

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Ebenezer Methodist:

Mark 16:15 – “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Those words are at the heart of who we are and what we are doing here in Romania! It is our desire to bring hope to the hopeless, specifically to Romania's abandoned children. Most of these children—thrown away by their parents and abandoned by society—feel like no one cares about them. They have never heard that their Heavenly Father loves them. So, we are here to let them know that He cares and sees them as precious treasures beyond compare.

We want to thank you very much for your prayers and very generous financial support, without which we could not do what we are doing. It means so much to us and even more to the children God brings our way. In fact, it is matter of life or death for most of them. Know that your prayers and financial donations do not go unnoticed. May God pour out His blessings ever so richly upon you! We believe that God greatly blesses the "*mission-minded*" church. I once heard it said:

"The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." While we all may not be able to go physically to the mission field, we can "*go*" in some manner, whether it be in the area of finances, through our prayers, or volunteering our time.

This short note is to update you on the progress we have made, and continue to make here on the mission field, due to your prayers and generous financial support.

As you likely already know from past updates, we put down money to purchase a building (an old church) for the orphanage. Since it used to be a church, we have had to do some remodeling so it can serve as a home for children. Currently, we are in the process of putting in bedrooms, adding a third floor, modifying the bathrooms and kitchen, re-carpeting, and a few other minor things. We expect the orphanage to be up and running sometime in February, 2016.

In the meantime, while the building is being remodeled, we did our normal Christmas outreach. We gave Christmas gifts (toys for the kids) and distributed four pallets of food to poor families and the street children. We also visited many state-run orphanages where we gave Christmas presents to the orphans, played with them, sang Christmas carols, and shared the Gospel. We were so blessed to be able to spend this Christmas with these precious children!

In addition, for the first time, we received some 200 Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes this Christmas to give out to the poor. The children were so overjoyed! Their smiles and joy when they open their shoeboxes were priceless!

Please know that we are praying for you guys. We fervently pray for each and every church that is part of our ministry. Again, thank you so much for all you do for us and for the children. We especially want to thank the Rainbow Sunday school group for their generous support and effort on behalf of the ministry. We feel so encouraged and loved to know that you care about us and the ministry. Truly, we do not feel alone in this great work God has set before us; we know you are with us in your hearts, through your prayers, and financial sacrifices. You guys bless us more than you can know! May God richly bless you and your families.

In Christ,

Nathan, Anca, Nehemiah, and Isaiah Merrill

P.S. : If you go to the below link, you can view the video slideshow I put together of the Christmas outreach described above: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgYIX0zYQJ4>.