


Encourage & Equip

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Dec 2020- Jan 2021

Please pray...

Praise for:

- God's unchanging character & steadfast promises that bring assurance, peace and hope.
- Joy found in celebrating Jesus' birth with family.
- Opportunity to encourage and equip teachers through the webinar.
- Opportunity to host the mothers and children of Casa Mitspa at church.
- Technology and the AV team that enable live streaming of services.
- The ongoing health of our extended family.

Prayer for:

- Teachers and families all over the world continuing to manage online education.
- The continued recovery and health of our friend.
- Wisdom and creativity needed for our local church to continue to serve all our members, both young and old.
- Potential collaboration with AloCopii to help make a Christian TV series for kids.
- Patience, grace, gentleness and love towards Anna and Luca.

Dear Friends and Family,

2021 may not have been the 'new beginning' that some of us were hoping for and many of us still find ourselves in isolation, quarantine, managing restrictions, working virtually and home schooling. But throughout the ongoing limitations that COVID continues to bring, it is both a great encouragement and challenge to set out hearts and minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-2). May we not become discouraged that things 'still aren't back to normal' (they may never be), but may we fix our hearts and minds on the character and promises of God that never change, never fail and never disappoint. May this bring us peace, reassurance and hope for whatever may lie ahead.

Quite Celebrations

Can you still have fun at your 6th birthday party if only one friend is able to come? You sure can! Whilst Anna invited 6 of her preschool friends to her 6th birthday party, only 1 girl was able to make it on the day. But that didn't discourage the birthday girl or her guest. They still had a great time playing pin the tail on the tiger, enthusiastically clobbering a pinata and devouring yummy treats. A special guest appearance was made by their preschool teacher and I must admit I was holding back tears of thankfulness for her willingness to come and celebrate Anna's special day.



Whilst it wasn't a "Silent Night" (not with our two kids), this Christmas, like for many others was relatively quiet. Early morning Skype calls were made to open presents with our Australian family that were all gathered in Canberra, then thankfully we were able to attend church and spend time reflecting on the birth of our Saviour with a portion of our church family. Christmas delicacies were devoured and presents opened and enjoyed by one and all. We decided to rename Boxing Day as "Lego Building Day", and I wasn't complaining, we all had a blast.

Sadly, New Year's Eve wasn't as quiet, as we needed to help a friend out of a dangerous situation that necessitated involving the police. She stayed with us for several nights before taking her home, but we still keep in daily contact with her as she slowly recovers from an extremely traumatic event. We are thankful for the care of other friends, our local church and professionals who are also supporting her through this.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
PSALM 145:4

Covid Creativity

We decided to change things up a bit over December and Sunday School lessons were held live via Zoom, giving the kids some fun interaction with each other. We also put together a "Christmas in a Bag" full of activities, experiments, recipes, crafts and a gift for each child. It was a joy to be able to hand deliver these and connect with the families, seeing some of them for the first time in 9 months. A highlight for everyone was a nativity video put together by some fellow missionaries that all the children contributed to. It was 13 mins long, but it was worth every second. We took a break over January and will continue making videos for February-March and then we'll consider what may be possible once the warmer weather of Spring arrives. Unfortunately, our church has had its fair share of positive Covid cases recently (but thankfully no serious complications), so as a response, only those people essential to producing the services attend the church building. Thankfully Adi was kept healthy as one lady who was helping Adi with the tech also tested positive.

Along with Adi's continued assistance at Casa Mitspa with weekly shopping and maintenance, we had the opportunity of hosting the mothers and their children at our church when they needed to leave their home for quarterly scheduled disinfecting. They had to be off the premises for a minimum of 4 hours, so we enjoyed some Christmas colouring, playing with the children and having a good laugh watching a fun Christmas movie. One mother was particularly impressed that families from church very generously made a home cooked meal for us all and provided some sweet treats also. They all thoroughly enjoyed it and asked when it could be repeated, which was encouraging to hear.

Productive Partnerships

It was with great fear and trembling (and much prayer) that I presented a webinar for AloCopii on 'Thinking Routines'. A thinking routine is a short series of steps that helps guides your thought process and encourages critical thinking and supports open discussions. I was introduced to this through a webinar I participated in last year lead by Paul Dudley and I thought it was a topic that could have real benefit for both teachers and children here. I led the entire session in Romanian and although my nerves caused me to make more grammatical mistakes than normal, one of the organisers reassured me that it was intelligible and the 12 teachers that attended would have appreciated my effort. It is my great hope that those who attended were encouraged and equipped with a tool that can help them and the children in their Sunday school classes to engage with the Bible at a deeper level.

Last but not least- did we ever think that Nas Rosu (Red Nose- Adi's clown persona) may end up on Romanian TV? Never! But that is what has been proposed by our friends at AloCopii. A local Romanian Christian TV station approached them with the idea of making a 13-episode TV series for kids and they approached us to see if we were interested in collaborating with them on the project. It is still in the ideas stage, but we are excited to see what might come of this idea. Stay tuned!

Each of you are a part of this ministry and we are so thankful for your partnership, prayers and encouragement as we continue to seek to love, serve, encourage and equip those whom God as placed us amongst. God Bless, Adi, Jennifer, Anna and Luca

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