. So, please pray for them and for us, too, that we may remain strong and face these attacks and hardships.

Peru: Regarding the needs in Peru, I would like to remind you of the greatest need I found there: the lack of sound literature. We hope to help these brethren with literature, though we don't know yet which would be cheaper, to print literature here in Romania and ship it there or have some print shop print it there. We can print cheap here, but I am concerned about shipping costs. Also, if any of you know churches or missionaries that have sound materials in Spanish language (Gospel, grace and church truth), please ask them to contact us. I also wish to thank the churches that contributed to my travel expenses to Peru. Your love offerings eased the burden of our church, and we all are thankful to the Lord and to you for this.

Literature work: I am almost finished with the electrical wiring and the plumber is almost finished installing the heating in the new print shop. We have begun unwrapping the equipment and the literature, and we hope to see the new print shop operational soon. There will be a lot of work in there in the next months, as many of our titles are out of stock or almost out. But we are thankful to the Lord that there still is a great interest in the literature we produce here.

And we wish to thank all of you for being part of this work, through your prayers and financial support. May the Lord bless you abundantly! Bro. Raul

From Oklahoma: Greetings to all them that love the Lord in sincerity! My health continues with its ups and downs, but God gives grace. It has been heartbreaking to me to know of the actions of two preachers in Romania who have ceased serving the Lord and refused to hear their fellow church members. May God restore them by His gracious dealing with them. I join with Bro. Raul in asking you to pray earnestly for the three faithful preachers as they must take upon themselves the work that five had begun. But the men are courageous and trusting in the Lord. Raul told me that there is a group of university age young people in Timisoara (about an hour's drive from Bocsa) who want to meet with him and Aurel Miclea so, Lord willing, this next Sunday (the 13th) after services in Bocsa they will drive to that large city and begin services there. Opportunities abound, but Satan opposes so let us stand fast in prayer for these needs. Please pray for the church there and especially for Aurel Miclea, Aurel Munteanu and Bro. Raul.

I also wish to thank all of you for your interest and your faithfulness in prayer and financial support.

