

Mackrill Romanian Missions

SUMMER 2024

A LANGDON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH & MACKRILL ROMANIAN MISSIONS SEASONAL PUBLICATION

ALL THINGS NEW



“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

As winter turns to spring and spring to summer, everything comes to life. Nature turns lifeless dead trees into a beautiful flowering foliage full of life. Just as we can see the change from winter to spring each year, we can see the change in anyone who is in Christ. We were once dead in our trespasses and sin but by grace through faith in Jesus we are born again; a new creature.

Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to the church in Corinth, wanted to remind them that in Christ we are new creations. The old things have passed away. The church in Corinth dealt with a lot of problems. In many ways, we deal with the same problems today. A lot of the accepted behavior and lifestyles of the Corinthian culture would find its way into the church. If we are not careful, we can also begin to accept or tolerate the lifestyles of our modern culture. In Christ, we are eternally changed from the inside out.

The prophet Ezekiel put it this way, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:” (Ezekiel 36:26 KJV) When we are born again, the Lord gives us a new heart and a new spirit that now has a desire to obey God. The children of God should look different from the worldly way of doing things. Kingdom culture is set apart from worldly culture.

Sometimes the old man likes to rise up and do the old things. When we give in we feel like we aren't worthy or that the Lord no longer loves us. That couldn't be further from the truth. Just as we don't love our own children any less when they disobey us, so our heavenly Father doesn't stop loving us ever. He no longer sees us as the old but as His born again child! He sees all things new!



While in the States for furlough we got to witness two celestial wonders; a total solar eclipse and the aurora borealis! God showed Himself mighty through His creation.

WHY A SEASONAL PUBLICATION?

I know what you're thinking, "Kolt, you already put out a monthly newsletter. Why a seasonal publication?" Well, I'm glad that you asked. Each and every time that I finish writing our monthly newsletter I think to myself, "There's just not enough room!" There is no way that I can report everything that goes on in a month in a few short paragraphs. So I have decided to publish a seasonal report that details the accomplishments and the setbacks of our work in Romania.

This seasonal publication is eight pages and is divided into different sections. The front page is an introductory page and devotional from me. The second page will feature an article from a special guest. The third page will go into greater detail of our current season in the mission work. The fourth page will feature more of our Romanian Humanitarian work efforts. The fifth page will talk about current news in Romania that could effect our mission work. The sixth page will go into greater detail the work in Zarnesti. The seventh page will be a special feature article and the eighth and final page will share news from our sister church in Feldioara.

I hope that this will provide greater insight into our mission work in Romania. My goal is to publish one seasonal newsletter for each season of the year. I hope that you all will read with great interest and will keep the things that have been reported on in your prayers. I am so grateful to each and every one who takes time to read our reports and who keeps us in their prayers.

Thank you and God bless you. ~ Kolt

A word from our pastor

Greetings!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Logan Hargis and I am the current lead pastor at Langdon Street Baptist Church in Somerset, Kentucky. We have the honor of being the sending church for Bro. Kolt Mackrill and his family as they preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and serve the Lord in Romania.

I have known Bro. Kolt personally since 2013. We both served at Langdon Street as associate pastors for several years and we were ordained together. During this time we both worked in student ministry and rotated teaching duties. I had a front row seat to watch him grow spiritually and mature in his faith. These years allowed us to get to know each other and I got to know Kolt's wife Amy as well.

In 2015, Kolt and I went on a survey/mission trip to Romania to assist a medical team in it's work. During our stay we visited several locations with churches of like faith and got to meet many Romanian believers. It was shortly after this trip that Kolt and Amy answered the Lord's call to go to Romania as missionaries sent out by Langdon Street Baptist Church. This revelation did not shock me. I had seen for some time that Kolt and Amy had a strong heart for the people of Romania and the need for the gospel to be preached there. I was both proud of them and anxious to see what God would do through them as they began preparations to move to Romania.

“I had seen for some time that Kolt and Amy had a strong heart for the people of Romania and the need for the gospel to be preached there.”

Since those days much has happened. Kolt and Amy have served at a church in the village of Feldioara, started a church in the village of Zarnesti, continued to assist with humanitarian needs, and worked faithfully on many other things. Visible fruit has grown from their faithfulness, which has made me proud to be their friend, proud to be their pastor, and proud to be part of their sending church.

