

Romania Mission Work

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Greetings in the Name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Mission work. The regular services continued in Bocsă and Bucharest, even though some could not make it because of various illnesses (some had covid or flu, a sister broke a bone in her foot and can't walk for now, and another had a surgery on her spine). The meetings in Timisoara were online for most of the month and in Filiasi for part of it. Aurel Miclea and his wife, Eunice, had covid, but they recovered. They just finished their quarantine and are doing well. My father in law (Aurel and Miriam's father) is recovering well after covid, but he still has a way to go.

I don't usually have health issues, for which I am very thankful, but last month I started having a severe allergic reaction (hives) triggered by cold. I saw a doctor and we ran a bunch of tests, but the results are ok, so far. I am thankful for that, but we need the Lord's guidance to find the cause. Please be in prayer for this. I had 4 episodes in 10 days. My lower back started hurting almost continually since last week. Most likely it is a herniated disk. I am scheduled for an MRI on Feb. 18th, and we'll learn how serious it is. We are thankful for your prayers for us!

I was asked by several if we are affected by the tensions between Russia and Ukraine, since Ukraine is our neighbor to the north. Thank you for your concern and prayers. So far, we are not in immediate danger, as we are part of NATO, though the Russian leaders are very upset with us and with Poland for having American bases on our territory. They are threatening us, too, and we are affected economically, because Russia is the main source for oil and gas for us and the rest of Europe. Since December, our gas bill went up 200%, our electric bill 250% and the price of fuel reached \$6.50/gallon, and rising every week. We had to intervene and help some church members and others close to us, to pay their heating bills or buy fire wood to make it through the winter. This conflict, coupled with the effects from the pandemic, has affected many of us. We would appreciate your prayers for us in this respect, too. The situation is quite unstable (last year's inflation was right at 8% and the prognosis for this year is to get close to 10%). Many businesses are closing or reducing personnel. We have some members that are unemployed now and are going through difficulties. But all of us are thankful to the Lord for His provision and grace. Our trust is in Him.

Literature work. Last month was a special one, because it marked 20 years since we bought the first printing equipment, having the vision of developing a printing work that would reach far and wide with the truth. It was three of us then, Bro. Curtis, Aurel Miclea and I. Aurel and I knew nothing about printing and had no professional experience with translation and editing work either, but we were excited to embark on this journey, willing to put our everything into it. I was 20 years old then and I will turn 40 soon. I spent half of my life in this work. Looking back, I am overwhelmed. I feel honored and extremely blessed to be part of it and to have seen from the beginning the might way in which our God has worked through this literature. I also feel a void in my heart, as today (Feb. 8th) we commemorate 4 years since the Lord called bro. Curtis home. He is still missed, but we are as determined as he once was to continue the good work that we started together 20 years ago. Thank you all for being part of this work, too! We pray that the Lord would pour upon you the same blessings we see poured upon us through this work in which you are fellow-laborers with us. **Bro. Raul**