



UPDATE & PRAYER

“Lord...all that we have accomplished you have done for us” Isaiah 26:12

Sum Up:

- Health Update
- Romanian Presidential Elections
- Dad’s 70th Birthday
- Christmas Opportunities
- Heartfelt stories from our Ukrainian friends

Health Update





- **Last ultrasound showed that Bill's blood clot started to decrease.** Next ultrasound will be January 16th. Aside from the blood clot, the doctors continue to monitor him closely due to the risk of ventricular tachycardia that can cause heart attack while sleeping. We treasure your continued prayers.
- **Are health issues a hindrance to ministry?** We got asked once in a ministry interview. We see them as ministry opportunities we'd not volunteer for.

Paul tells those in Galatia "... it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn." Galatians 4:13.

- **It was a Friday when the Italian doctors told my father** "Sir, we can't put you on the transplant list. Please go home and be with your family for your last few weeks."

It was that Sunday when my father found a building to start a Moldovan-Romanian church in Tuscany, Italy. Twelve years later, the church continues to grow. My dad brought in a Moldovan pastor, and now he visits the church as he travels to Italy several times a year for check-ups. Like Paul said "It was because of an illness..."

Twists In The Romanian Elections



Romania made international news due to annulled presidential elections. November 24th Romanians had to vote for one candidate out of 14 names. Followed by December 1st when we voted the parliament. And December 8th we were supposed to choose one of the two candidates left for presidency.

Our two choices were shockingly unexpected. We had to choose between Mrs. Lasconi (the Romanian version of liberal Kamala), and Mr. Georgescu.

Due to illegalities in the way the campaign was run by candidate Georgescu via Tik Tok, and lack of financial transparency, and his strong views against NATO, and EU the Romanian justice department annulled the presidential elections for the first time in history.

Why I can't vote for mr. Georgescu. He's a big fan of President Putin, but that's not the only thing that scares most people. It's his strange views— what is water, viruses, Romanian history, bottled water, science, or the Ukrainian war (in one interview he shares that there is no war).

He speaks nonsense with great confidence, in the framework of family values. He quotes lots of Scripture, and uses the name of Jesus, not the generic God. These short videos on Tik Tok became popular among a generation that doesn't take time to listen to full interviews that are very disturbing and absurd.

Please pray for Romania.

Thanksgiving For Dad's 70th Birthday



Thanksgiving day was my father's 70th birthday. My parents came to Bucharest, upon tradition to decorate the Christmas tree with the girls, to celebrate his birthday, and to have Thanksgiving.



This is the crowd celebrating dad. My brother Pavel (who lives in Bucharest) and his family came. We invited Slavic and his family (the singer from dad's team early on in the ministry). When the war started we found out that we are neighbors. And some other dear family.



We ended the evening with lots of singing, as we used to do growing up. Perfect gift.

“Picture A Christmas With Jesus”



Each year, we have our Christmas Celebration mid December due to our expat community who travels for the holidays to see Europe, or go home to be with family. We rented a ballroom at an event center. We had around 300 people attend. Our service doesn't look like anything I grew up with, nor my husband.

We had an international taste of heaven. We had English carols, drama, Nepalese dance, Ethiopian carols that made half of the congregation stand and clap/ dance. Very moving. Literally.

The theme for the evening was “Picture a Christmas with Jesus”.



Our Christmas market supported two causes. We fundraised for a family in Ukraine who needs a car to bring supplies, and use for different needs. Also, we helped raise funds for orphans here in Romania.



The Christmas photo corner was a big hit for those attending.



Our young professionals had marvelous discussion around the Christmas traditions

- Why we celebrate on December 25th
- Should Christians celebrate Christmas
- Is it okay to have a Christmas tree
- Who is Santa Claus
- Is Christmas based on a pagan celebration



It is important as believers to be well informed, to have answers for those who will ask questions about the traditions we embrace. Here's an informative video from the author of the book ***There Really Is A Santa Claus*** (William Federer)



The Women in our church had a Soup Evening and Secret Santa, but not without the reminder from Isaiah 9:7 who Christ is for us “Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”



This Christmas we had with us my aunt from Chisinau. She's my mother's sister. Their brother lives in Russia. Please pray for her health. My mom and her have quite similar health issues, thyroidectomy, severe leg spasms, and knee pain making it difficult to walk. She's a hero. She perseveres through lots of hardship. She daily has to go with public transport to work, so she can pay off her little apartment. But, she never complains, just pushes through by God's grace.