In our capacity as sending church, we have financial and spiritual obligations to the work Bro. Kolt and his family are doing in Romania. As Langdon Street sends the Mackrills to Romania, the work there is considered to be a responsibility of Langdon Street with the Mackrills as it's overseers. Bro. Kolt and his family oversee the day to day workings of the mission field while we support them from Kentucky with finances and prayer. We have an obligation to provide financially for Kolt, Amy, and their family as they serve but we also want to be an active party when it comes to the work. Our people at Langdon Street pray for the Mackrills and some will occasionally send supplies, treats, and other such

things that the missionary family might not be able to get on the field. Combined with regular reports from the field, these actions help our people feel more connected. One goal of mine as a pastor is to eventually take (with Kolt and Amy's blessing) a group to the field to see this work up close and personal.

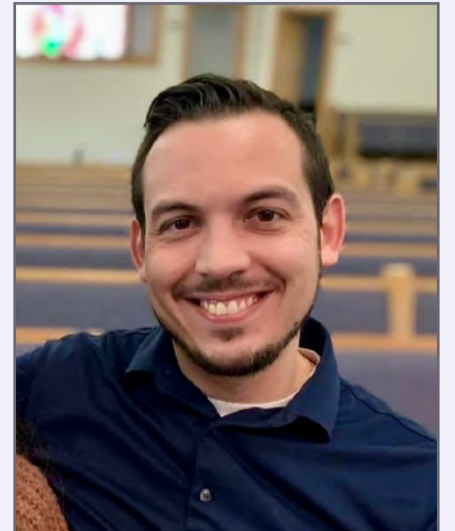
“We have an obligation to provide financially for Kolt, Amy, and their family as they serve but we also want to be an active party when it comes to the work.”

We believe at Langdon Street Baptist Church that the Bible instructs churches to start other churches. We see this example most notably in the book of Acts as Paul and his companions are first set aside for a special work by the holy spirit, then sent out from the church at Antioch. They end up planting churches all over the eastern Roman Empire. To that end and with that example, we believe the work of the missionary is of vital importance to obeying God's command to reach the world with the message of Jesus and also of vital importance to the health of the sending church itself. If a church does not engage in the ministry of spreading the gospel, then we would not be found obedient to God's command. For this reason we consider the work Bro. Kolt, Amy, and their children are doing in the field to be of the utmost importance and our care for them needs to reflect that.

“We believe at Langdon Street Baptist Church that the Bible instructs churches to start other churches.”

The Mackrill family's part in this undertaking should not be understated. They do a significant amount of hard work on a daily basis to carry out the call of the Lord. These efforts involve preaching, teaching, and many other responsibilities necessary for the growth of the Lord's churches. Though the missionaries are sent out by LSBC, they have authority from the church here to start churches and lead them accordingly on the mission field.

We at Langdon Street Baptist Church are honored and privileged to simply be a part of what God is doing through Bro. Kolt and his family. I'm proud to be their pastor and their friend. What has happened with this work so far fuels my excitement for what God will do in the future! I hope you will join with me in praying for this wonderful family as they continue to serve God in Romania.



Bro. Logan and I have a special relationship. Not only are we brothers in Christ but we have served at Langdon Street Baptist Church as co-labourers since 2013. We were ordained together by the Langdon Street Baptist Church in 2015 and he went with me on my survey trip to Brasov, Romania that same year. I am excited to have Logan as my pastor! ~ Kolt

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Furlough and deputation in the States.

We landed in Little Rock, AR on January 8th around 11:30 pm or so. We were travel weary but we didn't let that stop us. That following Sunday we began our deputation trail by updating our first church. Some have asked me what is the difference between furlough and deputation. I tell them that furlough is when you come in off your mission field and rest between taking opportunities to update supporting churches and deputation is taking appointments to churches which are interested in becoming regular financial support partners. We have been blessed with all three. We have taken time to rest and relax while decompressing from the stresses of the mission field. We have set up appointments to update and give a report to supporting churches and we have taken opportunities when asked to come to churches which are interested in becoming a supporting church. We feel so blessed to be called by God to do His work in Romania. We are so blessed to be a part of our associative work. We love the ABA. Our sister churches are so precious to us and we are honored to have their support.

