



For God's Children INTERNATIONAL

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FGCI June 17, 2019 Ministry Update by Jeremy Befort

Dear FGCI Friends,

In May we sent two missions teams to Romania. Our first team was our Individual Specialized Needs Care (InSNC) team (May 3 - 10). Joel Burkum (FGCI Executive Director), Lisa Haggas (physical therapist), Dr. Patrick Clinch (chiropractor), and Pat, Brenda and Troy Kostal (veteran team members) spent their time helping lead our fourth annual symposium on special needs care. Our team also organized our second support group meeting for parents of children with Downs Syndrome, autism or other special needs. The symposium focused on training government workers (as well as our "Sunshine Room" employees) in basic physical therapy (Lisa Haggas teaching) and stretching and muscle development (Dr. Clinch) methods for laypeople. The support group meeting focused on helping parents create a parent-led support group. Both events were a great success, and the government workers and parents are looking forward to our next meeting. If you know any professionals who may be interested in teaching at our next symposium, please let us know. We are already preparing our spring 2020 InSNC team.



Conference for parents of children with special needs.



Lisa Haggas teaching at our InSNC symposium.



Dr. Clinch teaching at our InSNC symposium.



Joel, Pat, Brenda and Troy safely home in Omaha.

I took over our second May missions team a few days after our first team left. On May 12, Maleesha Mustion (FGCI Summer Intern), Rachel Mertz (new team member), Karly Smith (new team member), and I left for Romania. We arrived on Monday, May 13, and Sergiu Ristea (FGCI Driver) and Mama Nootsie (FGCI-Romania President) took us to our FGCI ministry home in Babadag where our missionaries, Eli and Sheena Davidson, live. Every morning from May 14-16, our team worked at the government center for adults with special needs in Zebil teaching Bible lessons and helping in our "Sunshine" therapy room. In the afternoon we taught Easter lessons (Easter was on April 28 in Romania) to children and teenagers at three government orphanages. On Friday, May 17, we took a four-hour boat ride down the Danube river to Sulina. For the next two days, we spent a lot of time with the kids at the Sulina government orphanage. We taught Bible lessons, played games, did craft activities, and installed some new curtains in the bedrooms at the orphanage. We went back to Tulcea on Sunday, May 19. That day, we taught Easter lessons at another orphanage. We then visited with and taught a Bible lesson to several adults who have transitioned out of the Zebil government center and are now living and working independently in Tulcea. On Monday we went to Constanta to visit several young ladies who grew up in the state orphanages and are now living independently. FGCI continues to support these girls as they pursue higher education and work in Constanta. Our team traveled to Bucharest on May 21, and we flew back to the US on May 22. We had a very blessed trip,



Part of our team. Maleesha, Karly, Rachel, Jeremy, & Iosif.



One of the kids reading from the Bible in Sulina.



Team at the Isaccia orphanage for girls and boys.



Craft activity after a Bible study about Easter.

and I really enjoyed spending quality time with our FGCI kids teaching them about what Jesus did on the cross. This trip and our Christmas trip are some of my favorite trips. I love teaching the Good News of Jesus' birth and the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. Please pray that they will understand the lessons and that the kids will seek the Lord and make decisions to follow Christ.



Team at the Mahmudia orphanage for boys.



Craft activity after a Bible study about Noah's Ark.



Kids at an orphanage reading the Easter lesson.



Eli and a translator installing curtains at an orphanage.

We sent over our first summer team to Romania on Sunday, June 9. Two summer interns (Allison and Alaina) and six short-term team members (Nick, Tabi, Andrew, Josie, Lydia, and Yafet) arrived safely in Babadag on Monday. The team will spend their first week teaching Bible lessons at the state orphanages. Their second week will be spent helping lead our first Bible camp for the kids from the state orphanages. This camp is held at our FGCI ministry home where Eli and Sheena Davidson live. The team will have a lot of time to teach Bible lessons in large- and small-group settings, as well as individually. The kids, and even government workers who attend, eagerly await their week of camp all year long. They love the campfires, marshmallows, birthday parties, hiking trips, craft activities, Bible memory verse competitions, Christian camp songs, and everything else about camp.



Mama Nootsie teaching the Easter lesson at Zebil.



An adult with his Easter coloring book.



Jeremy visiting former residents of the Zebil center.



Boat on the Danube River right before arriving in Sulina.

Over the next eight weeks, we will send another 18 short-term team members to Romania and Moldova for back-to-back Bible camps, VBS programs, and a construction project. Please keep our teams and the Romanian and Moldovan kids and young adults they will meet in your prayers. We could not reach the kids without our short-term team members and your prayers and support.

Thank you, and God bless you!

Jeremy Befort

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*Hope,
 dignity
 & love
 in Jesus'
 name*



Inside a Romanian Orthodox church on a Sunday morning.



Rachel, Karly, and Jeremy safely home in Omaha.



June 9th short-term missions team on their way to Romania.



Nick baptizing Josie (a team member) in the Black Sea.