



God Is Growing His Church



Summer ministry season is in full swing here in Romania! Thank you for your prayers and support through these busy months!

Our Vacation Bible School was just two weeks ago. Our theme was "God fights for me," and we learned about Gideon with a military theme. The kids had fun learning new songs, watching the puppet shows, playing games, and making camo-themed crafts. On Sunday, kids came with their parents and performed the songs they learned, as well as the Bible verses they had memorized over the week. As exhausting as VBS can be, it was worth it to watch the kids so excited, saying Bible verses and singing songs about the truths of God's Word!

One of the most obvious blessings of VBS this year was the number of adults from the community who came to help! They made sandwiches, helped the kids with their crafts, handed out water, and generally encouraged the kids. It encourages my heart to see believers joining in the ministry! That is the dream of church planters.

In my last letter, I said that we would be doing a music camp the week after Vacation Bible School. Nicki and I decided to change the date to the last week of July. We met this week to iron out all the details, and I have been learning to play the recorder! The two of us are splitting the teaching time as we focus on David and how God wants us to use music. Please pray for us as we prepare for the camp.



I want to share a very exciting personal milestone with you! When a missionary first starts teaching in their new language, it is common for them to write their lesson first and then read it aloud. I have been doing this since November, when I first started teaching on

Wednesday nights. I have been thinking lately that I may be ready to go "off script" soon. After I voiced that thought aloud, my team highly encouraged me to go for it! So, on Wednesday night, I taught the children's class in Romanian without reading! This is a huge milestone for me! I absolutely love teaching, but reading definitely took some of the joy out of it. I rediscovered the full joy of teaching this past Wednesday. I am thankful to God that He has allowed me to progress to this point in the Romanian language!



On the first Sunday of every month, our team goes to a Romanian church in a nearby village to serve in music and preaching before our Roma service. Yesterday, Larisa came with us. You may remember from the praise list in my last letter that a young believer from the community has been getting involved in the ministry. She began coming with us to the Romanian church in the last few months. I am blessed and encouraged by seeing her serve the Lord! Please be in prayer for her, as there is no one else in her family who is following Christ. Please pray that she would find a community of believers and continue to grow in faith and in her desire to serve our God.

Another praise: Manu, a man from the community, professed faith in Christ last month! Please pray for him, as well as he steps into his new life with Christ. Please also pray for his wife to come to Christ.

Even in families where there are others who are professing believers, it is still very challenging for the believers to live as a "pocait" or evangelical. The community keeps an eye on believers and will call them out if they take any action that is seen as sinful, even if that action is not mentioned in the Scriptures. It is like an external legalism that makes professing faith a daily challenge. The longer that I am here, the more I see the immense barriers to living for Christ that the enemy has brought into this community. Please pray for our people here.

Thank you for your prayers!

Sarah Weidner

Praises:

1. Manu's profession of faith
2. Larisa's involvement in the ministry
3. Teaching "off script" in Romanian for the first time

Prayer Requests:

1. Music Camp July 27-31
 2. The lessons from VBS to stay in the kids' minds
 3. The believers in the village to grow in Christ in their difficult environment.
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