One thing in particular that I have tried to highlight while back in Stateside is the importance of each and every local church. Everywhere we go, I hear how I am so courageous and how I have sacrificed so much and how they could never do what I do. Where I understand the overwhelming barrage of emotions that come with the thought of

selling almost everything that you own, packing up only what you need, and moving to a foreign country. It no more diminishes the work that our local sister churches are doing in their own communities than what we are doing in our local community in Romania. The work is the same. God has indeed specifically called us to serve Him in Romania, but that's where we are serving. And while we are there, it goes without saying that we are not able to serve the Lord in their local community. I am so thankful for each and every local sister church for serving the Lord wholeheartedly right where they are. What each and everyone of us does for the glory of God is important and there is not one field of labor more important than another. For God loves the whole world.

One of our favorite things to do when we visit churches is getting to meet those dear brothers and sisters in Christ who take time out of their busy lives with their own personal problems to pray for us personally and also for the mission work. I love getting to shake their hand and tell them, "Thank you." It never seems like enough to simply say thank you but I know that when they come up and tell us how much they pray for us and appreciate what we do for the Lord that they mean it with all of their heart. I know they love the Lord Jesus and that they love us. To be able to take the opportunity to not only say thank you but to also show deep gratitude for their support is such an honor. Even though we cannot make it to every church which supports us, we are extremely thankful for their

faithfulness in financial support and for their prayers for us and for the mission work.

As our time here in the states comes to a close we begin to experience a bittersweet onslaught of emotions. We are sad to have to say goodbye to all of our friends and family here but we are so excited to see all of our friends and family back in Romania. We are truly blessed beyond imagination and we look forward to what God has in store for us in the future knowing that we go with not only the support but also the prayers of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Even though we cannot make it to every church which supports us, we are extremely thankful for their faithfulness in financial support and for their prayers for us and for the mission work.

Ukrainian humanitarian

We made it back to Romania March 2022 after a much needed health sabbatical. We had no idea what opportunities awaited us. At the beginning of the war in Ukraine there were hundreds of refugees traveling by train through Brasov. We linked up with an NGO (non-government organization) to help deliver water, food, and over-the-counter medicines during the brief (5 minute) train stop in Brasov. What we quickly discovered was that this became a greater opportunity to be a witness to the Romanians who had volunteered their time to help with this cause.

Soon we became aware of a christian family which had fled eastern Ukraine right before the war had broke out. They had been living in Brasov for a few months and had made contact with a sister church in Ciudei, Southwestern Ukraine. The members of this sweet sister church were willing to open up their homes and let this family move back to Ukraine.

I had the great honor of helping to repatriate this sweet family. I was able to visit with them during the 12 hour bus ride from Brasov into Ukraine. When I asked Velodia, (the patriarch of the family) why they wanted to go back to Ukraine during war time, he said, "Ukraine is our home and we want to go home."

As we crept through the mile long line of cars and tractor trailers to pass through border control, the youngest daughter began to sing the Ukrainian national anthem as we passed into Ukraine from Romania. It was an emotional moment to be sure. I am so blessed and honored to have been able to help.

"Ukraine is our home and we want to go home." ~ Velodia

Romanian Humanitarian

Helping reach the hearts of Romanians with the love of Christ

Our humanitarian efforts may be small but I believe that they are making an eternal impact. We are only able to help about five different families at the current time with the support which we receive but each of these families we help have become near and dear to our hearts. We know that our efforts are not in vain and that as we demonstrate the love of Christ through meeting physical needs the Lord is also opening doors to help meet their spiritual needs.

Our goal from the beginning has been to help reach the hearts of Romanians with the love of Christ. We do this by helping to meet physical needs so as to give opportunity to help reach spiritual needs. By delivering a few bags of groceries, helping to pay for chemo treatments, or helping with the cost of baby formula; we are able to then share the gospel.

We are able to help a dear sweet lady from Brasov city with her chemo treatments. During our time living in the old mission house we came to know our neighbor, Florica. Florica is a wonderful lady and kind neighbor. Florica has also been diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. Where we cannot pay for all of her medical costs, we do help with some of her medical bills. Once a month we go to her home and visit with her. During our visit we not only check up on her health but we take the time to share the gospel with her and to pray with her. Florica isn't saved. She claims to be right with God because she is Orthodox and a good person. We will continue to reach her heart with the love of Christ.

