





# Encourage & Equip

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European Christian Mission



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## Please pray...

### Praise for:

- Jesus' death and resurrection that brings salvation and hope for all who believe.
- Time to stop and reflect during ECM Spring Connect
- All those encouraged through their attendance at the AMEC National Conference.
- Collaboration with Scottish and Romanian Bible Societies to translate and distribute "Wonder Walks".
- That we have had no significant side effects from our COVID vaccinations.

### Prayer for:

- That Easter will bring hope and a new perspective for many who are lost and grieving.
- Peace and understanding to reign when discontent and anger rise in the community.
- Restored relationships where friction has caused conflict and disunity.
- Teachers and families continuing to manage online education.
- Contentment in all circumstances.

Dear Friends and Family,

What are your Easter celebrations looking like this year? For some it's back to singing freely in church buildings, others are juggling hybrid mode, whilst others are isolated in their homes, connecting online. How we celebrate Easter this year will look very different depending on the community you are in, but our prayer is that each of us, no matter our restrictions or circumstances, are able to find time and space to stop and reflect on the enormity of what Christ did for us through his death and resurrection. We may not be able to comprehend it completely, but may we strive to know the immensity of Christ's death and resurrection and it's transforming power in our lives, to the glory of the one who saved us from sin and death.

### What a ride...

We've all been in this COVID-coster for over a year now and sometimes we feel as if we've gotten used to the ups and downs of the ride, but other times if we are honest, we are scared out of our wits. At other times the ride has been so bumpy that we feel like we're going to throw up. Numbers continue to rise and restrictions have been enforced, school is back online (after only a month back face-to-face), the vaccine roll out was fraught with problems and individual frustrations have culminated in protests and riots. Church needed to go back to being completely virtual and our thoughts of being able to do something outside, face to face with the children were stolen. All of this uncertainty and constant change continues to cause anxiety and frustration in so many, so please join us in prayer that we all will continue to take our fears, anxiety, disappointments and frustrations to our Heavenly Father and find peace, reassurance and hope in Him.

### Continuing to Connect

Technology (and the very clever people who manage it) have continued to provide creative ways to connect with others. Two opportunities that we have had over this past two months have been through ECM Spring Connect and the AMEC National Conference. The purpose of ECM Spring Connect was to make time and space to enjoy the Father's invitation to be in His presence. A veritable feast was laid out before us with a myriad of online resources as well as various zoom workshops to help us spend time with Jesus and each other. We enjoyed corporate prayer, listening to bible teaching, individual reflection as well as attempting to have pizza with another family on the other side of Europe! I personally was encouraged through a workshop on writing our own lament psalm. Anna joined me in a creative workshop on processing emotions, which was beneficial for us, especially considering the storm of emotions that we can experience. We are very thankful to the team that put this together and we appreciated the time to stop, reflect and feast at the Lord's table.



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

PSALM 145:4

AMEC (Child Evangelism Fellowship in Romania) did a great job of providing an online national conference which meant that Romanian Children's workers from all over Europe and the USA were able to attend. It was held over four 2-hour sessions and included bible teaching as well as practical example of online games, lessons and teaching resources. They had a variety of contributors, both local Romanian AMEC workers as well as members of CEF International. Overall, it was an encouraging time hearing how God has continued to use his servants to share the gospel with children in uncertain and tough circumstances.

## Surprising Spring Resources

Whilst unfortunately Adi may not be greeting our television screens any time soon, as the proposed Christian TV series for kids seems to have halted at the ideas stage, God has provided other exciting new resources to be a part of. In early February, myself and two other friends from church heard from a Romanian friend who now lives in Scotland. She shared with us "Wonder Walks", a new resource that the Scottish Bible Society created for Lent and Easter. Wonder Walks is a walking route map with a big difference – it doesn't matter where you go! On each map there is a passage from the Gospel of Mark, questions to think about, games to play and ideas to pray about. It was such a wonderfully simple, adaptable and brilliant idea, I knew that we needed to get this translated and shared with others. So, I contacted the Scottish Bible Society who were more than happy to let us translate and distribute this resource, in collaboration with the Romanian Bible Society. What ensued was a great partnership that birthed "Plimbări Uimitoare". It has been uploaded on the Romanian Bible Society website and has been shared with some very positive responses already. One lady said "Wow! Thank you! I am part of a group with some Orthodox ladies, who were sharing some of their activities for Lent, and I was just thinking if we had something similar to share." Please pray that with this new resource many children and adults would find time to get out into nature, meditate on the Scriptures in preparation for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour and grow in their relationship with Him.



## So, when is furlough going to be...?

Good question! Many people have been curious, including ourselves, about when we would be returning to Australia for our first furlough. It was originally planned for this year, sometime before September when Anna will start formal schooling. With the entry cap into Australia, uncertainty and increased cost of flights, additional hotel quarantine costs and the uncertainty of potentially finding ourselves in lockdown in Australia, we thought and prayed long and hard about this decision. We consulted with the Australian ECM office and our field director and in the end have decided to delay our furlough to 2022 (God willing). It was a tricky decision to make and lots of other missionaries have made different choices based on their specific circumstances. We are thankful that we are in a position to be continue to stay here and we trust that this is the right decision for our family and our circumstances. We are intending on holding some virtual events later in the year for our friends and supporters, so stay tuned.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership, prayers and encouragement. This season has been tough and tiring for many of us. We praise God for all those supporting us to continue to love and serve those God has placed us amongst.

God Bless, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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