

Greetings Family, Friends, Churches and Supporters!!

It has been about a month since our last email update and so we want to provide you with a brief summary on the ministry here in Romania. In the last few weeks, we have marvelled at how God has answered prayer! Let me share a few of those answered prayer items with you.



As some of you know, our house in Mayerthorpe finally sold. This was an answer to prayer! It had been on the market for about six months and we consistently asked the Lord to sell it. In the end the Lord's timing was perfect (as you will see below) and the sale cleared smoothly. We are very excited to be free of the burden of the expenses of that house! Thanks so much to our church family in Mayerthorpe for your hard work of renovation in preparing the house to sell.



Karen and I obtained our visas for Romania. This was another answer to prayer! We had a number of 'hoops' to jump through, but we have our identity cards now and are free to come and go in Romania now for the next five years.

We have had to go through numerous extra requirements to satisfy the Romanian Immigration Office that our children would qualify to stay in Romania with us. This required a trip to the Canadian embassy in Bucharest, as well as the office of Foreign affairs for Romania. We required a couple of extra notarized declarations and thankfully everyone that we interacted with was extremely helpful. Finally, once Karen and I obtained our identity cards, we were able to apply for Nathan and Kendra's visa. As we sat in the immigration office, everything was moving along smoothly until the immigration officer asked us to prove that we had a satisfactory amount of money in our bank account to "support" our children for a period of one year. This was not an aforementioned or documented expectation (apparently it only applies to non-EU citizens). It was a sizable amount of money, that we normally would not have "just" sitting in a bank account, except that five days earlier we received the proceeds to our house sale and had not "moved" that money anywhere yet. We were able to demonstrate the required amount and "prove" our ability to support our children while in Romania quickly and easily. This was an answer to a prayer that we did not even know we had, but God did and very literally our house sold at the perfect time.



The mission field house has continued to progress in its development, but as with many things in Romania, the progress is slow at times. Everyday we are closer, but the Bergmans will not be able to move in until well after Christmas. This of course meant rental bills that were not anticipated or desired because of how long the project is taking. Just yesterday, "out of the blue" the Bergman's landlord texted Erin to say that she was dropping their rent by 45% for the new year. It wasn't requested or discussed... she simply informed the Bergmans this would happen. 😊 Another significant answer to prayer, as it will remove some pressure of getting the Bergman's moved into the field house.



Our team is changing! After 8 months in Romania (which was preceded by 25 years in Cameroon, 3 years in the Philippines and 4 years in Nigeria), Elsie Lewandowski is leaving the mission field for the last time. She is returning to Alberta, Canada on December 12 and after a season of debrief and visiting churches, she will retire. Please pray with us for a smooth re-entry into Canada for Elsie, as well as the logistics for the Bergmans of trying to enroll their children in public school. This is Jason and Erin's desire, and so we are prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction to help them navigate the Romanian school system.

Things in our lives and ministry remain the same. We are enjoying this nation and it's people. Junior & Senior youth ministry, preaching, homeschooling, accounting and hospitality fill most of our weeks. We are gearing up for a very busy Christmas season. Our Jr Highers will be doing a drama in the Christmas eve service, which will begin a very busy week of church gatherings heading into the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January.



Thank-you for continuing to pray for us and with us! As you can see, God is working through your prayers!

From our family to yours, we want to wish you a blessed Christmas season and a happy New Year!

Your friends in Romania!  
Karen, Ian, Nathan and Kendra