Another dear family that we are able to help is from Cristian. Once a month we deliver groceries to this single mother and her three children. She has two daughters and one son. Her oldest daughter has cerebral palsy.

Where she does receive help from the state for some of her daughters medical needs the cost of living for a single parent trying to make ends meet is very high. As we deliver these groceries, Layla (our oldest daughter) plays with her two other younger children while Savina (a member from the church in Feldioara) and I talk with their mother. We take time to share the gospel with them and to pray with them also. Our hope is that this single mother will make a profession of faith in Jesus along with her children as they understand God's love for them.

One of the biggest praises that we have to share from our efforts is from a family that we help out of the village of Rotbav. Once a month we deliver diapers and baby formula to a poor gypsy family. They live in a cinderblock house that they've built on the brow of the hill of the village. This is also where the rest of the villagers go to dump their trash. Stepping over trash to climb to the top of the hill we enter their home. They welcome us in with smiles and well wishes. Dirt makes up their flooring. You can stand in the kitchen, bedroom, and living room all at the same time. Somehow they are all able to live together in this tiny home. Like with every visit we make, we share the gospel and pray for them. This time we invite them to church. They decline our invitation. We ask if their three little girls can attend at least. They agree if we agree to come and pick them up.

We praise the Lord that these three precious little girls are coming to our morning services in Feldioara. We praise the Lord that they are getting to hear the gospel. We pray and ask you to pray with us that they will receive Jesus as their savior! We know that our efforts are not in vain. We will continue to reach the hearts of Romanians with the love of Christ.



Our dear sister in Christ, Mandra (right). Faithful member at Feldioara Baptist Church, is so thankful for monthly help.



Helping to repatriate this Ukrainian family.



Mother and daughter from Cristian, Brasov, Romania. So grateful for the monthly help they receive.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Since we have been back we have had many ask us if the war in Ukraine is affecting our mission work and if so, how. As the war rages on to our north-east we remain quite unaffected for the most part. Geographically speaking, we are 899 miles from the conflict. We are not under constant threat of rockets or bombs and we do not hear the constant screaming of air raid sirens.

At the onset of the war we saw thousands of refugees pass through Brasov on train and many others remain. Now, after two years the influx of refugees has slowed tremendously. Many have made their way back to parts of Ukraine that are not under attack. Those that have remained are reluctantly assimilating to their new environment in hopes that the war will end soon and they can return home.

Because of the politics involved in the war, the cost of living has increased causing everyday necessities to go up such as; the price of gas/diesel, food, and building materials. The Romanian government has also given many handout incentives for refugees to remain in country. However, because these handouts are greater than what even the government does for its own citizens, it has caused some hard feelings from the Romanian people toward the Ukrainian people.

To answer this question is not easy. Has the war completely hindered our mission work? No. Has it presented a new set of obstacles to work through? Absolutely. It has also provided many opportunities to witness and share the gospel. We pray that these opportunities continue to present themselves and that we seize them for the glory of the Lord.

What are some of the obstacles that the war has presented?

One of the biggest obstacles that the war in Ukraine has presented to our ministry in Romania is the attitude in which the Romanian people now view the Ukrainian people living in Romania under refugee status. The Romanian government has received incentive monies from the European Union to host refugees. These refugees may apply for government assistance which consists of but is not limited to; free housing, paid housing per size of family, paid food per size of family, and a plethora of other handouts. This has soured the Romanian people against the Ukrainian people. The help which the Romanian people receive from their own government is laughable compared to what the Ukrainian refugees are receiving.

There are two attitudes at play now which present a problem with reaching people with the gospel. One, the Romanians are reluctant to help Ukrainians who they deem as entitled and taking away from their benefits. Two, the Ukrainians do tend to look down upon the Romanians as a lesser culture or people. Overcoming these sinful attitudes can be very difficult but not impossible through repentance and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Another problem which presents itself for us is our own attitudes. If we are not careful, we too can begin to judge those with problems of prejudice not realizing that we ourselves are falling into the very same temptation and sin.

Galatians 6:1 (KJV) says, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

We must guard our hearts with the truth of the Word of God and an humble and meek spirit which is led by the Holy Spirit. It is only through these means by which we can lead not only our brothers and sisters in Christ toward a closer walk with the Lord but also lead the lost to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

What can I do?

