


Encourage & Equip

Adi & Jennifer Grocott preparing to serve in Romania

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of our revamped "Encourage and Equip" which aims to share our journey with you as we seek to encourage and equip local Romanian churches to share the gospel of Jesus with children (6-14 year olds). We realise that we cannot do this alone and we value your partnership and encouragement. We pray that these regular prayer letters will encourage you as we share how God is at work in Romania and how he is preparing us for ministry and how you can partner with us.

Some of you have known us for years, whilst others reading this may not know us at all, or maybe know only one of us, so we thought it would be helpful in this first prayer letter to give you a little background to ourselves to set the scene.

A little bit about us...

I, Jennifer, grew up in rural NSW and, as part of a Christian family, I grew in my faith as a child and teen in the Uniting Church. God first challenged me to cross-cultural mission after I completed high school and spent 3 months in Athens working in a refugee camp. I returned and completed university in Canberra, before heading to Romania in 2003 with International Teams. I spent the next 7 years in Romania primarily ministering to disabled children and young adults in government run institutions, as well as helping out with children's ministry in local churches. Over my years in Romania I fell in love with the country and its people and knew that this country had become my new home where God was calling me to continue to serve.

Adi, a born and bred Romanian, grew up in Timisoara and became a Christian in his late teens. It was his involvement with his local church that led him to his first job, working at a night shelter for the homeless in his city. Through this job he was introduced to International Teams which was helping run a day centre for street children and youth in the same building. Adi was convicted of the desperate needs, both physically and spiritually of these children and youth and felt called to work full time with International Teams. He continued to work with street children for several years before studying social work at university. During this time Adi was exposed to the needs in local churches and sensed God's call to a new direction in children's ministry.

Our friendship grew over the years and we were married in 2008 in Romania, and as a couple felt the calling to be involved in children's ministry together. It was our desire to encourage and equip local churches where there was little or no children's ministry. We were encouraged by my pastor in Canberra to get formal theological training so we moved to Sydney and started our training at Sydney Missionary

and Bible College (SMBC) in 2011. Since then, I, Jennifer completed an Associate Degree in Theology and Adi has completed a Bachelor in Theology and is currently working on a Masters of Arts (Theology), which he aims to complete this year before returning to Romania. During this time we have been members of Burwood Presbyterian Church and have served in various ways such as helping lead youth group, assisting in sound and audio, helping lead a ladies' Bible Study and mentoring youth. We have also been very thankful to have had experience assisting with children's ministries in various contexts. Specifically, we have appreciated the opportunity to have been able to be trainers for the past three years at a conference called NextGen, which seeks to train the next generation of children and youth leaders to faithfully pass on the gospel to others. In amongst all of this, God blessed us with our daughter Anna, born on 6 Dec 2014 and we are awaiting the arrival of our next miracle due on 24 June!



What now?

In our years in Romania we saw that whilst churches were keen to have children as a part of their church services, many lacked the training and resources needed for reaching children in their communities as well as how to share the gospel with children and teach them how to grow in their faith. We also saw that in many places children were only taught a moral gospel of being 'good boys and girls', rather than hearing the lifesaving gospel that teaches us that we have all sinned and that it is only through Jesus' life, death and resurrection that we can have a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. It is our desire to encourage and equip local churches to share this with the children of Romania, so that all children through all parts of Romania get to hear and respond to this life saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who are we partnering with?

After much investigation, prayer and discussions we decided to apply to European Christian Mission (ECM). We were impressed by their commitment to working alongside local believers and their desire to build the local church all throughout Europe. Their experience in working in Europe for over 100 years and dedication to long-term service were also things that we valued. They already have a presence in Romania and we were keen to be able to be part of an established team there. Our application was approved in May and we are currently 'candidate missionaries', i.e. missionaries in preparation to go to the field. If you would like to know more about ECM, please check out www.ecmaustralia.org.

Where are we going exactly?

Whilst we will be based in the western part of Romania in a city called Timisoara, we desire that our ministry will extend to many other needy parts of Romania, especially rural and village communities where access to training and resources for children's ministry can be very limited.



So when's it all happening?

We are very aware that the timing of our departure is in the hands of God, but we are hoping that we will be able to return to Romania by December of this year. This is dependent on a couple of factors though. **Firstly**, it depends on the health of our second child due this month. Please pray with us that there will be no complications that would delay our departure. **Secondly**, to be able to leave we have to have 100% of our financial support either raised or pledged. We are currently working on a budget and in future prayer letters we will share with you our budget and how you can partner with us in this way if you are able. However, as we have learnt (and experienced first-hand), we ultimately know that God has His good and perfect timing for our return to Romania.

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

How you can partner with us?

As we mentioned at the beginning of this prayer letter, we know that we cannot do this alone and are seeking people to partner with us on this journey to encourage and equip Romanian churches to share the gospel with children. There are several ways in which you can do this. **Firstly**, this ministry relies on prayer and we are seeking friends to be able to pray regularly with and for us, as we know that our Father listens to our prayers and answers them according to his will. **Secondly**, as we mentioned earlier there is an opportunity to join with us by supporting us financially, as we will not be receiving a salary from within Romania and it is our desire to be freed up so that we can be serving in this ministry full time. If you would like to do that, please contact us, the ECM office on 02 97475446 or by following this link, <https://www.ecmaustralia.org/get-involved/give> and use reference AJG + your initial and surname eg "AJG J.Smith". **Lastly**, it is hugely encouraging knowing that people have read our prayer letter, so feel free to drop us a quick line to say hi and share with us what is going on in your life too and how we can be praying for you also. If you have any questions feel free to ask so that we can respond.

We would love to have the opportunity to share more about the ministry that God is calling us to, so if you would like us to meet up with you or share with your church or Bible study group we would love to, so please contact us to organise a time for us to come and share.

Thanks for taking the time to read this prayer letter and we look forward to hearing from you and being able to share more with you in the near future as to how God is leading us and our return to Romania.

God Bless,
Adi, Jennifer, Anna and "Buburuza" (Ladybug)

Thank you for partnering with us in **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS** across Europe

We are serving with European Christian Mission (ECM). ECM is an interdenominational mission that partners with local churches to send gospel workers to Europe.

ECM's overarching purpose is to glorify God through evangelism, discipleship and church planting all across Europe.

If you would like to find out ways you can partner with us via ECM through praying, serving or giving, please contact our office.

How to give to ECM: Cheques payable to European Christian Mission.

Direct Deposit: NAB, Australia
BSB: 082171 **Acct No.** 509197512

Reference gifts with AJG followed by your initial and name, e. AJG ABrown.

* Please inform ECM of your giving.

PRAYER POINTS

PRAISE:

- Praise God for family and friends all over the world who have been supporting and encouraging us in our journey back to Romania.
- Praise God that we have made it through the selection process and have been accepted as candidate missionaries with ECM.
- Praise God for those supporters who have enabled us to gain theological training whilst here in Australia.

PRAYER:

- Please pray with us that God would continue to guide, direct and provide for us as we seek to return to Romania.
- Pray for God to raise a team of supporters to partner with us in this ministry.
- Pray for the safe delivery and health of our next child and for us as we adjust to being a family of four.
- Pray that we as a family would honour our Father in our daily lives and that we would serve diligently and faithfully seek God's glory in all we do.
- Pray for Adi to be able to complete all his course work necessary to finish his Masters of Arts by the end of the year.



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