

# LOVING ROMANIA

Sufficient Bread Ministry

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## Crooked Places Made Straight: "A Future and a Hope" Apartment

***I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them. Isaiah 42:16***

Andrei and I used our round trip tickets to conduct a surprise check-in on the F&H apartment and bring supplies to the Betania Family Center. I wanted to inform all of you about our trip, but I knew the boys would find out! They are very Facebook and Internet savvy (like most teenagers, haha).

I must admit I was nervous. I was praying that all of the hours of training Andrei put into getting the apartment up and running were not in vain. He skyped and called the boys daily, but the best way to see how things are working is to make a surprise visit. I was blown away!! The apartment was clean and organized; receipts and bills were filed and paid. It was such a blessing to see so much growth in the boys' responsibility. The look on the boys' faces when we "popped in" was priceless!

It was so nice to live in the apartment with the boys and bring a woman's touch and "Mom" atmosphere. I, of course, cleaned and made the apartment smell marvelous (haha), but even more than that, I was able to have some "mom" conversations with the boys. God met me and they were powerful and emotional. At one point, one of the boys asked if he could hug me. Totally blessed my

heart and, of course, I cried!

COSMIN: We are seeing incredible growth in this young man. His grades are continuing to improve. But even more important than his grades are his emotional improvements. When he came to the apartment, his attitude towards people, God, church, worship, and Christians was harsh and untrusting. He had been hurt by others in the past and grew a tough exterior for protection. During our visit, I saw these walls coming down and I praised God! The healing process had started. We have a ways to go, but with God, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

Cosmin also received his driver's license during our visit. It was wonderful to be there for the celebration! He doesn't have a car yet, but this was a huge accomplishment. I am very proud of him. He had a goal, he worked hard at it, and received the reward! WHOO HOO! Next goal - high school graduation!

NICU: When God brought Nicu to our apartment, he looked like a scared puppy. I saw so much love in him but not much self-esteem. He came from an abusive family, who has recently disowned him out of anger. Since his admission into the F&H apartment, his family is no



longer receiving his monthly government money. The Romanian government gives every child a small amount of money every month to help with school fees and needs for that child. Many parents take this money and support their drinking and smoking habits while the children suffer. Because we take care of all of their immediate needs through the support received through SBM, our rules state that all financial help from the government must go into a savings account for each boy. This will create a small nest egg for each young man to receive when they graduate from our program. Nicu is VERY good about saving his money.

When we met Nicu, he knew nothing about Jesus. I love hearing his questions and seeing his interest in what the Bible says about things. He has new questions every day for Andrei. Keep this precious child in your prayers.

## Betania Bible Retreat:

*Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2Cr 5:17*

It's that time of year again when kids are putting on their colorful shirts and attending VBS (Vacation Bible School) in the good ol' U.S. of A. I remember how impactful these times were for me growing up. We are so excited to send our children at Betania to one near them! It will cost around \$50.00 a kid for the week. They will be camping, eating, worshiping, and attending Bible studies. The total cost to send our 21 children will be around \$1,000. Any help will be appreciated! We are also sending the administrator and his wife on a four day weekend retreat to get refreshed. The last vacation they had was 8 years ago! We are so happy to do this for these amazing people who love the abandoned and vulnerable. Please be in prayer for the children, that their hearts would be open to God's love and that they will return new creations in Christ Jesus our Lord!

### AN EXERPT FROM ANDREI'S TESTIMONY:

*My life in its entirety is very important to me because I accept and understand it as God's perfect plan for my life. As a child I asked God, "Why do I exist?", "Why did my parents not want to raise me?", "Why am I no one's child?", "Am I just a kid no one wants?", "Why should I live?", "Can I have hope?", "Can I integrate into this world?"*

*In the early 90's, I remember people began to visit our orphanage from America. I did not know what they were looking for. Why were they coming to give the children all sorts of candy, chocolate, toys, and clothes? I did not understand why they would come from another country and tell us about a man named Jesus Christ. I did not know who this Jesus was. I remember them talking about the birth of the Savior, that Jesus was sent to die for us, for our sins. What sins? Why would someone die for me? Why did he have to die? I remember thinking, "Something is not right." I saw that these people visiting the orphanage were smiling all the time. I saw that they were happy and I did not realize why. But at the same time it affected me seriously. I was jealous, and I wanted to feel the way they did. I wanted to be happy. I remember I was so dirty. Our noses were running, some kids were covered in sores and other sickness but these people were not afraid to touch us, or most amazingly hug us. I realized that this Jesus Christ had something to do with the kindness and courage I saw in their hearts. These people had something I wanted...*

## For the Record:

## We Love and Appreciate all of you!

We consider every one of our supporters as accountability partners. Everything we speak to our board members about, we put in our newsletters. We love each and every one of you and your heart for Romania. Without your sacrificial giving, the children in our care would be in a MUCH worse situation. I thank all of you who see the importance of our ministry to the abandoned and vulnerable. And especially, the importance of even one life being rescued.

You would be surprised at the sour responses we receive when we tell people that we have "only" 21 children in the family center and "only" two boys in our transitional apartment. It breaks my heart that they can be blinded to the fact that even one soul creates a party in heaven! If you want to continuously hear about thousands of people raising their hands to accept Jesus at an event, then I encourage you to support whichever ministry satisfies that need. Sufficient Bread Ministry takes each individual that God places in our path and allows God to guide our footsteps. Praise you, FATHER!

We are not a ministry that gets people saved, gives them a high-five and then leaves. We continue in daily discipleship with them. It is the road less traveled, but an amazing blessing.

If any of you desire to meet and experience our ministry in "living color," please let us know. Andrei would LOVE to lead you or a group of you on a trip. We have been asking churches

to come and bring pastors for a few years now with no response. We are READY! :) **These kids need to see your faces and feel your hugs.** Come, what are you waiting for? You will be blessed, I can guarantee that.

### Prayer Requests and Praise Reports:

- *Continue to pray for the transitional youth of Romania. That they would walk in the power of the Spirit and not by their own might.*
- *Pray for the Saturday Bible School. That God might be magnified in the lives of the children attending.*
- *For wisdom and direction in ministry.*

#### PRAISE:

- *We are so thankful for the sacrifice each of you make monthly to support Sufficient Bread. With your help, these kids are experiencing a significant change in their lives. Blessings to you all in Christ Jesus! Keep up the good work!*

THANK YOU, FATHER! We give YOU praise!