

Romania Mission Work

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

Mission work. We started the year at full throttle, just as we finished the last year. Miriam and I made a trip to Bucharest early in January. She saw her eye doctor and got a good report. The doctor was thrilled with the progress! It was such a relief! Thank you for your prayers for her! Please continue in prayer for her, as well as for me, as I continue to struggle with two health issues, the allergic reaction to cold and irritable bowel syndrome. Both are getting worse, it seems. While in Bucharest, we made home visits and had an amazing service there. It was a special time, as the Spirit of God moved amongst us. I preached for over an hour, but we stayed from 10:00AM til 08:30PM. A brother repented publicly from things that he did, which affected the group there. Everybody acted as one, there was a great sense of unity, love, repentance, and above all, a great awareness of God's holiness and of our own duty to be holy. We are His priests, we serve Him in His House, His church, we bring spiritual sacrifices to Him and perform a spiritual service. His house must be holy. His priests and their service and their sacrifices must be holy, as He is holy! No compromise, no known sin, no leaven is allowed, no half-hearted service is good enough! Everything we do must be God-centered, God-oriented and must reflect His holiness. The Lord has been dealing with us, as a congregation, in a special way for a few months now, impressing on us a great sense of awe, amazement and fear when we come into His presence, in His house. We are not led by feelings, but this feeling is overwhelming, I can't describe it in words. God has been making His presence and His working manifested in a special way again in the life of our little congregation. He has also been cleansing our lives and our church, purging leaven from it, sanctifying us for what we believe will be a big breakthrough in the work that He entrusted to us. The Lord worked in a similar way before every big advance of the work here.

In this process of purging the leaven, the Lord brought to surface certain issues in all of us that needed to be dealt with, but especially in some members who were regressing spiritually. As we were fasting and praying for the Lord to illuminate us to understand what is going on in their life and how we can help them, the Lord answered those prayers, and brought to surface the root of the issues, as until then, we have been dealing only with the visible effects of that cause. That working of God brought a thorough inward evaluation of each of us, it brought public repentance, confessions of sins and shortcomings, a total commitment to God and surrender to His will. Heartbreakingly, three of the members that were connected with the roots of these issues brought to light by God, refused to let go of the leaven and to repent, in spite of all our attempts to help them, and the Lord saw fit to remove them from our membership. We are suffering for them, but are fully aware that this is God's doing, and we are at peace with it. We continue in prayer for them, that the Lord will bring them to repentance. Please join us in this prayer. And pray for us, too, that all of us would remain as determined as we are now to submit to the will of God, whatever He has in store for us, and to learn all the lessons, for His glory.

Literature work. I don't have much room to write about the literature work this time. We are low on all our Gospel booklets, including in Ukrainian, as they are being distributed massively lately. Praise the Lord for this! We will focus our efforts on reprinting Gospel booklets for another month or so. Thank you for all your prayers and support, as well as for the cards and e-mails! **Bro Raul**