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Greater Europe Mission

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

My first Sunday back in Romania I was reminded of a game I played years ago at summer camp. You would hold the handle of a bat so it is standing straight up from the ground. Then place your head on the base while you run around the stationary bat 10 times. This of course makes one very dizzy! Then, one drops the bat and runs to the line on the other side of the field. It is great fun watching others play! No one looks graceful no matter how athletic; many people become so dizzy that they fall as they attempt to run. This game describes how I have been feeling upon my return to Romania. Now, THANKFULLY, after seven weeks back in Sibiu, my spinning life is slowing down a bit. I've been very busy, but things are coming together. God has continually comforted me with His words from 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24, *"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."*

Here is an update on my (sometimes dizzy) life!

My Romanian Apartment

When I first arrived in Sibiu, my apartment had many items turned around backwards. The shelves in my bathroom were hanging on the wall backwards; even my pots and pans in the kitchen were in reverse order. No one had lived in my apartment while I was gone, but some of the youth did use it (with my permission). Last fall I invited a group of youth to use my apartment for their Morning Prayer meetings. There are five groups of students that meet in different areas of the city at 7 AM for prayer and worship several days each week. When it is warm the groups meet outside, but for at least half the year it is too cold. I have been happy that my home can be used as one of the meeting places. While I was away it was a blessing to have the youth in my apartment. They ran my water, delivered my payments for apartment utilities, etc. It only took a few days to get my apartment back in order... who knows how long it would have taken to get all the rust out my pipes if they had not been used!

Kindergarten Ministry

Returning to the Romanian Kindergarten was an easy readjustment. The children are so sweet and eager to

please. It is amazing how quickly some young children can learn new languages. I'd missed hearing them say "Good Morning" to me. Iulia has done a wonderful job continuing to encourage their learning in basic language skills, math, science, art and Bible basics. I have been glad to see Iulia use the language program I wrote and continue to integrate it with her own appropriate lessons. Iulia has now taken on full responsibilities for the basic running of the Kindergarten. My role has changed to encouraging her continuing good work and teaching a few special lessons. God has truly blessed this program! As I shared with many of you while I was in California, I have almost completely worked myself out of this job. It is exciting to see this change, but it difficult for some of the leaders in the Romanian church to understand why my role needs to change. I am the first missionary to work myself out of a position at this church. Some of the leaders in the church would prefer that I continue working in the Kindergarten for years to come. I fear that to remain would create an unnecessary dependency on outside resources. God asked me to move here for three years and gave me work to do that could be completed during that time. Thankfully He is in control and this is ultimately His Kindergarten. Please pray for all of us involved in this area of ministry. Pray for wisdom in how I should continue with my diminishing role.



Kindergarten class

I have also continued to write plays for the Kindergarten. The students will be performing a play on Sunday evening, April 20th. It is based on The Tale of Three Trees. Students have been excited to work with more props and costumes for this program. I look forward to seeing their families and friends at the performance where everyone will hear the story of Easter.

Youth Mission Trip

Some of you may recall hearing about Monica. She is a college student who has participated in the past two mission trips. This time she is helping me co-lead a trip to Turnu Magurele. She has led many of our preparation meetings and has been a great help to me. Our team has thirteen members, who all have been working hard to be prepared with their testimonies, for teaching children, doing church services and open-air evangelism. From April 30th to May 5th we will work in the south part of Romania. This past week one of the girls on the team shared, "I am so excited to be going on this mission with this team. It is going to be a great trip!" Her words echo how I am feeling as well. Below are the prayer requests and team picture from their prayer cards.

- ◆ For God's power to share the Gospel with boldness
- ◆ For unity of the team
- ◆ For health and safety
- ◆ For a good partnership with the church and the pastor in Turnu Magurele
- ◆ For the churches we will visit to be encouraged and built-up in Christ



The Team!

Visiting with many of You!

January and February were filled with joy as I had time to spend with many of you! I am thankful for the

opportunity to attend the Sonlife conference in Florida. I gained new insights on how I might better work with youth for God. Attending this conference in the USA allowed me to spend time visiting most of my supporting churches and talk with other small groups. Preparing to speak with different groups helped me to reflect on all that God is doing here. It was good to be able to look from a distance and see with a new perspective all that has happened during my first two years. I am sorry that I did not have an opportunity to meet with each of you. I look forward to having more time to meet with you all when I return to the states at the end of the year. Thank you for your encouragement and expressed desire to help the work I am doing here in Romania. A special thanks to Danielle Hemenez who has taken on the job of maintaining a website for my ministry. I hope you all will enjoy it. It is:

<http://amywilliams.homestead.com/website.html>

Praises

- ☺ Spiritually uplifting and insightful Sonlife conference attended in January
- ☺ Time to visit with family and friends in California
- ☺ Opportunity to speak in most supporting churches and with Bible studies groups
- ☺ Danielle's willingness to work on my website
- ☺ Iulia's continuing good work in the kindergarten
- ☺ Successful start and planning for youth mission trip
- ☺ Monica's leadership in co-leading youth mission trip

Prayer Requests

- ☺ Kindergarten Easter play, April 20th
- ☺ Wisdom with my conclusion in the Kindergarten ministry
- ☺ Iulia as she takes on all Kindergarten responsibilities
- ☺ For a God blessed youth mission trip April 30th to May 5th
- ☺ Monica's continuing leadership in youth missions

2 Corinthians 1:11, "As you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. "

*By His Grace,
Amy Williams <<<*