

Romania Mission Work

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

Mission work. Last month was not the usual month for us. Because of sickness, we had to cancel several services in Bocsă and Filiasi. By the grace of God, Miriam and I recovered after the bad flu we had, and three weeks later, also by the grace of God, He allowed us to develop COVID, for the second time in one year. We are half way through it now. I have lost my sense of taste and smell, have a dry cough and some pains and aches in my body, and I am getting tired easily (I had a particularly hard time trying to finish this month's financial report. One day's work took me three days this time). I am thankful that the Lord spared us from complications and I am thankful for the precious lessons He is teaching us in the times of our sickness. We know that He works all things together for the good of His elect, and we take everything as the best thing that could possibly happen to us.

Aurel Munteanu and his family also got sick with COVID. They got over it now, but Estera, his wife, still feels somewhat ill, and his father needed medical assistance, and has been in the hospital for two weeks now. In the last few days he started improving. Please be in prayer for him, that the Lord would touch his body and spirit, as he is still lost.

Bro. Hristo and his family from Bulgaria also had COVID. Because of his auto-immune disease, this trial was very difficult for him. He had to take huge doses of steroids, which caused adrenalin surges, panic attacks and terrible anxiety, beside all the symptoms directly associated with the virus. He is doing better now, but he still needs a long way to go to get to where he was before the infection. His trial was so difficult that he was praying to the Lord to take him home. I pointed to him that the great translation projects that he started (Bro. Fenison's *The Kingdom of God, the Family of God and the Church of God*, bro. Curtis' *What Is a New Testament Church* and a few others) are not finished, and therefore it doesn't look to me that his work here is finished. He really wants to finish those before he goes to the Lord and leave for his people a testimony about the Lord's churches. Please be in prayer for this dear brother and his family. After both of us get well, I will make a trip to Bulgaria to visit them.

Literature work. Last month we mailed out the annual catalog of free literature to more than 650 addresses in Romania and around 40 in Europe. Consequently, we shipped out 42 large packages with literature, consisting of thousands of booklets and hundreds of books. This is the highest quantity shipped out during a single month since the beginning of the year. We bought a lot of paper because the price was going up (everything went up here, fuel, energy, food, construction materials. Electricity and natural gas went up 250% since summer). Before my quarantine time is up, I hope to be able to finish editing Bro. Mason's *The Church That Jesus Built* and send it to print. This would be the first new title of the year. We hope to finish our electronic library this winter. We are proofing the texts, standardizing the formats, checking every bibliographical reference and adding a link to each, when possible. It is a lot of work, but we want to produce the best quality possible, for the glory of God!

We wish to thank you for being part of this work, through your faithful giving and prayers! Month after month we are continually amazed to see how the Lord works and how He meets needs through you, some being met even before we are made aware of them. May the Lord bless you abundantly! **Bro.**

Raul