

Curtea de Arges, Romania

FAMILY AND MINISTRY



Dear Michelle

This letter will have a lot more pictures, as you notice, as much as what was going on in the past four months, since my last update. I would begin by sharing our year event... our **25th anniversary!** We chose to celebrate it in Barcelona! The story is quite interesting. In February I went to London attending a touring fair, and see my daughter, Andreea. While there, I met Lydia, a fellow tour guide and colleague ([Tours by Locals](#)) in

Barcelona. She invited me there on a free tour on her part! Great! I took advantage of the invitation in July with Mirela. I did not know Lydia much - on the tour day, she wanted to let us know that she is a follower of Christ and begun the tour sharing about her faith! I stopped her graciously and told her I am a pastor of an EvFree church and children of God as well! I cannot describe her surprise and joy - imagine how our day went while visiting Barcelona! I asked her in advance to arrange an anniversary dinner for four at a nice restaurant and she did more than I imagined! God is amazing how He brings together His children from so various places!

For about two months I did weekly marriage counselling with Andrei & Cristina, a very serious and promising young couple. What a thrill to see them grow and change in their marriage understanding! Of course, we agreed to be their godfather. See picture on the other page.

Working with **youth** is another passion I have, although this year I was most frustrated and disappointed with them. About half of them dropped out before the end of the Sunday School year - I see more and more young people falling in the trap of technology miss-use and loosing interest in God, faith and in moral and pleasing-to-God life. But with those I could work, we had great time! We did two mountain hikes, for few days each: one at the end of May and another at the beginning of August. It is one of the best frameworks to challenge character and help them grow in faith! See some pictures next to this text! The one with the peak - the wind there was blowing with over 80miles/hour! Great hike though! The picture with the sun set... the time we spent there on top was amazing, a true gift from God as we were above the clouds and could see for hundreds of miles deep in Transilvania. Also, four of the youth from my class were in missions this Summer for three-four weeks: Naomi and later, Simona, helping a church from Draganesti with translations, with their US summer teams and another two, Maria and Andrei helping with camps as councillors, for one month. This young boy, Andrei, became Christian last year at our own youth camp!

Another picture you see next to the text is Mirela with our final apple crop: that is what we got!! (about 400kg instead of 12-13 tones!) It will be a tough year financially as 30% of our income was cancelled by a late frost during bloom time, as I shared in my last update! But we know that God is in control of it and He will provide in different other ways, as He did in the past! I do not have any pictures from our evangelistic event with a medical team from US, in one of the villages we aim to open a new church! We prayed as church for months for this event but during that day of work, we did almost nothing: the doctors team was fantastic and well organised and hundreds heard the Gospel or at least were the subject of prayer after the consultation



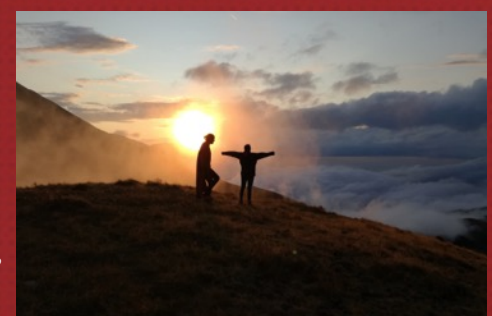
Sagrada Familia, Barcelona



Dinner in four - our anniversary



On the second highest peak



Adoring Him... / & Our apple crop



The only thing we did was talking to people coming through the doors of the local school (the place the Mayor set up for us for this event) and pray for them quietly! I hope God will open the hearts of those poor and isolated people!

Tours... This year I notice an increase of 50% from the same period of time, last year. I had 8 tours in three months. While touring, I had great chances to get to know people from Asia, US, Canada, UK, and EU and listen to their stories and struggles and - I hope - I brought joy and comfort to their heart. It is funny how God uses me while touring, to share about His Son!!

The last tour was for 6 full days, travelling throughout the country. This particular lady wanted to see the most haunted forest in the world, a place with very interesting magnetic field turbulence. Even the trees were twisted and distorted! And my phone did weird actions while walking through that forest!

With **B&B** - we had several groups staying over to our Selah B&B. One, in particular, had 22 people (our capacity is of 14... 16 max) but they wanted to sleep in tents as well. This group was of Romanians living in London for years!! Another group was the youth from our sister church in Craiova: I had a hike tour with them in one of the days, through Stan Valley gorge... see photo next to the text with youth climbing the wall!!

Orchard: the good thing about the orchard is that almost all trees we planted las Fall, grew! Also, Robert invested himself in buying a tractor and built a garage for it and for other equipment. We worked for 5 days in August, daylight, in temperatures exceeding 45C+ ! As for harvest... let's call it the 7th year, the Sabbath of rest!

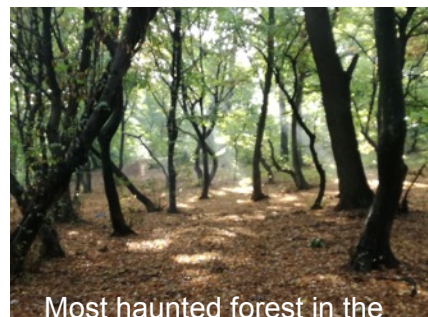
BIG Impact: I continue serving as board member. I attended a meeting of the steering committee for GLS two-days events we will organise in November through January, in 7 different cities in Romania. See photo bellow. One more thing needs to be added here: most likely, beginning this Fall, I will start teaching the wholistic ministry and development at our Advance Theological Seminary for the following three years! We are also in the process to begin MAGUL, a MA degree in global urban leadership with Bakke niversity from Texas!

Family: Andreea finally found a job according to her heart desire and interest. She begun one year payed internship with a filming company in London. In the picture, she is posing with some known Christian singers, at a concert on a stadium. Robert and Iulia are doing fine. Iulia will begin her last year in med school and Robert continue working as programmer with a British company in Tg. Mures. Naomi is exploring her future trying to decide what university she will apply to. interest is in design and film animation.

Church: is doing fantastic with much potential for multiplication. We need prayers for wisdom and open doors! Well, thank you for your support in prayer and financially! I hope is a well Kingdom investment for all of us! Blessings, Cristi & Mirela



Hunyad Castle, on a tour



Most haunted forest in the world!! On a tour in Cluj...



Craiova teenage group



Sunday School graduation



Garage for a tractor!!!



BIG / GLS steering committee



Wedding... the couple I mentor



Andreea in London, filming @ a concert