

Encourage & Equip

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Please pray...

Praise for:

- God's forgiveness & that his mercies are new every morning.
- Practical demonstrations of compassion & kindness in times of illness.
- Fruitful family Christmas outreach event.
- A low-key Christmas with family.
- Partnership with AMEC.
- Generous supporters & financial provision for our home.
- Possibility to attend Share Education conference.

Prayer for:

- Health, patience & perseverance during this season of illness.
- Those who attended the Christmas outreach event, that the Lord will keep working in their hearts and minds.
- Our integration into AMEC, direction & wisdom to know how best to serve.
- Honest and competent tradesmen for the next stages of our home.
- Our family time together at Share Educational conference to be encouraging & fruitful.

Dear Friends and Family,

'Tis the season...for illness...Along with below zero temperatures, frost and the occasional flurry of snow, winter brings all its seasonal illnesses. With six of us under one roof, there has hardly been a day this winter when at least one of us hasn't been ill. On top of this, Adi's mother underwent knee replacement surgery just before Christmas, putting her completely 'out of action'. Amongst all the frustration that illnesses can bring, God has demonstrated his kind and compassionate heart through his children during this season. When Anna and I found out that her best friend was ill, we made a little care package, and Anna made a card and drawings. This was received with immense thankfulness and joy. When this friend heard that another friend (and her two sisters) were ill, she and her mother put together a package, making cards and bracelets for each of them. Then when this next family heard that Anna and Luca were now unwell, that family put a little package together for us, with books and cards for us to enjoy. As mothers, we reflected about how encouraging it was to see our children's compassion and willingness to show their love and care for one another in practical ways. "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18) No matter what season we find ourselves in, or trials we are facing, may we each find ways to practically show our love one another, reflecting the fathers love he has for us.

Christmas celebrations



December can get exceptionally busy for many, so the team of Sunday school teachers at our local church started planning in October for our family Christmas outreach event. The whole team worked hard and, on the 10 December, we welcomed families into our church for a wonderful evening of

carols, stories, games, crafts, a photo shoot, and more. The purpose of this evening was to create a welcoming environment for families who don't attend a church and would find coming to a church service somewhat of a challenge. We wanted to introduce them to the church building and give them a sample of what goes on and what we believe. We received encouraging feedback from some families who were keen to know when we would be doing something similar again. Please pray as we continue to develop these relationships, that the Lord would keep working in the hearts of our friends and neighbours.

As a family we decided to keep things simple this year, considering all the challenges that we faced over the Christmas season. All the traditional foods may not have been prepared, the decorations may not have been as elaborate and we may have missed a day or two on our advent calendars, but we enjoyed celebrating the birth of our Saviour as a family in simple ways, resting in the peace that it brings.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
PSALM 145:4

Promising partnerships...

Our desire in returning to Romania was to encourage and equip local Christians to share the gospel of Jesus with the children of Romania. As you know, this hasn't always looked like we thought it would. But we are very excited to share that we were approached by AMEC (Child Evangelism Fellowship) to partner with them in their ministry of evangelism, training and resourcing children's workers. Over the past five years we have collaborated with AMEC, assisting and attending evangelistic events, camps, conferences and trainings. We have had initial conversations with the national director and manager and they are currently working on a contract so expectations are clear. We believe they are a good fit for our ethos, considering their focus on being faithful to the Scriptures. We have also started working on some concrete plans with the local AMEC workers (Ionuț and Madalina Mateescu) regarding initiating on-field involvement. We are not leaving ECM, but rather starting an on-field partnership with AMEC. Please pray with us that this partnership will be mutually beneficial and encouraging and we would see the planting of seeds, growth and harvesting of fruit for the Kingdom. Stay tuned for more...

The Lord provides!

In our previous prayer letter, we shared the financial need of a loan to be able to keep working on our house in a timely manner to enable our family to move into our new home. God listened to our prayers and responded through a couple who have offered us an interest free loan that we believe will be enough to get the house to a state we can move into. We are so thankful for God's provision through this generous couple who understands our circumstances and are in position to help practically. We are very excited and we are trusting that we may be able to move in by the end of this year (or earlier). Adi and a close friend (who recently found himself unemployed), have continued to work on the house two days a week. Adi is currently looking for a team to install the pipes for the underfloor heating. Please pray that God would guide us to honest and competent tradesmen for the next stages and praise God with us for his ongoing and faithful provision.

Scholastic support

Whilst we are immensely thankful for the education that Anna and Luca are receiving through Primii Pasi (First Steps), considering the academic and behavioural challenges that they have both experienced, extra support, guidance and advice is always welcome. We were advised to contact Share Education Services and to attend their annual conference at the end of February in Siofok, Hungary. The Share Education conference focuses on children's education for families who are living and serving cross-culturally. We will be able to attend seminars and also consult individually with educators and counsellors. They also provide development and academic assessments, which Anna and Luca will be having. There will also be programs for the kids with the intention of building relational and academic skills. Whilst we didn't anticipate for this to be a part of our calendar, we are thankful that we can attend and pray that it will be valuable for our family.

We thank the Lord for your ongoing partnership in the gospel and pray that Lord would strengthen and sustain each one of us for his service and glory, wherever he has placed us and whatever season we find ourselves in. "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes 5:16-18)

In His Strength, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca
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in Europe*