

LOVING ROMANIA

Sufficient Bread Ministry

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This little light of mine...

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-14a

I have circled and underlined various parts of this passage of scripture and written question marks. I know that this passage is important, however, I feel that the wording can be confusing and difficult to truly understand and grasp. I don't typically use the Message version of the Bible, but this translation was shared at my church this last Sunday.

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

This is an amazing word picture of what the scripture is saying. "We are to be the salt seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth." "We are to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world." Our world is dark, we can all agree, but this is not the end. The church is not to sit in the darkness and wait to be rescued. NO! Isaiah 60:1-3 says:

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light..."

In Romania, like in the United States, the government looks dark and evil. The future looks dim. We fight this mentality daily with the children. We encourage the children that:

Our Father in heaven tells us to arise and SHINE!

Arise and SHINE when things look dark!

Arise and SHINE when things are difficult!

Arise and SHINE with love and compassion.

We need to realize that we all have a LIGHT to shine inside of us. The brighter our light shines, possibly the more attention we will get from the darkness. But He who is at work in you is greater than he who is in the world. So arise and let your light shine. Don't allow fear to dim your light.

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm going to let it shine!

Don't let Satan blow it out! I'm going to let it shine!

....let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Isn't it so sweet to see the little children sing that song in church? They sing it with so much passion. They have the innocence to really BELIEVE it as they sing it. I am singing it out loud today, will you?



"Future and a Hope" UPDATE:

Practice makes Perfect

Thank you to everyone who has helped us hire math and physics tutors. Last year we had a 90% fail rate on the Romanian version of our SAT College test. This year nearly all of them passed! YAY!! I am so proud of all the hard work both the students and tutors put into prepping for this important test. This is a HUGE step in the right direction for a bright future. Congratulations kids!

SMILE. SERVE. SACRIFICE.

Packages of Love:

Reverence Bible Church Strikes Again!

A huge thank you to Reverence Bible Church of Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. Families put together some of the best packages I have seen in the 11 years I have been working in Romania! The kids loved every inch of them. Andrei handed them out one by one and shared with them the love of the Father that compels ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Thank you again for your "extraordinary" packages.



Where do you see yourself next Summer?

Andrei and I will be leading a 10 day trip to Romania next Summer 2015. Please contact us if you want more information. We will be living at Betania amongst the children and seeing how they live day to day. It will be a wonderful trip and I hope many of you can be a part of it!

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!