

February 2022 Update

Dear Faithful Supporters

As we write this letter, our thoughts and prayers along with everyone else's around the world are for Ukraine. We are deeply concerned over the developments unfolding as Putin has launched a full-scale war on Ukraine. Although Romania shares a border with Ukraine, not much has changed here in our area. Our small Romanian/Roma church is about three hours away from the border. Church this past Sunday, was full as many are scared and seeking God for answers. We are praising the Lord that He has placed us here to share with them His free gift of salvation and His peace that surpasses all understanding.

Since the beginning of the invasion, Ruben has only averaged about three hours of sleep every night. He is spending a lot more time on the phone with other missionaries and pastors who are transporting refugees to safe homes. He has been doing all that he can to help by sending funds for food and gas and getting in touch with other contacts throughout Romania, finding safe homes and temporary lodgings along the way. We are amazed by the number of people who have come together to help!

Much has changed by the Ukrainian/Romanian border. The Romanian government has put up temporary shelters for Ukrainian refugees. Volunteers and non-profit organizations are lined up like our outside markets; giving out food, water, and blankets. Drivers are giving out free transportation to hotels and train stations. Our family and church family are also preparing to drive to the border to give aid to our Ukrainian neighbors. We may soon even host a few refugee families in the church as safe housing near the border is filling up.

Many of you have already reached out to us asking how you can help Ukrainian refugees more tangibly. If you feel God leading you to donate, you can give online by using this link. pray4romania.org/Donate or you can write out and send a check to our missions board at Heartland Baptist Missions 7000 N. Pensacola Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32505. Please make sure that you memo "Ukrainian Relief" on the check. Thank you to those who have already given and thank you in advance to those who will!

We also want to thank you all for the many messages that we have received, showing your concern for us here in Romania. We are safe for now, but we are very aware of the dangers that we may face as this war progresses. We have an evacuation plan in place in case things were to spill into Romania, although we have no indications that it may. Nor do we have any desire to enact these evacuation plans. Nonetheless, we are praying for God's great evacuation plan, His second return, to come soon as this world of sin worsens every day.

As always, thank you all so much for your faithful prayers and support! Please pray specifically with us that this war will end soon, pray for the safety of the Ukrainian people, refugees, and missionaries, and please pray that many would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior through this horrific crisis.

Your missionaries to Romania, Ruben, Jordan, & Eva Cristinoiu