Ukraine Update



As I shared previously, Lena, our chaplain on the front lines has moved cities to reach out to soldiers, doctors and civilians where there's not much support.

Although she moved only 40 minutes away, the people in this city suffer from Occupation Syndrome. These people have endured through the torment of Russian occupation a few months ago. Ukraine was able to free them, but the trauma has settled deep. They get missiles daily. Russian drones fly constantly over them even now. At the moment, they are at a notice away from the enemies to return and occupy as things have escalated in Ukraine. The Russian troops are only across the river, about 15 minutes away.

Lena and another chaplain she works with (their two Deborah's) have re-created the church list. They found a space underground to meet. They worship for one hour, then have tea, cookies and just listen to the people's heart-breaking stories.

A few days ago, in only 45 minutes, the Russians did so much damage. Lots of people died, and many buildings were destroyed. Lena and her friend texted each member to see who is still alive.

The believers here did not welcome Lena at first. Although she came from 40 minutes away, they struggled with trust. Lots of believers took up drinking, and smoking. They feel forgotten by God and men.

Lena and the other chaplain are making huge progress in this community.

Pray for Lena as she carries heavy burdens herself as her son, and brother are serving in the army now.



There's a unique Ukrainian postal service called Nova Posta. We were able to send blankets, jackets, socks, gloves, thermoses, flashlights, sweets to Ukraine. These are the most practical gifts for them.

Some items we took from our closets and decided to share. Some things we bought here and sent it to them. Prices in Ukraine have tripled recently, so we decided to purchase things here. Thank you for your support.



We also were able to send a few more customized gifts based on real needs. We sent a smart phone (not the most expensive), to this gentleman. He only had an old button-phone. In order to communicate with his family, or get notifications about in-coming missiles, or the Russians invading their previously-occupied city... he needed a phone capable of having basic apps.

Several other helpful gifts we were able to send with your help

- The other chaplain got a simple smart tablet so she could prepare all her messages on the go, to keep track of different sensitive information in a safe spot, to make things easy to carry as they are constantly in emergency mode.
- One lady really wanted a jacket. Bill and I were able to get it at a local store near us. She sent to us a video explaining how it was perfect size, color, and had a hoodie. Only Jesus could orchestrate a perfect gift, since it was the only color available for her size.
- Another woman simply wanted a winter sweater to keep her warm as the temperatures are brutal this year, and their homes are at 44 degrees F (7C). Quite often they don't have electricity, gas, heating, internet.



This is my mom and dad's church wearing the Moldovan national outfit for Christmas morning service.

Please pray for Moldova as well. They were informed that after the New Year's day they will not have access to a lot of electricity and gas.

Ukraine stopped allowing Transnistria (Russian-governed territory of Moldova) to receive their gas and electricity from Russia through Ukraine territory. Moldova has to share now electricity and gas with Transnistria. Because of this, they will have to go with periods of days/ hours of no heat, and electricity.

We are grateful that we were able to share this summer wood with different families through Community Church. It might be their only way to make it through the winter.



Our friends Olesia and Caleb came to Bucharest for a couple of weeks during Thanksgiving season. The girls consider their daughter as their sister from Ukraine. They did the shopping together for different needs in Ukraine.

About a month ago, Karolina was tucked in for the night as her dad heard a strong sound nearing their home. He grabbed her, and headed with his wife to their “safe” spot— the hole-way. A huge explosion shook their house. Their neighbors were killed on the spot through a drone loaded with explosives.

This is a reality this precious little girl, and many like her, live with on a daily basis.

- When they came to Bucharest, Karolina asked her dad if they need to hide as she heard doors being shut on the floor under them.
- When she’d see airplanes at night, she’d check with her dad if they were the Russian drones, or Ukrainian ones.
- When Karolina was sent to brush her teeth, she asked her mom to give her a bottle of the “good water”.
- I asked Karolina’s mom what was the most refreshing thing about being in Romania. She said “Taking a shower with clean water.” Water in their town is rusty and unsafe.

Oh, Lord, the things we take for granted. May we choose to not get worked up over silly things in traffic, at the store, or burned cookies. Although these stories might be heavy for us, they benefit us. They shift our perspective.

Thank you for serving TOGETHER !!!

GIVE TO UKRAINE

GIVE TO THE TULLY’S

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