

Curtea de Arges, Romania

FAMILY AND MINISTRY



Dacian warriors, reenacting



Dear Michelle,

You know I am traveling a lot and while driving, I am listening a particular radio broadcast, most objective in news presentation. This past week I was listening to comments about morality/marriage related to the new elected president of France, Mr. Macron. In this radio show, a question is asked and people comments and try answering it. The question asked was not aiming the morality of his marriage but if in Romania, a person so young with such an older wife would be even considered for election as president. The discussion was very interesting and different people brought into discussion the morality of Mr. Macron's choice while he was only 27 years old, when he married Brigitte - 52 at that time. One person in particular said that he would have voted for him (if in Romania) because his private life does not concern other people and his questioned morality should be judged only in choices/decisions related to the position he was elected for. But another person, said something that brought a smile on my face. She said...it is wrong to think that a person can have different standards of morality (one, at home or within family and different one at workplace). Either your morality stands (in every choice you make, in any area of life) either does not stand!!

I am bringing this up because in the same day, the Romanian Parliament (actually, only the Deputy Chamber so far) passed a law to approve a referendum for changing the Constitution regarding family/marriage. The actual form states that a marriage consist in a family relations between two adult partners considered *sofi*, that can be easily interpreted as gay relationship as well (although, by law, gay marriages are forbidden in Romania). The changes wanted would say more exactly: family relationship between one *adult male and one adult female*. I would add here that different associations for family support and the Orthodox church gathered more than 3 millions of signatures to support this constitutional change.

I personally consider this step a huge victory of traditional view of family versus modern (European trend) view of family. If the Constitution will suffer this change, we will be one of the few countries in Europe clearly supporting the traditional, conservative family, making irrevocable illegal the gay marriages. Praise God!! Yet, today I was driving again long distance, to BIG General Assembly meeting and I was hearing at the same station, people commenting about this Constitutional change. The question asked was if people will go and vote for this change - showing how important in their life would be such a vote! I was almost shocked to realise how confused people can be about marriage and morality within such relationships!! How far from God's intentions people think in terms of tolerance and acceptance! Witnessing such a dialog I see how little impact the Church has in the make of moral standards of people, not to mention in their salvation! May God help us see such need of our society!



Roman Legion XIII Gemina, reenacting



Church leadership consulting



Snow and freezing temp. killing most of this year apple production

On a different page...

Family! We are doing well. Robert and Iulia are doing well in Targu Mures - Iulia started her exams session in her 5th year of med school. She would appreciate your prayers! Andreea is looking for a different job in London (we will appreciate your prayers for her, as well) and she moved to a different but temporary apartment. Naomi is finishing her 10th grade in high school and is contemplating her future studies. She knows what she wants but not sure where! Mirela and I were very busy with church, orchard, B&B, tours, premarital guidance, apple juice production, etc. No news about that!

Church: Our church is doing very well: is growing in numbers and in faith. We continue working towards planting a new church in a village; several evangelistic and community outreach events are already planned for this Summer in achieving this goal. The Leadership of the church is growing in many ways: in number, in brotherly relationships, in Godly decision making and in faith. It is a good place to be! Recently, we had two baptism events, in February and April and continue to have weekly meetings with Freedom in Christ study and trimestrial meetings about church planting. Also, one of our young leaders got married few weeks ago: Catalin with Ancuta! I am also doing premarital counsel with Andrei and Cristina (to be married in August) - another young couple coming to our church about a year now.

We, the church leadership, had the opportunity of attending an Apologetics conference in Alba Iulia city - an excellent time of learning and refreshing of faith! Preaching ministry continues for me, faithfully, every Sunday, twice a day. One thing I am concern of is the decline of youth, be it in attendance in Sunday School and in their interest and passion shown towards Christ. It seems that the world and technology is more attractive for them than eternal life and peace in their heart. Strange!!! I will get back to you about this!

Economical engine: Tours - since I got the blue van, I noticed an increase of touring business with about 60% . As I was sharing with you in previous letters, this touring business put me in situations to share the Gospel (almost in every tour) with people from throughout the world in very unique ways. One time in particular, was with a muslim family from Kuwait, in April. Although we had total opposite views about faith, we became friends and I was able to share the work of Christ with both parents! So to speak, I shared the Gospel while touring, in the last two years, more than I was able to do so, as pastor, in the last 15 years!! I attached two pictures on the first page with reenacting of the war between Romans and Dacians (our forefathers), from 106 AD caught in my last tour, last week. **Orchard:** As you will notice the picture with a tree in bloom and snow on the flowers... I have to share with you that we may not have a harvest this Fall.

We had not only snow on the trees, but 48 hours of -5C. Yet, I asked God to do miracles and help the trees fulfil their purpose! If this is not His will to have a harvest, then I am sure God will provide from different sources! **B&B:** I pray and hope (as we work towards it) that our facilities will be on the online market and operating legally by this Summer. There is nothing else to be done, except legal permits and advertising.

BIG IMPACT involvement: in the past three years we were involved in church consulting, among other ministries. I was personally involved in the consultancy of Baptist church from Draganesti Olt. We ended our services towards this church and outreach ministry, this April, after another three full and intensive days spent there and with great outcome.

Another last thing that just happened and proves God's hand at work in my life - His Name be praised!!! Traveling over 400km through mountains, after I arrived at the meeting location, I just noticed the front right tire being wet... All the break fluid leaked out because of a broken hose! Another 100m of driving would have made me a sure victim with imaginable consequences. But the fluid ended by the time I stopped the car!

Thank you for your prayers and support family and ministry - clearly God is at

for me personally and for our work and obviously, your prayers count!

Blessings in His mighty Name, Cristi&Mirela



The second baptism this year - two young girls!

Church planting training

Our church leadership at an Apologetics conference in Alba Iulia.

