

2017 Romania Update

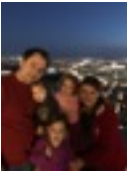
Proverbs 16:9 tells us that man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps. The missionary, the team and I all work to have a plan, the tools and anything necessary to complete the task that will help the missionary the most. We never know how our plans will change but ultimately, we know that the Lord is in control and we can trust Him! The day before we arrived in Romania, the assistant mayor came to the work site in Valea Argovei and told Gerald they could not lay one cement block until the very last permit was signed. They had received a verbal approval but when a neighbor complained, that was revoked. You prayed for safety for our guys to lay blocks but instead God protected them as they poured steps and replaced a sidewalk. Elena, a new believer, came every day to help. She even reprimanded some of the church members for not being there to help as well. They took the new church at Valea Argovei as far as they could within the law. What a blessing to have church members excited to be part of God's work and a team that never complained when plans changed but joyfully did the work knowing God orchestrated their steps.



Todd always says that he goes on mission trips so he can play with the kids at the orphanage. We didn't visit an orphanage on this trip but he got to hold 3 day-old twins and to see all the kids playing on the new sidewalk were definite highlights. We had a wonderful time at game night with Flory, Gina and Fanel. I fell in love with that little boy the first time I went to Romania and we took him, a four-year-old boy at the time, with us to camp so his older sisters could attend. These three orphans are still faithfully attending church and trusting the Lord to provide. We even had a violin concert one night by Naomi. I was honored to speak to the ladies and share my testimony. Even though we can't speak the same language and use an interpreter, it was a sweet time of fellowship. What a blessing to spend our last night in Valea Argovei; the old building packed to capacity with folks standing, the church members praising God & each of us sharing our hearts. Bob said this was the highlight for him even though this trip was the first time he and Jesse had shared their testimonies. My heart was full as I heard them give glory to God for saving them and using them especially knowing they had rather do most anything than speak publicly.



While the guys went to camp to build a storage building, I went to Athens, Greece, to meet missionaries Emanuel and Tereza Negru on a vision trip. I met with pastors and ministry directors and saw some of the needs in the area. Emanuel & Tereza are currently discipling 15 students and their desire is to get into the schools with the Gospel. They have invited me to bring a drama/singing team back Dec. 7-16 to do a Christmas program in the schools and on the streets. Please pray for the Lord to bring this team together.



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). Another plan that has changed is that for whatever reason no one could go on the Brazil trip so we have postponed that one until next year. Instead, I am going with my Dad and a few others from Shoal Creek Baptist Church to cook for a youth camp in Wasilla, Alaska. I'm going to miss spending time with the Daniel family but excited to spend time with my longtime friends Lana in Anchorage and Walter, camp director in Wasilla. I don't understand why God changes directions but so thankful I know He's in charge and it is good! Thank you, faithful prayer warriors, for your prayers on our behalf!

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