

February 28, 2024

## In Ministry

As spring soon approaches we look back on winter and are happy to bid it farewell. We managed to stay warm enough even though it was cold outside. The ministry highlight was our

church retreat. This was the second year that we have done this and we were pleased by an even larger turnout than last year. We had twenty-two people join us for the weekend of faith, fellowship, and food. We rented out a bed and breakfast in a village a couple of hours north of us up in the mountains. We ate, sang, and played cornhole. We had an excursion to see a nearby dam and a boat ride out onto the lake. Since we were in the hometown of some of



our members, we joined church services with the church there on Sunday morning. It was a great weekend and a good time of unity for our church.

All has not been easy though. One of the key families in our church divorced over the holidays. This has hit our little church extremely hard. The husband had been one of the men I had personally discipled and he had been preaching in church. Without going into detail, we were caught by surprise and have struggled to process all of this. This is the second high profile family split to impact our church during this last term. While divorce is rampant in Romanian culture, we had not seen it within

our church. It has been a struggle to say the least. We appreciate your prayers for us, our church, and especially for this family. Pray that God might yet change their hearts.

## In Our Home

The day we have dreaded is quickly approaching. Our eldest is graduating from high school and preparing to fly the coop. As an overseas missionary it is hard to balance family and ministry. We are approaching a time though when our ministry is going to have to take a back seat to our family. Ruth has been accepted at Pensacola Christian College and plans to begin classes in the fall. I was talking to her a while back about her mindset, going to the States. Her hometown is Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania. Moving to the United States for college is an



adventure unlike any that she has attempted before. She is excited for what God has before her, but at the same time is nervous about going to college in a foreign country. Yes, she was born in the States and has a US passport, but her mindset is that she is going to study abroad. To help her make the adjustment, we are taking a short furlough this summer. Instead of traveling the country as we usually do when we return to the States, we will be staying in West Virginia with our home church. We are hopeful that this stability of being in one place will help her to work through culture shock and adjust to life in America. She has even lined up a summer job! As parents, we want to help her succeed as best we can before sending her off into the big scary world.





We will be in the States from May until October. This is quite a change for us as we have never made a furlough quite like this one. Please pray with us as we are faced with several needs and lack of finances to cover those needs. We are looking for housing and a vehicle during this time. While her summer job will be a good experience and help a bit with her college expenses, we are also praying for God's provision for Ruth's school bills. Anyone with tips on private scholarships, please send them our way!

One thing we are grateful for is God's provision for the ministry in Romania while we are gone. While we are in the States, a dear friend of mine, Apolo, will be leading our church. He is one of the pastors from Lili's home church in Brasov and the administrator of Camp Hope. We have worked together with him

for as long as I have been in Romania, my wife even longer. Please keep him in your prayers as he serves in our absence.

We want to wish a heartfelt thank you to all who continue to pray for and support our ministry in Romania. May God meet your needs and draw you ever closer to Him.

God Bless! The Schrocks





