

ROMANIAN MISSIONS



March 1, 2004

From Brother Westbrook

Praise the Lord! We have survived our first winter in Romania! We weathered one of the largest one-time snowfalls in recent Romanian history, frozen pipes at home and at church, and so far, our noses are above the flood waters that came with the thaw. We are becoming familiar with this unusual country, and our knowledge of the language and culture is growing every day.

The Word of God continues to be preached in



Baptizing new converts

Rovinari, and we believe the new converts are growing in grace and knowledge. The new church, Emanuel Baptist, has celebrated her first Lord's Supper, and she now has 19 baptized members, and one candidate awaiting baptism. We are averaging about 35 in our services. About 12 of those are children under age 16, so we

have a very active children's ministry.

We are excited that the city of Rovinari has agreed to provide on-sight water, electrical, and gas hook-up facilities for the flat where we meet. This will make it so much simpler to have heat, light, and water in the building. We plan to do some work on the building this month, which will include a new door, some carpet for the floor, and some cosmetic work to dress up and improve the facility.

Many thanks to those who provided offerings for the van. This purchase has now been completely covered by your special designated funds! The van is doing very well, requiring only some minor repairs the last two months. We wish you could have seen us carrying Carmen and Aurel and friends and relatives to the mayor's office at their home village about seven kilometers from Rovinari. The joyful mayor officiated the civil ceremony, and then the loaded van lumbered back to Rovinari for a wonderful church wedding. The next morning, the bride and groom were both baptized and received as members of Emanuel Baptist Church.

My interpreter in Rovinari, Catalin Spinu expressed a desire to learn the guitar. We obtained a student guitar, and started lessons on Sunday afternoons. Never have I met a young man with greater desire or natural ability to learn this instrument. He has progressed at an amazing pace, and is now able to play for the congregation during our worship time. What a tremendous blessing! Pray for Catalin, as God uses him in mighty ways. He is indeed an extraordinary young brother.

We now have three young preachers at Grace Baptist Church in Targu-Jiu. Of course, my assistant, translator, and language tutor, Bro. Dani Berca is the pastor. Vasy Girma, and Marian Vaduva have also surrendered their lives to be used in God's Kingdom as pastors. I will soon be meeting with both these brothers on Sunday afternoons for studies preparing them for the ministry. Bro. Marian recently preached to the congregation in Rovinari. I was very much impressed with his message. Though I understood only a little of his Romanian, I was tremendously excited by his choice of text from the scripture, and the sincerity, and spiritual power of his delivery. Bro. Vasy Girma

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is only 18 years old, but his love for the Lord, and enthusiasm for ministry is a sight to behold. He is an excellent student, and a faithful servant of the Lord. I have rarely met a more joyful believer. Please help me invest prayer in the lives and ministries of these young men. They are the future of God's work in Romania

Ava and I are so grateful for your excellent support in prayers and offerings. Thanks for every e-mail, card, and letter you send to encourage us. Your prayers and contacts give us strength and courage. To God be the glory!

Looking to Jesus,

