

Encourage & Equip

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European Christian Mission



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Please pray...

Praise for:

- Our identity in Christ & the truth that nothing can separate us from God's love.
- Encouraging time with ECM colleagues at annual prayer days.
- AMEC trainings, evangelistic Christmas events & encouraging feedback from volunteers.
- All the children that heard about Jesus, the Light of the World, this Christmas.
- Recovery from illnesses over Christmas.
- Progress on the house & Fatai's help.

Prayer for:

- Planning & preparation for home assignment.
- Adi as he prepares lessons for PEC 1 & for the participants.
- Continued guidance for new opportunities with AMEC.
- Ongoing contentment with current living situation & continued progress on the house.
- That we would be an encouragement & blessing to our ECM & AMEC colleagues.

Dear Friends and Family,

Do you make New Year's resolutions? In reflecting on proposing new year's resolutions, at the most recent prayer meeting with mums from school, I challenged us to make sure that before this, we need to have our identity based in who we are in Christ. Personally, I find it all too easy to get pleased with myself when the to-do list is ticked off and I've had 'productive' day, but it is just as easy to beat myself up and get discouraged when the day's plan gets altered and the to-do list is longer at the end of the day than the beginning. I am tempted to believe the lie that my 'productivity' or lack thereof, changes who I am and how much God loves me. You'd think I would have learnt that lesson clearly during the pandemic, but it seems that this is a lesson that we need to be reminded of at different stages of our Christian lives. Our identity in Christ and our understanding of God's love for us is not to be calculated on external measures, but based in the truths of scripture that promise us that nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39). May we each hold firm to this promise and be assured of who we are in Christ and, from that secure foundation, plan goals and resolutions for this new year to the glory of God.

Prayers & Planning...

What better way is there to spend time together than sharing and praying for one another? This is what we had the privilege to do at the Romania Prayer Days, which we helped organise, from 22-24 November. Fifteen of us gathered in Sibiu for an uplifting time of praise, Bible talks, sharing and prayer. We were challenged with the call to 'walk the Jesus road' together with those around us; our families, neighbours, church, team mates and supporters. We were all given a time to share and were prayed for individually. It was a very encouraging time, praising God for how He has been at work over this past year as well as sharing the burden of the struggles that each of us face. Following this, our field leaders, Andrew and Kate Blackwell followed us back to Timisoara to discuss our annual personal and ministry reviews. It was a great time of celebrating the joys of the past year and planning for this coming year. One major plan for this year is home assignment in Australia from late June to early September. There is a lot to organise, so we would appreciate your prayers as we discern the best way to use the time. Whilst the planning may feel stressful, the joy of being able to reconnect with many of you face to face will be an overwhelming joy.

Travels & Trainings...

Thank you all so much for your prayers in regards to the trainings and events that we assisted in alongside our AMEC (Child Evangelism Fellowship) colleagues. It was a joy to be able to help train local volunteers throughout Timis and Caraş-Severin counties, participate in evangelistic Christmas programs and hear testimony from volunteers about how God used the training, material and events to reach children in their communities. One lady commented on the

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

practical nature of the training and the quality of the program material, which meant that the children were kept captivated throughout the program, which can be a hard task nowadays. Previously we mentioned the 'Instruction of Teachers' training that equipped Adi with the tools to be able to start assisting with AMEC training course "PEC 1" (Teaching Children Effectively 1). They haven't wasted any time, and Adi is already being sent to the front line to teach a lesson during on online PEC 1 course on 10 Feb and several courses for a face-to-face training here in Timisoara between 17-25 Feb. Please prayer with us as Adi prepares these lessons and for those attending these trainings that they would be encouraged and equipped to reach children in their communities with the gospel. Adi and I have also initiated a monthly prayer meeting with the core team of AMEC volunteers here in Timis. We all live in different locations, so we thought this would be a helpful way to keep in touch and encourage one another regularly. We are so thankful for our partnership with AMEC and for the opportunities that it has brought about. Please pray that God will continue to direct us as new opportunities arise.

Christmas & Colds...

One downside to Christmas in winter- colds and flus! Anna, Luca and I had impeccable timing which meant we were ill for the Christmas Eve service (in which the kids were involved in a Christmas program), carolling with one of our AMEC families, the Christmas Day service (where Adi held the kids talk) and being unable to accept the invitation to visit another AMEC family on the 26th Dec. Honestly, it was disappointing and discouraging to miss so many wonderful events due to illness, but these things are out of our control and need to be accepted. Thankfully, we recovered by New Years Eve and were able to celebrate by setting off fireworks out in Moșnița Nouă where we are building our home, with some friends from church (even some local kids showed up to watch the show too). Anna and Luca had one further week of school holidays where we attempted to meet up with friends, but once again illness impeded our plans, as we kept receiving replies, 'sorry we are ill'. We kept ourselves busy with winter fun, however, before returning to school on 8 January.

Plaster & progress...

It's been a while since we gave an update on the house, and whilst Adi's hope to move in by the end of 2024 did not come to fruition, progress has been made. The underfloor heating has been finalised and trialled, so to celebrate this, we had a family sleepover on blowup mattresses and sleeping bags. A fireplace has also been installed and is enjoyed when working out there on cold winter days. Adi has been working on the downstairs walls as well as insulating the ceilings of the top story. Thankfully, Adi has someone to help him on the two days a week he works on the house. His name is Fatai and is one of the immigrant workers from Benin who has started to attend our church. Unfortunately, he was unfairly fired from his job, so whilst he looks for another job, Adi is paying him to help out at the house. We are thankful that it is a win/win situation currently, but we are praying that God would provide a full-time job for Fatai. There is still much to complete and whilst we all wish it move at a quicker pace, there are many different factors that impede this. We continue to pray for this process, trusting that God is ultimately in control and that at His right timing we will transition to our new home. But in the meantime, we pray for contentment and are thankful for God's current provision.

Thank you again for your partnership in the Gospel.

In His Strength, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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