
ROAD TO ROMANIA



May 2005

Volume 1, Issue 2

Hidden No More

Dear friends,

Just a couple of weeks ago (April 26), I was sitting at the kitchen table of the Andres family home in Arad, Romania. Nelu Andres is the pastor of Emmanuel Christian Centre, which as of May 22, will be our first Free Methodist Church in Romania. I was staying with the family for a few days while I researched housing and other living arrangements. We had talked a couple of times about what life in Romania was like “before the revolution” (December, 1989 when Communist dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu was overthrown). The subject came up again that morning, and the memories of Rafi, Pastor Nelu’s 28-year-old son, still ring in my ears.

Rafi was 14 years old when the Revolution happened, so his young teenage memories are still very vivid. He told me about the secret holes they had dug in their backyard and the hiding places they had in their home. For people? No. The **hiding places were for their Bibles**. It was illegal to own or read from the Bible in Romania prior to the 1989 Revolution, so their Bibles had to be carefully hidden so as to not catch the eyes of the ever-watching Securitate (secret police).

Today the Andres family worships the Lord freely. And they also have a **strong desire to show other Romanians the way to a saving, transforming, daily relationship with Jesus.** But they need help. Forty-plus years of Communist oppression have left an entire generation with little knowl-

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edge of God, let alone the spiritual skills needed to lead others into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Andres family and the church that has sprouted around them (Emmanuel Christian Centre), have a vital faith in the Lord Jesus, but they have **asked for our help in equipping them** and other Romanian Christians to reach their country for Christ.

Bibles are no longer hidden in Romania. But **for far too many Romanian people, the Gospel of Jesus still is hidden and undiscovered.** Let’s not miss this opportunity to make the Good News of Jesus *Hidden No More*.

Senders: A Critical Role

In Romans 10:14-15, the Apostle Paul explores, through a series of rhetorical questions, the process through which people are able to call on the Lord to be saved. The last question, which really represents the first step in the process, asks about senders (v. 15, NIV): “And how can they [the preachers] preach **unless they are sent?**” God has called us to serve in Romania, but before we can go, we have to **begin at the beginning**, and that means **discovering God’s SENDERS**. For some of you reading this, you have already signed on to our SENDING TEAM. THANK YOU! For others, we’re inviting you to join this critically important group of people. Would you be a sender for our ministry in Romania? There are three ways to send:

1. Prayer Partners – Our mission board is asking us to have 300 committed prayer partners before we go to Romania. Currently we have 39 individuals committed. Prayer partners will receive regular correspondence to guide your prayer for us and Romania. Would you be willing to pray for us on a regular basis?

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2. One-time Financial Partners – We need to raise just over \$52,000 in “start-up funds” prior to moving to Romania. These funds will cover things like our deputation salary (June-Dec, 2005) household set-up costs (appliances, dishes, shipping our stuff, etc.), purchasing a car and computer equipment on the field, air-fare to get there, and travel costs to the various churches we will be visiting over the next few months. So far we have \$14,710 in gifts and commitments. This entire budget must be raised “in cash” before we can leave for the field.

3. On-going Financial Partners – Things like our salary, insurance, pension, kids educational costs, housing, and on-going field ministry expenses once we’re on the field are funded by gifts that people commit to give on an on-going basis (weekly, monthly, etc.). Beginning January 1, 2006, our need will be \$80,000 *annually*. Please understand, we don’t get paid this much! This represents the average of what it costs our mission board to keep two missionaries (Paula and myself) on the field for a year. So far we have just over \$20,000 committed from churches and individuals for our on-going support. The \$80,000 must be raised in “commitments” before we can leave for the field.

Thanks in advance for your partnership in this adventure. We hope that you will feel led of God to be a part of our Sending Team in some way. If you haven’t already let us know, please do so! We want and need to be an extension of you...the Body of Christ reaching to Romania and beyond.

Sincerely,

Scott and Paula Dunn ❖

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PRAYER CALENDAR

MAY 13 – COMMISSIONING SERVICE, AKRON, OH

MAY 22 – SPEAK AT GALION FMC, GALION OH

MAY 22 – EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CENTRE AFFILIATION,
BECOMING THE FIRST FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN
ROMANIA

JUNE 3-7 – MID-AMERICA CAMP AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

JUNE 11-12 – SPEAK @ NEW MIDDLETOWN FMC,
YOUNGSTOWN 1ST FMC AND ROGERS FMC (ALL IN THE
YOUNGSTOWN AREA)

JUNE 19 – SPEAK @ LIFE^{NET} FMC, COLUMBUS, OH

JUNE 20-24 – OHIO CONFERENCE KIDS CAMP

JULY 9-13 – COWDEN CAMP, GATEWAY CONFERENCE,
EFFINGHAM, IL

OTHER PRAYER NEEDS

- ❖ SAFETY IN TRAVEL
- ❖ RESPONSIVE PEOPLE AND CHURCHES
- ❖ PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND SPIRITUAL STAMINA
- ❖ 3-5 CHURCHES WHO WOULD CHOOSE TO BECOME MAJOR PARTNERS WITH US AND THE MISSION IN ROMANIA

RESPONSE CHECKLIST

- Complete Partner in Ministry form
- Keep pink copy for yourself
- Mail the white and yellow copies to:
The Dunns
5950 Galleon Court
Hilliard, OH 43026
- Mail financial gifts to:
Free Methodist World Missions
PO Box 535002
Indianapolis, IN 46253
OR Your local Free Methodist church
OR The Dunns (address above, check payable to FMWM)
- Memo line marked “Dunns start-up costs”