There is something you can do! You can pray. I know, not the answer that you were wanting to hear. However, I really mean it, prayer is the greatest thing that you could do. I believe in the power of prayer. All that I can really ask is that you keep praying for peace; for the conflict between Ukraine and Russia to cease.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones due to the war. If we could be of comfort in any way to be able to take that opportunity to be a witness. You can pray for those who have lost their home and have been displaced. Pray for the families that have been torn apart to be reunited again. These are the greatest ways in which we could all be of help.

Pray for hearts to be changed! The ultimate goal in all of this should be to see the lost come to know Jesus as their personal savior! Pray that God would continue to open unto us a door to make the gospel clearly known to them.

As the Apostle Paul asked for prayer from the church in Colossi, so we ask for your prayers on our behalf.

“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.” Colossians 4:4,5 (KJV)

Looking beyond

So with all of this being said, what do we do? What can we do? How do we move on from here? I don't want to understate the importance of the answer to these questions but I believe the answer is to look beyond the circumstances and keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2a (KJV) “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;”

It can be so easy to get distracted by all of the things going on in the world. When we get distracted we take our focus off of Jesus. This can then bring a feeling of hopelessness and defeat as we begin to become overtaken by the stress and anxieties of worrying about what we should do. If left unchecked, we can experience the sinking and debilitating feelings of depression.

Jesus taught us that we cannot add an inch to our height by worrying. (Matthew 6:27) Rather we should replace worry with seeking. Seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The seeking that is spoken of here is only possible if we take our eyes off of our circumstances and fix them upon Jesus.

Jesus is in full control. None of these things have taken Him by surprise. Even though it doesn't seem like any good can come out of this war and the circumstances which surround us, we know that God is working; “and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28 KJV)

We can take comfort in the fact that our Lord and Savior is in control. He sees us going through our struggles. He hears our cries for help and He gives us grace in our time of need. He loves us so much and cares for us even through war time. We know that ultimately God will bring world peace when Jesus returns. So, we wait patiently for His return.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
(Revelation 22:20b KJV)

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Who's filling in while you're away?

That is a great question and one that I am very excited to answer. During our time living in Romania we have made so many friends. Some of those friends have become acquaintances and others have become very close and dear to us. The Moisivici family has become one of those near and dear friends to us.

In the months leading up to our return stateside we were praying diligently for the Lord to send someone who we could trust to fill in for us. One evening we were hosting the Moisivici family in our home for supper and fellowship. Bro. Marian asked us who would be filling in preaching while we were away, to which I replied, "We are still praying that God will send us someone. We don't want to have to close the church while we are away for six months."

After a few more weeks of praying and beginning to think that we would have close the church services while we were away, Amy had invited Barbara Moisivici over for a cup of tea. She again asked Amy if we had anybody lined up to fill in at church. Amy replied with a simple no and that we were still praying. Barbara replied, "It just doesn't sit right with me to think about the church being closed for so long."

The Lord laid it upon my heart to ask Bro. Marian if he would be willing to fill in while we were away and he graciously agreed. He stated that he and Barbara had been praying along with us and had felt convicted. They are doing an excellent job!

"It just doesn't sit right with me to think about the church being closed for so long." ~ Barbara Moisivici



FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Over the past two years the work in Zarnesti has really taken off! We are so excited about what the Lord is doing. When we first began it was very slow. Our first service on November 1st, 2020 was just the five of us. After much prayer and consistent faithfulness in the little things, we have seen the Lord bless our efforts in His timing and in a mighty way.

When we moved to Romania in 2017, the building featured in the picture above was in horrible disrepair. We focused our first two years living in Romania learning the language and adapting to the culture. The whole time though our hearts were yearning to get started in Zarnesti. That was why God called us to Romania in the first place. After much prayer and the generosity of our supporting churches, the Lord provided enough funds to begin renovating the property and in the fall of 2020 we finished those renovations.

We have seen dozens of first time guests and visitors come through our doors. At the beginning of 2023 two young couples began to attend on a more frequent bases. Over time it became more often until they started coming to every service. Now they are voicing a desire to become members! We are so excited about what the Lord is doing.

