

Romania 2012

"Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you" (1 Samuel 12:24). What a great verse to quote but do we really live it? I saw it in action in Fundulea, Romania, by each Ziemer family member in the home, at church and at camp. What a privilege to meet, laugh and serve with this sweet family. The Lord has given them a home where they can house teams on the same property as the church. What a thrill to see a church full of believers worshipping the Lord as well as unbelievers hearing the Truth of the Gospel. Todd Smith gave a powerful message about listening to the Lord. Several responded to the moving of the Holy Spirit and two accepted the gift of salvation. Praise the Lord! "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16). What a wonderful camp ministry the Lord has given them.



I've never felt called to do children's ministry and I've never been much of a camper, but what a thrill to see children singing praises to the King, learning Truths from the Word and some thanking God for the gift of His Son.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). I thought of this verse when I heard why four-year-old Fanel was going to junior camp (ages 7-14) with us. His father is currently in prison for killing Fanel's mother, which was witnessed by his oldest sister, Flory (age 12). Flory has become mother to Fanel and Gina and she even had to testify at the trial. When this tragedy happened, she told Pastor Gerald that she was going to have to quit school and go to work to support her family. He took a step of faith and told her to keep going to school because the Lord will provide. He told how our faithful God has brought one to supply their needs to continue in school then another just as the first one ended. They live with their invalid grandfather, who was drinking and smoking when we visited the family. I've never wanted to bring children home with me more than this time. My heart ached for them but what a joy to see them laughing, learning and experiencing the love of the Lord at camp, where they could be kids if just for the week. I was reminded of the providence of God that placed the Ziemer family in their neighborhood to love them and share the love of Jesus Christ. Cheryl and I also got to visit a new church plant in Florida, where we've been invited to return next year to do a medical outreach. How exciting to hear Pastor Luchi share the need for this church so that both the Gypsies and Romanians can hear the Gospel.



"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words" (Jeremiah 18:2). Each night during our devotions with the Americans, Todd had us read Jeremiah 18. The first night he asked each of us the question, "Why are you here?" He began with McCree and she explained how she had been wanting to come on a mission trip for two years. Then with tears of joy and relief, she shared that God has called her to be a missionary and though she feels unworthy, she knows that He has called her and He will equip her. My answer was to bring McCree. Kim's answer was to learn to serve others with joy but I think there was more. She shared with Celeste, McCree's mother, that there is no greater joy than to hear your children say they want to serve the Lord. I stand in awe of the sovereignty of God to put a team together at just the right time with just the right missionaries to grow and bring glory to Him.



As many of you may have heard, the Lord is moving me to Alabama. I do not want to distract from the Romania trip plus I want to be able to give you my new address once I get it, so I will share all the details like how God sold my house in two days in the next update. Bottom line is that I will be doing the same thing, leading short term mission teams plus more local missions but I will be doing it from another Baptist church in the Birmingham area. Stay tuned and please keep praying. He has answered "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20)!



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