

The Crocket Family



Missionaries to Romania



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Jer. 29:11 " *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*" What a comfort this verse, and the next two after it have been this month- both to us, and those we've had occasion to share them with! We know that regardless of what trials, challenges and puzzlements we may be experiencing in the present, the Lord is thinking peaceful thoughts toward us, and has a wonderfully bright future planned for us.

We have been extremely busy this past month doing lots of hospital visitation. Two ladies from the church here in Susca were in hospital for 10 days or so, and we took advantage of the opportunity to be a blessing to them, and a witness to the other 6 people in the room they shared. We've been having times of singing, Bible reading, and prayer with the patients, and it has proved to be a very profitable time, even after the ladies from our village were discharged. Patients from other rooms have even heard the singing and come to listen. We have handed out many tracts, as well as free New Testaments, which were sent over by Victory Baptist Church, Sydney.

Right from the very first visit, Suzy and Annette were burdened for one of the ladies there, who seemed to have the whole world on her shoulders. Ortansa was often weeping, and sometimes praying when we visited. One day, when she was particularly down, Suzy decided to speak with her. To cut a long story short, Ortansa is afflicted with ill-health, poverty and abandonment. But Suzy was able to share the gospel with her, and she trusted Christ. We are rejoicing with her now that she has a Friend that sticks closer than a brother, a Father who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and a Saviour who will never leave her, nor forsake her! It was especially exciting for Suzy, and quite an accomplishment, to be able to share the gospel *in Romanian*. We have since discovered that Ortansa speaks English, so on our subsequent visits we have spoken to her in English. Please pray for her, she still has struggles of course. We help her when we can, with food and money for her medications, and Suzy and Annette have even bought her clothes and shoes. But we don't want to encourage her to depend on us for her needs, she needs to learn to depend on God. She also needs a Romanian to disciple her effectively. Pray that we will be able to find someone who is willing and able.

Suzy and Annette have also been going through A-Z of Discipleship with Mera, the lady who got saved at the ladies meeting in March. It has been quite challenging to disciple her in Romanian, especially because Romanian is also her second language (she grew up in a Serbian family). Mera is very keen to be baptized, but the ladies want to thoroughly teach her about the real significance of baptism first, because it is a commonly-held belief in these parts, that baptism is part of salvation. Mera has been very faithful in church, and has been sharing the gospel with her husband Stefan. We also had their family over for a meal last week, with Billy and Annette, for the express purpose of witnessing to him, and he certainly left with a lot to think about. Please keep praying for him.

Chris has, on top of hospital visitation, also continued to prepare the next Bible Institute course as well as his sermons. He had opportunity to preach in a church in a city of central Romania, called Ramnicu Valcea, some 7 hours from here, and nestled in a valley surrounded by the Carpathian mountains. This month he and Billy also went to Turnu Severin for their language lessons. Chris is preaching both services in Susca on the 3rd Sunday of every month, now that the trips to Serbia are regularly on that Sunday, and Billy can't be in Susca. He has also started door-knocking every Saturday with two of the Bible Institute men (Marcel and Vasile). This has been very exciting for him, to finally have a Romanian to go out with. Until now, the extent of his evangelism has been from the pulpit with a translator, and handing out tracts. Last Sunday, a man from our village, Moise, also asked Chris if he would go door-knocking with him on Sunday afternoons. It has proven very difficult to get the Romanian men out sharing their faith, so we are very excited about these developments.

This weekend coming is Easter here (Romania follows the Orthodox calendar). Chris has been asked to preach in Ploiesti (near Bucharest), Buzeni, and Ramnicu Valcea over the Easter break, so we will be away for 11 days, spending a few days in each place.

Prayer Points:

- Ortansa's spiritual growth, and physical needs
- Further opportunities in the hospital. We may need to obtain approval to be there regularly on official visitation.
- Discipleship with Mera
 - Stefan to be saved
- Door-knocking
 - Language acquisition
- Easter services
 - Wisdom and God's will for our future ministry

Thankyou for remembering us in your prayers, and for your regular support,
Your missionaries,

Chris and Suzy, Elijah, Ariella, Blake, Hosanna and Mordecai Crocket