

Hello Family, Friends, and Churches!

July 2023

Our time in Romania is quickly coming to an end and we wanted to provide you with an update of the last few weeks, as well as what we anticipate upcoming in July and August.

June was a month with a lot of meetings, planning, travel and wrapping up programs. We had a great wrap up event with the Most Klub (Jr High youth program) where we had a meal together and then went to a concert at a local church. It was a great afternoon, and we have to say that we already miss hanging out with these teens on a frequent basis.



As always, there have been lots of opportunities to preach and serve in churches. I have served in numerous new places in the last few weeks, but one special highlight was traveling to Targu Mures, a city about three hours from our home. I was

asked to preach at a baptismal service where four people followed the Lord in baptism. It was a great day as we heard their testimonies, watched their baptisms and prayed for them. God is good.



Paul and Tanya Gericke, the field directors in Romania returned at the very end of May. We had numerous meetings with them to transition responsibilities back to their portfolio, as well as debrief the last year of ministry in Romania. It is great to have Paul and Tanya back here and to be serving with them for a couple of months together.



In early June, our family traveled into the Ukraine to visit a displaced persons camp and bring food and hygiene items to them. The facility was an abandoned hospital that was decommissioned. There was running water, but no heat. This facility largely housed senior women and younger mothers who fled the north western part of Ukraine when the war began. As you can imagine, many of them had stories of significant loss in their lives from the last eighteen months.



We returned to the Ukraine in early July to visit an orphanage that facilitates 130 children. Some of these kids are of Hungarian descent and all have experienced some level of tragedy. We supplied the government run facility with refrigerators, lawn mowers, food and hygiene items. The buildings were in good repair, and the children appeared to be safe and happy, but funding has been very difficult as most government money in Ukraine is now going to the war effort. We toured the facility, prayed with the staff, delivered our gifts and played with the kids. Before the war this facility housed ninety children, but now with the hiatus on international adoption and the influx of children from other parts of the country, this facility is doing life with more children and a lot less money. It was a great



blessing to serve them.



As a family, we used our last few days of vacation allotment to travel in western Europe and visit war memorials and locations pertinent to Canada in the first and second world war. This was something that Nathan really wanted to do and it was certainly meaningful to walk among the graves near Juno Beach, at Dieppe, or at Vimy Ridge. It was a very fast, but

significant experience for us.



The rest of June pertained to the planning for camps at CFR this summer. As I write this we are on day two of summer camps. For the next three weeks some portion of our family will be a part of ministry at Camp Falcon Rock. Karen is serving as nurse for all three weeks and will be teaching English at the younger camps. Nathan is a counselor for two of the three weeks, and a camper for the other week. Kendra is a camper for the first two weeks, and will help where needed on week three. I am serving as Camp Pastor and a speaker for the first two weeks, but then I am hosting a team from Ohio during the third week who will serve in southern Transylvania.



That will bring us to the end of July, with only two weeks before we transition back to Canada. Weeks that will be full of packing, good byes, visiting churches, and the occasional wrap up meeting.

Our time in Romania has gone by so quickly, but we will remember ministry here and people here so

fondly. We sincerely hope that the Lord opens opportunities in our future to return and to visit people and churches that we love. We are excited about our transition back to full time pastoral ministry in Canada and plan to connect with our new church family at Lake Park Baptist Church in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan numerous times this fall before we fully move by December 1st.

Because we were only on a defined term assignment with the NAB, come August 15 our NAB role is complete. We will be unable to visit most of our supporting churches this fall, even though we wish that we could. If you would like us to come and visit and share about Romania, please do not hesitate to reach out and we can discuss if we can make something work for our schedules. For those close, we will be sharing in the following congregations on the following mornings and would love to have you gather to hear about what God has been doing in Romania.

- September 3- Mayerthorpe Baptist Church (Mayerthorpe, AB)
- September 10- West Edmonton Baptist Church (Edmonton, AB)
- September 17- Lake Park Baptist Church (Birch Hills, SK)
- September 24- Community Bible Chapel (Timberlea, NS)

Thank-you for the prayer, support and encouragement that you have offered to us this year. We look forward to updating you one last time at the end of August to tell you about our season of camp and about our move back to Canada. We appreciate you and thank-you for the ministry that you have had in Romania over this last year.