With consistent and biblical discipleship, I am confident that these sweet families will become a strong part of the church that the Lord has called us to see started in Zarnesti! Please continue to pray for these precious families.



Getting to know Zarnesti.

When we moved to Romania, we knew little more than the statistics and information we had gathered on our survey trips. Now, after moving into the community, we have learned so much about Zarnesti.

I could share with you here all of the statistics like I've done so many other times and in so many other newsletters. Really though, that wouldn't give you the truth about the city I've come to call home. It wouldn't tell you the name of our dear sweet elderly neighbor, Doamna Orzan, who shares fresh eggs with us weekly. Nor would it tell you about the gypsy family which just moved in from the north and how I was able to help meet a need they had and share the gospel with them.

These are just some of the ways we have gotten to know our city. We love our city. We pray for our city. Our city needs Jesus.



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Our story

Throughout the years many have asked, “Why Romania?” To which Amy and I can only smile at each other and ask in return, “Do you have time for a long story?” Individually our connection with Romania started early in our lives and at different points. For Amy it began at 10 years old when God called her family to serve as missionaries. They moved there after she had turned 11 and she lived the majority of her teenage years there until she turned 18.

On one of her trips back in stateside Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Cabot, AR where my family and I attended called Bro. Jerry Chandler, Amy’s father as missionary pastor. That’s where I first met Amy, the love of my life! I had heard of Romania before though. Our church had sent a missionary to Romania the year before. After Bro. Jerry had recovered from some of his health problems he helped organize and lead a teen missions trip to Romania.

That summer I fell in love with Amy and we began our lifelong friendship. I also began saving up my money to go on that mission trip to Romania. It was there that God permanently impressed Romania on my heart. We continued our long distance relationship when our church sent Amy and her family back as our new missionary family to Romania.

God called

After I turned 18 I saved up my money again and went back to Romania. I took my sweetheart out on her first date for her 16th birthday in Romania. It was truly romantic. I spent that summer also working alongside Amy’s father, Bro. Jerry Chandler. He spent a lot of time counseling me and encouraging me. At the end of my stay, I surrendered to preach the gospel and made it public first to the church in Brasov.

I returned to America and announced my call to preach to my home church who encouraged me to attend seminary. I attended the Little Rock Missionary Baptist Seminary that fall of '07 all while continuing our long distance relationship. It wasn't too long after and Amy moved back stateside. A couple of years later we were married, August 21, 2010.

Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, Stuttgart, AR called us as associate and youth pastor where we served from 2011 - 2013. We resigned spring of '13 having felt led by the Holy Spirit to move to Kentucky where we joined Langdon Street Baptist Church and began serving. That fall our first daughter, Layla was born.

A year later, Langdon Street called me as associate pastor. I continued to serve there. In 2015, the church organized a medical mission trip. I prayed with Amy about going but did not have the finances to go. A month before the trip we received an anonymous love offering that payed my way. Amy and I also began to pray about whether or not God was calling us to move to Romania to do mission work.

It was on that trip that I sought the will of the Lord and He burdened my heart for the town of Zarnesti. I returned from that missions trip and told Amy that I felt that God was calling us to do mission work in Romania and to start a church in Zarnesti. I announced my call to Langdon Street and that December they voted to be our sending church!

Our story continues

When the going gets tough we encourage ourselves in the Lord and His calling upon our lives. We look back at how He has led us to this point. We see how He has equipped us specifically to serve Him in Romania. We find comfort in His presence and His special calling upon our family.

I am so thankful for my upbringing. I am so thankful for my beautiful wife, Amy. We can look back and see His hand working in both of our childhoods; preparing us for the work which He has called us unto today. We look forward to the adventures which He has in store for us and wait expectantly as His blessings unfold before us. For we know that with God, all things are possible!



Our sweet little girls! Layla (left) Eliza (right) & Vivian. Our whole family is involved in the mission work. Our sweet little girls are not only a blessing to us but to all who they meet!



It cannot be overstated the importance of the whole family feeling the call to go to the mission field. Not long after Amy left the mission field and came back stateside to finish high school and begin her adult life, she could never shake the feeling that God was not done with her in Romania.

From my first visit to Romania in 2005, God impressed the people of Romania upon my heart and I knew that God was calling me to serve Him there. I was only 16 then and still had so much to learn.

