



October/November 2006

On November 12th, I marked the seven month anniversary of my arrival in Romania. Below is an “alphabet soup” summary which explains the work God has been doing in me and through me recently. Please praise God with me for this activity and please pray that God would bear fruit from the seeds that are being sown.

A – ccowntant: Ed and I worked together to complete a rough draft of the team budget for 2007 and I created a number of spreadsheets for measuring and summarizing the financial results of the work that our team is doing.

B – ucatar: This is the Romanian word for “cook”. Several nights this Fall, the small kitchen in my apartment has been full of activity as Nicholas and I have prepared and eaten supper together.

C – onference Planner: October 23-25 our team hosted a Romanian Reformed Leaders Forum (RRLF). As team administrator, I coordinated travel, housing, and meals for the 25 conference participants.

D – river: In November I purchased a car and have begun the process of learning how to drive in Romania. It is my desire to assist with the transportation needs of our large and growing team.

E – ntertainer: The following quote from one of O. Henry’s short stories summarizes how my attempts to speak Romanian must surely entertain all who hear me speak; “ *General Rompiro exuded a number of sounds that made a fair stagger at arranging themselves into language. It was English he aimed at, and when his system of syntax reached your mind it wasn’t past you to understand it. If you took a college professor’s magazine essay and a Chinese laundryman’s explanation of a lost shirt and jumbled ‘em all together, you’d have about what the General handed you out for conversation.*”



Participants in the RRLF

F – riend: I have continued to build relationships with Levi Albu (the director of Campus Crusade in Brasov) and with Benny and Catalina (the couple in whose wedding I participated). In addition, I have spent time this Fall with a young businessman and city councilman in Codlea, whose name is Erwin. Please pray that God would deepen these relationships and use these friendships to point people to Christ.

G – rateful: Thank you all for your prayers, your encouraging e-mails/phone calls/care packages, and your financial support. I am being stretched and challenged in unprecedented ways, and yet I am able to say, without reservation, that there is no place I would rather be, than serving the Lord here in Romania.

H – ost: In October, Catalin (a university student I met last summer at English Camp) traveled from his home in southern Romania to Codlea and spent two nights with me. God used our time together to encourage me and to challenge Catalin to establish appropriate boundaries in his dating relationship with a girl in Brasov.

I – nquirer: One afternoon I joined Erwin on visits to two gypsy villages where he spoke with the leaders about economic development opportunities. Following these visits, I have continued to dialogue with Erwin and inquire of the Lord as to how our team might combine mercy ministry and economic development among the gypsies.

J – ournalist: Since arriving in Romania, I have found myself lacking both the time and energy to write much. However, this Fall, my desire to journal has returned, and God is using this activity to cement in my mind and my heart some of the lessons He is teaching me through His Word.

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K – : The Romanian language does not use the consonant “K”, and therefore neither does this prayer letter.

L – istener: October 13-14, I sat in the audience and listened as Ed taught pastoral theology to students at Good News Bible School in the nearby village of Rotbav. My heart overflowed with praise as I observed God use a seasoned pastor to explain the role of a “herald” and the meaning of the “fear of the Lord” to young leaders.

M – ason: I was reminded recently of a quote from Martin Luther; “As it is the business of a tailor to make clothes and a mason to build with bricks, so it is the business of a Christian to pray.” Will you please join us in the masonry work of prayer, asking God to be the One who builds His church in Romania?

N – ight Owl: One night in November, I joined the Hartman’s and Nicholas at a Winter Ball for business men and politicians. Our presence at this Ball allowed us to network with leaders in our adopted “hometown” of Codlea.

O – rganizer: Given my fastidious personality, I am the team member who takes notes during meetings, updates the master calendar with various team activities, and tries to ensure that things do not fall through the cracks.

P – layer: On November 3rd, we received the first snow of the winter season. That afternoon I played in the snow with the Hartmen children and Nicholas, throwing snowballs and riding sleds.

Q – uiter: I must confess that on days when I focus on the mountain of problems in front of me, instead of on the Creator of the mountains which surround me, I begin to listen to the lie of the enemy which tells me to just give up. Please ask God to grant me faith in His ability to bring reformation to Romania and persistence to not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9).

R – etreator: From October 27-29 our team took its first annual team retreat. Rev. Dave McKay and his wife Peggy, from Grace PCA in Indianapolis, joined our team and led us in times of spiritual refreshment.

S – tudent: I continue to make slow and steady progress in learning the Romanian language. Much of the negotiation surrounding the purchase of my car was conducted in Romanian, and just the other day Nicholas and I went to the police station, without a translator, to inquire into the status of his visa.



Nicholas, Nena, & Darin during retreat

T – ravelor: In November I traveled to Romania’s capital city of Bucharest and spent a weekend with Dan and Norma Emig, missionaries with Greater Europe Mission, whom I first met in Colorado Springs through Village Seven Presbyterian Church. My visit was a great time of encouragement and learning, as these eight-year “veterans” of cross cultural missions shared stories of success and struggle with this “rookie”.

U – pdator: This Fall I had free international minutes on my cell phone, which I used to call family, friends, and teammates back in America. This promotional offer ended in November, so it is back to writing e-mails :o(

V – olunteer: I have spent several hours helping my landlord and her office assistant to automate their bookkeeping processes. The education and professional experience which the Lord has given me has uniquely prepared me to serve as a business consultant to my landlord.

W – alker: I have developed a routine of beginning my days with a morning walk. I enjoy the fresh air and the time alone to think. Please pray that as the weather gets colder I will continue to exercise in this way.

X – treme: In November God revealed to me that I am responding to cross cultural stress by moving toward the extremes of my personality. Please pray that over time God would bring balance to my life and that He would lead me to promises in His word which address the extreme manifestation of some personality traits.

Y – : The Romanian language does not use the consonant “Y”, and therefore neither does this prayer letter.

Z – ealous: Proverbs 19:2 says, “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge nor to be hasty and miss the way.” Please pray for me, and for our team, that we would be filled with spiritual wisdom and with patience.

Important Prayer Request: Please pray for an important time of Strategic Planning for our team – November 27th-30th. Two experts from MTW will join our team in Romania to give advice and to help us make plans for 2007 and beyond.