

To the Brothers and Sisters at Ebenezer Methodist:

We arrived safe and sound back in Romania after a long drive through Europe (from Holland to Romania). After two nights sleeping in the car and airplane, we were so ready to reach home and sleep a bit. But the kids—it did not faze them a bit! They were not tired at all; they were up raring to go and play with their friends the moment we got back.

Anyway, things are well. We are getting back into the swing of things again. When we got back, we discovered our refrigerator and internet were broken; so we have been working on getting these taken care of. The new refrigerator is coming soon, so Anca has a break from cooking for a few days. We will be eating out a lot until then.

In addition to dealing with the normal day of – work, refrigerators, fixing our internet, etc., we have also met with a lawyer to draw up the contract for the purchase of the new facility for the orphanage. Once the contract is approved by our board (the board of directors for Finding Hope Ministries) and the money is sent, we can get things started—at least in terms of coming up with a building plan, estimated project costs, etc.

This facility is really a God-send! It is more than I could have ever imagined – much larger, nicer, and cheaper than I thought we would end up with. God has done so much more than I would have ever thought possible, in such a short time. The building is 6,500 sq. ft. and can be expanded to double the size if necessary. It has a big yard, a court yard, is gated (property is fenced in), three kitchens, three bathrooms, a sanctuary, youth building/fellowship hall, and a small apartment. The structure is basically new by Romanian standards. It was built in large part by American missionaries just a few years after the Romanian Revolution in 1989. As far as the facility goes, in my opinion it is well constructed. It is all cement and block except for some interior walls in the sanctuary, which are stud walls with drywall. The roof was tiled just ten years ago with good quality ceramic tiles.

The facility we are purchasing was once a Baptist church. In fact, my wife and I attended this church on occasion in the past. Just recently, the said church moved to a new and bigger building; thus they are selling the old one. They prefer to sell to a ministry or another church. Moreover, the money from the sale will enable them to build a youth center at their new location. They are blessing us by giving us a great deal, and we are helping them build their youth center. Even more than this, they are working with us, since we do not have all the money we need to purchase it yet--\$40,000. They are allowing us to pay in installments as the money comes in. We have negotiated a payment time-frame (\$10,000 up front, \$10,000 more in Feb. 2016, \$10,000 by Dec. 2017, and the last \$10,000 by 2018), but we would like to finish the payments as soon as possible. I feel very confident that God will bring us the funds to pay the building off well before 2018. I am looking to get it paid off next year—the Lord willing! We are really excited to see how the Lord is working before our very eyes. It is awesome to see how much He has done in such a short time. It is truly much more than I ever would have imagined. I am just so amazed!

Very soon (likely the beginning of November), we will start putting up interior walls in the sanctuary, so we can accommodate some children as soon as possible. Currently, since the facility we are purchasing is an old church, it has no bedrooms. Immediately, we need at least a few bedrooms for the kids to sleep. Besides, the child protection services here in Romania will not approve us to have kids unless we first have bedrooms for them. The bathrooms and showers are already there, so we just need a few bedrooms at this point. I will take off from work for a few weeks, and see if I can get my brother-in-law to help me put these interior walls in the sanctuary for

bedrooms. Also, if I could get someone from the U.S. that might want to come for a few weeks in November or December to help with construction, then we could expedite it even more. If you guys know of someone in this regard, please let me know.

So an initial small scale building project will begin late this month or in November. But, we will do a larger construction project in the spring or summer of 2016. We will add a third floor and expand the sides of the building to accommodate more children and make the living environment a bit more spacious and comfortable for them. This will take more money and more man-power, but I know God will provide!

Thank you so much for praying for us and giving financially to help fund this great work. It encourages us so much. We are so very appreciative to you guys. Thank you very much for allowing us to visit and share with you the vision God has put on our hearts to reach the abandoned children of Romania for Christ. It was a blessing indeed! It is so nice to see a church like you that has a passion for reaching the lost people around the world. You are such a blessing for my wife and I - even more, you are a blessing to the abandoned children God allows us to help. Thanks so much for everything. I cannot thank you enough.

We sure miss you guys there back at Ebenezer! Sincerely, I miss N. C. and all our friends and family there. There is just no place like home, really. But we are called here to Romania for a purpose and must see it through. We sure do not want a big fish to swallow us (you know like what happened with Jonah when he disobeyed God!). We are praying daily for you.

We hope one day some of you can come over and visit us here in Romania. That would truly be a blessing for us. It was not too long ago a group of you went to Russia to build a church - a trip I was on with my dad. What a blessing that trip was!

Well, we love you guys and miss you very much. Please pray for us and stay connected. We need your prayers and financial support so very much during this crucial period, as we lay the foundation for this orphan children's home ministry. We will stay in touch with you through updates, such as this one. Also, very soon, I will be putting some videos of how things are going here on the ground on Youtube and on Facebook for those that want to follow the progress. Our Facebook is *finding hope ministries* or you can friend us personally at: Anca Merrill, Sibiu, Romania or Nathan Merrill, Sibiu, Romania.

God Bless,

Anca, Nathan, Nehemiah, and Isaiah Merrill