



Encourage & Equip

Adi & Jennifer Grocott serving in Timisoara, Romania

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Nov 2022 - Jan 2023

Please pray...

Praise for:

- Luca's continual recovery & no further complications.
- Encouraging times with Matt, Andrew & Kate.
- The joy of celebrating Christmas together.
- Fellowship & encouragement we have received when meeting up with CEF worker, Ionuts.
- Continued progress on the house.
- God's provision through our partners to enable us to serve here.

Prayer that:

- Our lives would be marked by praise, prayer & thankfulness.
- God would continue to guide our steps as we develop a ministry of encouraging & equipping local children's workers.
- God would continue to equip us to keep raising Anna & Luca to know & love the Lord.
- Continued provision regarding house construction.
- Our local church would be able to live out our renewed mission & vision of the church.

Dear Friends and Family,

"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) What a beautiful, but challenging verse. We desire to fulfill God's will in our lives and but so often we turn that into so many 'things', good things, noble things, right things- and we forget what the center of God's will is- to rejoice, to pray and to give thanks. It is just as easy to get distracted, frustrated, disappointed and overwhelmed by all that is going on in our lives, our family, our community and the world. We need to stop and refocus on what God really desires for us- to rejoice, to pray and to give thanks. Pray with us that we would live out this antidote to busyness and frustration, through a life of continual praise, prayer and thankfulness.

Celebrating in Community

After many years of feeling that Christmas had been 'hijacked' (or at least frustrated) by covid or seasonal illnesses, what a joy it was to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Leading up to the big day, each Sunday of Advent we had a different character from the Nativity come and visit Sunday School and present their experience of the first Christmas. We had a lot of fun as Mary, Joseph, a shepherd and a wise man came and told their stories and the kids had a chance to ask them questions too. Almost all of the children were present on Christmas Eve to present the songs and poems that



Adi the shepherd

they had learnt. Anna and Luca were very keen to 'carol' our neighbours on Christmas Eve, as is traditional in Romania. Unfortunately, many of our neighbours were either away or ill, but we pray it was a blessing to those we did visit. Christmas Day was unique in that we shared Communion at church and it was very moving tying the birth, death and resurrection of Christ all together in one service. The rest of the day was spent on video calls with family and friends in Australia and Germany, enjoying the giving and receiving of gifts, and devouring delicious food.

We have a roof!

Some of you have been keen to know about the progress of our house. Well, we are happy to say that despite various challenges (including appendicitis) our home has a roof, with gutters! We are thankful that was completed before the first snowfall. We are now working on getting quotes for the windows and external doors. Please pray with us for clarity and discernment for decisions that need to be made and for further provision to continue building. If you feel led to contact us to discuss any matters regarding our home, feel free, we would love to be able to share with you the various needs we have to continue building our home and ministry base here in Romania. Also, if you would like to see more regular updates and photos feel free to join Adi's Facebook group- 'Grocott's House'- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/706490873824360>.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

PSALM 145:4

Very Welcome Guests



Receiving guests has been a rare occurrence for us over the past five years, so it was with great anticipation and joy that we welcomed three guests around Christmas. Matt George, ECM Australia's National Director, was the first to arrive. Whilst the visit was brief, it was great for him to get a quick snapshot of where we live and serve and to be able to share and pray together about 'where we are at'. Next came Kate and Andrew Blackwell, who are our new 'Cluster leaders'. They are an Australian couple based in Bulgaria, who have taken over the role of leading ECM missionaries in Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Malta. Therefore, they also connected with our two other colleagues here in Timisoara and we all had an enjoyable meal together. Over their five days here we spent family time together, visited the construction site, had time sharing and praying together, as well as working through our Personal Development Plans and Ministry Developments Plans for this next season. We were very thankful for the time that they all devoted to visiting us, bringing us great encouragement.

A different voice...

For those of you who know us, you know that both of us can talk, a lot. Whilst this can be a blessing at times, we thought that it would be good to stop for a moment and let someone else speak. So we asked Andrew and Kate to reflect and share with you all about their time with us in December.

"We so much enjoyed visiting Adi and Jen (and of course Anna and Luca) and gaining a better understanding of their current family and ministry context. As you can imagine, Luca's serious accident just after they returned really took the wind out of their sails, following an encouraging Home Assignment, so these last few months have been harder than they had hoped. Their context is really challenging, yet despite these challenges, Jen and Adi have shown incredible resilience. It takes time to set family up for long term ministry, and our prayer is that many of the challenges will pass or diminish over time. The house, when they are able to move in, will give them much more breathing space and will eventually be a wonderful base for life and ministry. Anna and Luca will, we pray, in time, become more comfortable communicating in Romanian and settle into school routines and expectations. Adi and Jen will continue to work at modelling and encouraging a vision for more effective and gospel centred children's ministry, and God will lead them to those He wants them working with. Spending these days with Jen and Adi has filled us with joy and optimism. We love their hearts and vision for ministry, and we are confident that their ministry plans for the coming year will begin to bear fruit. We also love their faithfulness and perseverance in the face of a really tough period. We continue to walk closely with them, and we know how much they value the prayers and encouragement of all those who are partnering with them, which will help see them through this stage. We love the fact that Adi, Jen, Anna and Luca are committed to being here in Romania for the long haul, and we are committed to them. It is our goal help them thrive in life and ministry here, and we are excited to see what God does through them.

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' (Phil 1:3-6)

Thank you once again for your faithful partnership in the gospel.

In His Strength, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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