

# Encourage & Equip

Adi & Jennifer Grocott serving in Timisoara, Romania

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November-December 2018

## Please pray...

### Praise for:

- Adi's opportunity to run a workshop at the Alo Copii National Conference.
- Religious freedom in Romania to share about Jesus at Christmas.
- Our new van.
- Opportunity to spend time with Adi's relatives.
- Anna's continued adjustment to preschool.
- That we all have the necessary documents to stay in Romania long term.

### Prayer for:

- That Adi's parents would accept the invitation to attend church with us on Christmas Day.
- To make the most of opportunities to share about the Good News of Christmas.
- For the health of our family, as all of us have been ill.
- That we would support and encourage each other in our marriage.
- That we would be examples of repentance and dependence on God to Anna and Luca.
- That God would raise up partners for the final 5% needed for 100% financial support.

Dear Friends and Family,

Craciun Fericit! Merry Christmas! The Christmas markets are open, the festive lights are twinkling, children are earnestly learning poems and songs for Christmas celebrations, St Nicolas made his deliveries on 6<sup>th</sup> December, the Christmas season is in full swing! Whilst no one here could be unaware of the impending celebrations, for a growing number of children, they are oblivious to the fact that Jesus is the Reason for the Season. More and more children in Romania are growing up without an understanding of what the birth of Jesus means for them personally and the whole of Creation. Please pray with us that this Christmas many children would hear of the good news of Immanuel, God with us.

## Changes and Challenges

As we mentioned previously, a lot has changed since we last lived here. Not only has the cityscape changed, but the pace of life here has changed dramatically. Many people, from both the city and villages, have commented that life has become far busier with people trying to fit in extra hours at work, or a second job to make ends meet. People are more stretched and have less time with family and friends. One of Adi's cousins who regularly visits village churches to encourage them, struggles to find anyone to join him, where as in the past it was no problem to find a car full of willing participants. Our local church has mentioned that it has become harder to engage with the community due to the busier pace of life and extra commitments that pull people. Another change that people have mentioned is that there is a growing number of people who are no longer engaged with Christianity at all. It is a common phenomenon worldwide. With each generation, church attendance declines and resistance to the gospel increases. Nevertheless, God's plans and purposes cannot be thwarted and all those who are his will be drawn to him (John 6:37-40). Therefore, it is our passion to encourage and equip churches to engage with families and children in a way that is relevant and Biblical, so that every child hears the good news of Jesus.

## "Building the Faith of the Next Generation"

It was a great joy to be invited to participate in this year's Alo Copii National Conference for children's leaders. It was a huge encouragement to see many people from all over Romania, gathering together to be further encouraged and trained to build the faith of the next generation. Adi was invited to run a workshop about "How to make the most of pre-written programs". The group brainstormed pros and cons of pre-written programs as well as discussing the fundamental elements of a Scripture based, gospel centred children's program. The workshop was well attended, and Adi got encouraging feedback from participants as well as the organisers. We are looking forward to further collaborations with Alo Copii.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.  
PSALM 145:4

## Family Ties



One of the joys of being back in Romania has been the opportunity to be able to travel and visit various members of Adi's family. The first trip was to Reasfeld, Germany to visit Adi's sister's family. We were able to spend a week reconnecting and letting the cousins get to know each other, despite language barriers. On the way back we saw a very close friend of Adi's in Erlangen, Germany, as well as cousins in Vienna, Austria. Once we arrived back, we heard news that Adi's grandfather was unwell, so we travelled with Adi's parents to their home village of Rebra in Transylvania, to spend precious time with Adi's last remaining grandparent. At the same time, we

took the opportunity to meet up with other extended family members including Adi's father's twin brother whom he had not seen in 10 years. We were also very thankful to how flexible and resilient both Anna and Luca were to meeting so many new people in such short space of time. It was a lot of travelling, but certainly worth it.

## We're dreaming of a White Christmas...

"Isn't it too cold for you, coming from Australia?" is a comment I've heard more than once, since the weather turned cold. But to be honest, for the first time in 8 years, I feel like I'm having a real winter and I'm loving it! Anna and Luca get all rugged up to head out to the park and we are eagerly awaiting the first snowfall! This year we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in Timisoara with Adi's parents and our church family at Sfanta Trieme. We have already enjoyed visiting the Christmas markets, looking at all the lights and picking out a real Christmas tree. Adi's mum is getting ready to make traditional Christmas treats and we are looking forward to eating them. We are inviting Adi's parents to join us at church this Christmas, so please pray that they would be responsive and that the Holy Spirit would be working in their hearts.

Thanks again for taking the time to read our latest prayer letter. We are so glad we are on this journey together and we would love to hear from you too. Feel free to drop us a line, no matter how short, to share how you are and how we can be praying with you also.

Domnul cu voi (God be with you),  
Adi, Jennifer, Anna & Luca



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in Europe*