



Road in Romania

The Dunn Family in Romania

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Cultural Lessons Never Far Away

Occasionally Paula and I will have a Romanian friend call and ask to borrow money for a short amount of time (over a weekend, for example). Earlier in our time here this practice raised lots of questions in our minds. Can we trust them to pay it back? Do they just see us as “rich Americans” to be used?

Our hesitation to lend actually reveals something about our home culture. As independent, self-sufficient Americans, asking to borrow money from friends is not a very common practice. We’d much rather flash the plastic and borrow from a faceless monster named VISA or Mastercard.

We did borrow money from a family member one time. When paying for Stephen’s orthodontic work, we could save a bunch of money by paying the whole thing upfront. So we borrowed it from a family member and then set up monthly payments to repay it. But even borrow-

ing like this from a close family member made us uncomfortable.

But here in Romania we’ve come to see that borrowing from friends and relatives when finances run short is a common and acceptable practice. Why? We think it boils down to two cultural differences.

First, Romanians have what we affectionately call a “survivor” mentality. Basically, you do what you have to do to survive. This is how the culture survived through 40+ years of Communist oppression. It is very similar to the mentality of Americans who lived through the Great Depression; they know how to survive on very little because abundance was never an option.

Second, whereas Americans approach life as individuals, Romanians for the most part approach life as a group. They make decisions as a group, and they are more likely to see themselves as part of a group than as an individual.

So if we put these two cultural norms together, then asking to borrow money from a friend fits quite well. The unspoken thought process might sound like this: “I will help you survive the financial pinch this month, and next month maybe you can help me through my pinch. *Together* we’ll help each other *survive*, because our identity comes from our relationship anyway, not from our individuality.”

We see real value in these different ways of viewing the world. A little more depending on each other and a deeper commitment to helping each other survive (and thrive)... this brings a needed balance to our American independence and self-sufficiency.

Our relationship and interdependence with YOU is very important. You pray and give, we “go” (to Romania), and *together* we survive, thrive, and accomplish the Kingdom purposes of God. Thanks for being part of God’s community!

Among the People

We’ve been traveling again, meeting with various ministry leaders in our region. Recent stops include Budapest (Larry, Katie, Norbi) and Gyor, Hungary (Gerry), and Bratislava, Slovakia (Josef & Lynette). In Arad he has continued to meet individually with those who come to the monthly leadership de-



velopment group. Also in Romania, he will be attending



two days of a week-long History Makers (www.history-makers.moonfruit.com) training event for young leaders. A Romanian friend and church planter is the coun-



try leader for this organization that



focuses on training young adults to be spiritual leaders. *Take some time now to pray for the people behind these faces!*



Oaza

Oaza, the church-related ministry to abandoned children with whom we work, celebrated the grand opening of the new Casa Shalom (House of Peace) on May 31. Guests

attended from several different countries as



it was truly an international effort to build this house! Thanks to any and all of our readers who helped.

Oaza's financial crisis that we wrote about last month has been cleared, at least through the end of summer. Many thanks to all those who gave towards this need!

Consistent child sponsors are still needed. If you would like to sponsor a specific Oaza child through monthly donations and regular correspondence, send Paula an email (frankee85@gmail.com) or write to us at our Romania address listed below.

Ministry Volunteers

Molly Spahn (center in picture) arrived in early June for a 2-month volunteer role with Oaza. She is a college student from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, but her family lives in Wyoming. She was born and raised in Ohio until she



was 15, however, so that makes her ok with us!

One of Paula's ministry roles is coordinating and overseeing foreign volunteers who come to work with Oaza (a church-related ministry to abandoned children). In addition to Molly and Nicole (on right in picture), two more volunteers will be arriving during the summer months. Pray for her as she mentors and encourages these volunteers.

Praise Items

- ✓ For God's provision for Oaza's immediate financial crisis.
- ✓ Good start to summer ministry teams that began arriving in May.
- ✓ Lydia finished school on time, and Stephen should finish by the end of June (via an extension)

Prayer Needs

- ✎ A long-term (1-2 years) volunteer to assist with Stephen and Lydia's schooling.
- ✎ Our work with summer ministry teams and volunteers.
- ✎ Planning for September "Taste and See" regional gathering.
- ✎ Church planting: Romanians and Hungarians called to do it in their home countries.

Carpathian Corner

Our ministry takes us to Hungary & Slovakia as well as Romania. **Take a moment to pray this month for our Budapest Fellowship, led by Larry & Katie Winckles and Julia Toth.**

Continue to pray for the regional gathering for all of the people involved in our Carpathian ministries. The date is set: September 26-29 with Pastor Andy Ollerton (Penzance, England) as our speaker. Theme: "Taste and See that the Lord Is..."

Giving

Remember, you can give online at www.thedunnsinromania.org. Or you can go to www.fmwm.org and click on GIVE. Follow the instructions for online giving, and **be sure to specify Dunns Missionary Support**. As you give, remember:

- 1) **Faithfulness and consistency** of your gifts keeps our balance adequate.
- 2) You must **designate** "Dunns in Romania" so funds are credited properly to our account.
- 3) **Communicate** your giving commitments to us so we know what we can count on. THANKS!

Support Update

As of June 11, we have received 39% of our annual support need. 42% would be ideal, but we're thankful for each gift that comes in. Thank you for making our ministry here possible!

Dunn Website www.theDunnsinRomania.org

Response Checklist

- Partner in Ministry forms are available in electronic (MS Word) format at www.thedunnsinromania.org. Contact us if you or someone you know would like to sign up as a partner with us.
- Contact information: Phone: 614-771-0438 (rings in Romania...remember we're 7 hours ahead of EST) or 011 40 257 338 268
Email: skipee85@gmail.com (Scott) or frankee85@gmail.com (Paula)
Skype ID: skipee85 (What's Skype? See www.skype.com)
Permanent address (USA): The Dunns, c/o Elton Moose, 1542 Marinette Dr, Springfield, OH 45503
Field: Scott/Paula Dunn, Str Mățăsari nr 14, Arad, 310157, Romania
- Mail financial gifts to:
Free Methodist World Missions
PO Box 535002
Indianapolis, IN 46253
OR Your local Free Methodist church
- Memo line marked "Dunns in Romania"
- Automatic checking acct. deductions (EFT) or debit/credit card charges for regular support commitments are now available. Contact us if you'd like to automate your missions giving.