

Steve & Lila Bayer

Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home

Prayer Update April 2016



Dear Friends,

Marshall (my 18 yr old son) and I (Steve) had the opportunity to go on a Jesus Film (part of Cru) Premiere missions trip to Romania March 22-31. A ministry partner allowed us to go on this trip by paying our way to attend! The trip also has an awesome connection to FamilyLife too, since we are part of Cru as well.

When we arrived at O'Hare Marshall said, "Wow, the USA is a great place to return to!" We do know that at least one salvation occurred at the Csango translation Jesus Film Premiere. We also heard from a little old lady who speaks (like most of them) Csango, Hungarian and Romanian. She commented that hearing the story of Jesus in Csango helped her grasp so much more of Jesus's story than she's ever understood in the other two languages! This is key, because The Jesus Film reminds us that people come to Christ so much more often when hearing about our Savior and his sacrifice for our sins in their native language.

The Jesus Film and Csango team are currently strategizing about how to show the film in the months and weeks ahead because the local Village priests are opposed to distribution of the film. Their desire, along with the Romanian government, is to assimilate the Csango into their larger culture which means they don't want them to speak Csango. I would appreciate your prayers for Daniel, who is the voice of Jesus in this translation and it appears he is not (yet!) a believer. But still he told me that being part of this translation has changed his life "in every way imaginable." Specifically he said that in the church here "we don't love each other like Jesus told us to love people". It's amazing how he's in the word already yet seems to be wrestling with what he believes and at the same time he wants his

fellow Csango to see this film!

With the Jesus Film staff we also visited two gypsy churches. One is part of such a poor village that 20 of their husbands are living and working in the United Kingdom because jobs in Romania are so scarce. Additionally, they have a partially finished church building where construction is halted because they don't have the \$9,000 for the construction costs. Their pastor, who has planted 10 churches so far, says there are 60,000 gypsy villages that haven't heard the gospel because they have no church nearby.

Another cool opportunity included meeting with four couples who make up **FamilyLife Romania!** They conduct their own Weekend to Remembers and were interested in picking my brain about how our Advisor Team (which I help lead) connects with people and encourages them toward multiplication! They want my help to learn how to better equip people to minister to other men, women and couples using FamilyLife tools. It's exciting to know that the Lord helped me to play a part in helping our brothers and sisters in Christ in Eastern Europe!

The Romania Cru Staff, as they learned about the experience Lila and I have had over the years in stewardship ministry, asked if we would consider coming to Romania in the future to teach on God's way of handling money and possessions. We told them we'd pray about the possibility and seek the Lord's guidance. What a reminder though, about how our heart attitude regarding possessions impacts us all regardless of our wealth (or lack of) or our culture.

We also did some sight-seeing including visiting "The Peoples House" (their parliament building) which is the second largest building in the world behind the Pentagon. Construction began in 1984 before the end of communism and only 400 of 1,100 rooms are complete. It was astounding to hear that the Ceausescu government forced 50,000 families off this land to build this building. We learned about Romanian history including their revolution in 1989 resulting in the fall of communism and the execution of Ceausescu and his wife. Romania was a Communist State from shortly after World War II until then.

Thanks so much for the prayer while we were gone-we really appreciated it! Please pray for the Csango people group and the Cru Staff who are currently working on a strategy for thousands to see The Jesus Film in the months ahead!

God Bless,
Steve, Lila, Marshall and Maddie Bayer



Bran (Dracula) Castle in Transylvania



Bran Castle



Communist era apartments in Bucharest



Carpathian Mountains



Eastern Orthodox Church



Gypsy Church under construction



Gypsy Church Service



Jesus Film Preview, Csango Village



Jesus Film Preview, Csango Village



Jesus Film Preview, Csango Village



Nicu & Catalin of The Jesus Film
with Steve and Marshall



Steve & Marshall at Pelese Castle



Communists Speaker Balcony at
the Parliment Building

Prayer Requests & Praises

- Plans including finances for Marshall to attend JBU in August and his H.S. Graduation May 16th.
- College visits and decision for Maddie next year including her ACT test in June
- Weekend to Remember Getaways through June; for salvations and saved marriages!