

The Toc Family Newsletter

Your Missionaries to Romania

Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)



Dear Pastors, Prayer Warriors and "Family:"

We planted with little and bore much fruit!



Many obstacles stood in the way of this year's VBS: Romania's late Easter, severe Covid restrictions, and very few craft supplies and materials. Even so, just like we have the past 20 years, we began planning for VBS right after Easter. Together with you, we prayed for open doors, and God listened.

Covid restrictions at the time prevented any gatherings of people outside of one's own family, but we knew it was God's will to hold VBS. Not only that, but we also felt led to expand the program to a second village where we serve and to have a church-wide VBS celebration in that village. We asked God for three blessings: to protect us and the children from the virus, to bring children and their parents to the VBS in spite of the Covid restrictions, and to enable us to conduct a fruitful Bible school with the limited materials we had on hand. These were BIG prayer requests, and we asked many of you to pray! Then we began preparing for however, the Lord answered our prayers.

Due to cultural differences - and in order to maximize one-on-one witnessing - we held the VBS in our home. The first day began with modest numbers, but even with Covid restrictions, more children began to come until our kitchen was filled with kids of all ages. A special blessing was to meet the parents who brought their children to the preacher's home, to have an opportunity to be a witness to them, and to invite them to our church services. God gave us favor

with several local leaders of authority, including the mayor, who sent their own children to VBS. Praise God that this year we were able to make friends and build new relationships with the parents, and now some of the children have saved parents. Even so, it will take years of building trust, sharing our faith, offering prayers, and giving hope before personal salvation takes place. Because of the persecution people face in this cultural and religious context, a new convert to Christianity must give careful thought to the cost of salvation and baptism since persecution starts immediately.





After being taught from *1 Corinthians 13*, the great chapter on love, one girl told Daniela: "*Now I really understand what it means to genuinely love someone. I am very selfish and I always focus on my own desires and needs. Now I know that Godly love manifests itself differently through each of us.*"



After studying that Bible chapter and *The Ten Commandments*, we received many compliments and positive comments. The children told us that their local Religious Studies teacher, whose class they must attend, is very hostile toward them and often curses the children while in class. Every child asked us to break the social distancing rules and to make the VBS as long as possible. I wish you could have been there to see and hear their excitement day after day. One big praise is that we had purchased plenty of chairs in the last few years so each child had a seat. Even though we exhausted our supply of materials, that is a cause for praise: God met our needs and now we have a year to begin preparation for next summer! Please pray that gifts for this purpose will come in early so we can work on crafts during the winter months for VBS next summer. If God leads you to give towards that ministry please let us know.



It is by faith that God provides all our needs! We took the "seeds" he provided through you and saw them bear much fruit. No matter how you support our ministry in prayer or financially, you are a vital part of everything we do here. God uses your "seeds" for His glory and honor. "To Him be the glory, great things He has done!"



In His Service,
Daniel and Daniela



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