

# COMMUNICATION WITH FELLOW WORKERS

September – November 2006

Dear brethren,

I want to quickly get this note out with my report to let you know that my father passed away midnight Friday, November 25, 2006. He went very peacefully, and I must say that I am now even more appreciative of the hope that we share in Christ.

If the Lord wills, I will make it back to Arkansas for the memorial service. It is scheduled for Friday Dec.1, at Little Rock, AR. It has been nearly two years since I have been "home", and this may be my first chance to see all of my brothers since...I can't remember when. This will also give me a chance to make some preparations for our return move to Arkansas.

We must also balance our regular responsibilities with the tasks associated with moving away from Romania. Our greatest concern is for the spiritual welfare of the brethren in Romania. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our move is also going to cost us about \$7500. I have raised \$1500 already. Your consideration and help is greatly appreciated. We will be starting over in every sense, so we ask for your prayers for God's help in adjusting to life in America. Things have certainly changed since we lived there! I hope we get to meet after we get back. May God bless you as you live for Him.

Your brother, James

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## LABOR OF LOVE

As our time living in Romania nears an end, we are thankful to the Lord for watching over us during this time away from friends and family. He blessed us with more friends and family in Christ through the work He has accomplished through us. It has been a privilege serving the Lord in this part of the world.

It has been a labor of love. It is difficult to leave. There are more things I wish to do for the Romanian, Bulgarian, and Moldovan brethren. It is necessary that we move back, but I look forward to the opportunity to return and help some day.

## CONSTANTA

Enough time has passed so that the brethren should be capable of perpetuating the cause of Christ without the dependence on American brethren that was necessary at the beginning of the work. It is my fervent prayer that they will continue on in faithfulness and grow in maturity, activity, faith, and love as well as in number.

We had some new visitors and new home studies as a result of special evangelistic efforts this fall. Alan Williamson was a big help to us. He brought a laptop with a 17" screen and set it up so that people walking by in a public place could easily see the PowerPoint presentation he had prepared in Romanian. We tried different places and found a good contact at just about every place we tried. We tried to arrange other individual studies with those who lingered long enough to show interest. We did manage to get some names and contact information. Some came to the services as well. I continue to study with Mihai, who seems to be very interested. He even came to the Badara's house for Rodica's birthday party.

Alan also had some lessons on his last weekend in Constanta. These lessons are designed to stir up brethren to have the right attitudes to be the effective kind of teachers that God wants us to be. Almost all the brethren showed up, plus Liviu from Bucharest and Elena from Falfani attended. It was an edifying weekend for all.

I also continue to study with older contacts. I am currently studying Acts with Maricica. It is going very well. I recently had a good discussion with Ilie about baptism when he brought it up. Doru has worked on him for quite a while, and we are both optimistic for him if God will give him time to make the commitment. We had lost contact with Lili, but just learned that she is working in Bucharest. She wants very much to resume studying the Bible with Christians there, so we have given her information about the church there. We have also had a good number of repeat visitors the last three months.

We also had a special time with Rena and Kristofer Gardana visiting us. We were hoping that Kristofer would have a chance to see the country where Rena did a lot of growing up. It gave a chance for us to know one another better. The brethren were glad to see Rena again and to meet Kristofer.

We have been meeting quite often in view of the transition that will take place shortly. The church must decide what arrangements to make for their regular teaching program and preaching. They must also think about where they will meet and how to reach out to evangelize in the community. They also want brethren from the U.S. to come and help with teaching.

## BUCHAREST

Ellen continues to go monthly to the bi-weekly ladies' class in Bucharest. There is a great, encouraging atmosphere there, and Rodica goes with Ellen when she can, to be edified. The church in general has been doing very well, and we pray that they may grow in maturity, wisdom, faith, and love as well as number.

## PERSONAL NEWS

In addition to continuing my work in Romania, we are preparing for our big move. Because of high costs, we have to consider carefully the weight and volume of everything we have accumulated in more than twelve years.

The questions keep confronting us: What is really important? Is this really worth the effort and the expense? I mention this as a lesson for all of us. We should all be preparing (already prepared, actually) for our big move to go home. What will we be able to take with us? Is this item really important, or is it better to leave it behind? We must realize that we must leave all earthly things behind, and what once seemed precious to us will later become an object of regret, sorrow and waste. We need to appraise our possessions and our actions with this spiritual and eternal perspective.

#### FELLOW WORKERS

We appreciate those who took the time and made the effort to help us. Alan Williamson's evangelistic ideas are worthy of consideration and imitation. We are also thankful to those who supported him to travel and spend time here. We are also thankful for the brethren at Morgantown, WV for letting Alan go for such a lengthy period of time for the benefit of many Romanians, both brethren and interested seekers of truth.

The church in Constanta is very concerned about having help next year, especially because I will no longer be here then. So the question arises, who will be willing and able to come next year?

I am thankful to the Lord for the wonderful brethren who supported me and for those who are supporting me on a regular basis. Some have mentioned an interest to help with the large expense of moving. I have received some help toward moving expenses from churches in Covington, GA and Titusville, FL.

God bless all of you who are fellow workers with us as the Lord's servants. Please labor fervently with us in prayer for the cause of Christ in southeast Europe. Thank you for your fellowship in the Lord through support, prayers, and encouragement.

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