After that second summer mission trip, Amy and I both knew that God was calling us to be missionaries in Romania. We knew that we needed to wait on the Lord’s timing to know when to go. I was 18 and Amy had turned 16.

After we were married we still shared the desire and call to be missionaries in Romania but still felt that it wasn't the right time. It wasn't until the 2015 missions trip that we felt the leadership from the Lord that it was the right time.

God has called both Amy and I together to serve Him in Romania. We are not only husband and wife but also co-labourers in this ministry of reaching the people of Romania with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that God doesn't just call the man but his family to go in support of that call.

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“Holy Fortress” Independent Baptist Church

We have the unique honor and privilege to serve alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ of the “Holy fortress” Independent Baptist Church of Feldioara, Brasov. Some of you may be wondering, “Why the odd name?” Well, on the brow of the city of Feldioara stands an ancient fortress. It had been in ruins for many decades but had recently been built back to medieval standards by European Union grants for the preservation of natural and cultural history.

When the church organized they wanted a name that would help them stand out in the community. Psalm 18:2a (KJV) says, “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;” They wanted to tell the community that all who were members of their church had made the Lord Jesus Christ their fortress of salvation which they trust, not in physical structures or in religious man-made strongholds.

They may be just a small village church located in the northern part of Brasov county but they are a shining light in their community. Feldioara has a population of 6,311 souls as of a 2021 census and the church’s goal is to reach each one with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As of this year, the church has an active membership of 10 with an average Sunday morning worship service attendance of about 25.

When we moved to Brasov, June 1st, 2017, we began our first two year term there. Our goals were to learn the language and adapt to the new culture. Our dear brothers and sisters graciously asked me to begin preaching on rotation with two of the other men of the church as they were and still without a pastor.

This offered me a great opportunity which I seized upon to put into practice the new Romanian language that I was learning. They were so gracious with me (and still are) as I made and continue to make mistakes in the language. However, because of their patience and help, after about three and a half years I was able to begin preaching without a translator.

As of today, the church in Feldioara only meets for a couple of hours on Sunday mornings each week through the year. One of our goals upon returning is to increase their meeting times with mid-week bible studies and other opportunities. Along with outreach and evangelism, we hope to see not only precious souls saved but also folks follow the Lord in baptism and become members. The church has asked me to continue preaching on rotation Sunday mornings. I have agreed as we have felt led to stay on and serve this precious church.

One of the areas which they need help and encouragement is with their building. The back two rooms of the building have fallen into disrepair due to water damage and other factors. Because they are such a small congregation, the rising costs of utilities, taxes, and of course materials, they have been unable to make the necessary repairs.

While we have been back stateside we have made this problem aware to our sister churches. God has showed himself mighty in providing for this need! The church estimated that approximately \$15,000 would help make these repairs and renovate the back two rooms with the goal for them to be used for more classroom space. We praise the Lord that both the MT. Hebron Baptist Church, Lancaster, KY and the Unity Baptist Church, Stuart, VA have both given so generously toward meeting this need.

Now, upon our return, we will be able to oversee these renovations. As stated before, this will not only help the church but will also bring them some much needed encouragement. We want to thank these two churches for their extravagant generosity and for their heart to serve the Lord!

Our goals in staying on in Feldioara and helping this small struggling village church are; to lead them in obeying the great commission, to help give spiritual leadership in preaching and biblical teaching, to help with VBS, church camps and other outreach opportunities, and to lead them in adding to their service times.

Our goal is not to be their pastor paid by the churches of the ABA. Our prayer is that God will send a Romanian national and his family to come and be their pastor. Our goal is to start indigenous local New Testament Romanian churches. I believe that in order to see this happen, Romanian men should first; answer the call to preach the gospel, and then be open to the Lord calling them to pastor a local church; even if that means being bi-vocational.

I believe that God has big plans for the church in Feldioara. These past six months while we have been away the church has been faithful and anxiously awaiting our return. We miss them dearly and are just as anxious to make our return and begin the work which the Lord has laid upon our hearts together.

We have been praying for revival in the hearts of the brothers and sisters of the church in Feldioara. We are praying that our hearts will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leadership. Will you please pray with us about these things also? Please pray with us that not only will souls be saved through our efforts to share the gospel but that those members of the church that their hearts will catch back on fire for the Lord and that they will rededicate to live their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ!