

19th October

2021

Dear praying friends,

Warm greetings in the Precious Name of our unique Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A very challenging year for us all since we last wrote, but our sovereign God is in absolute control. At home we are reading through the book of Psalms and we hath been reminded that “our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased” (115:3). **Verses 11-12** refer to Israel but it has also been the present experience of believers: “Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: He is **their help and their shield**”. How wonderful that “the Lord hath been mindful of us”.

The work that the Lord has given to us has been adapted to fit in with changing Covid travel restrictions. At the time of writing the infection rate for Covid is sharply increasing and local lockdowns are being imposed in some areas. Wearing of masks and social distancing is still in place in shops and public places as well as in assembly gatherings.

Time has been well used for personal Bible study and advancing different ministries. Using Zoom Paul had ministry meetings with assemblies in Romania, U.K. and Europe, and report meetings with assemblies in the U.K. It was encouraging to renew fellowship with many of you on Zoom and your continued interest and prayers are much appreciated.

During August we were invited to a wedding in Ploiești and one in the Brașov area when a young believer, who had been in Sue’s infant school, was married. We really enjoyed the wedding reception in Codlea when we renewed fellowship with believers we had not seen for a long time.

Autumn/Winter 2020

Gospel literature and 2021 calendars (100,000) were distributed by assembly believers over large areas of Romania and into schools, offices and factories. Also distribution took place among Romanians living in Spain, Italy, Brussels, Athens and London. During “lockdown” 75,000 A4 gospel texts (Galatians 4:4) were printed for distribution with the calendars. Increasingly, one of our roles is to provide very large quantities of gospel tracts and booklets, A4 and A5 gospel texts (with a gospel message on the reverse) for Romanian evangelists, believers and assemblies. An example of the way they are being used is that during the year we have had contact with younger brethren from the Făgăraș assembly, County of Brașov, and we now supply them with 10,000 of each of the tracts that are printed so that they can cover the whole town. They also

engage in gospel visitation work in villages around Făgăraș.

In recent years believers have been encouraged to distribute this literature on the streets in towns and cities in different regions during the Christmas and Easter periods. It is most encouraging to see the development of this public gospel testimony and how believers have caught the vision. Before Christmas it was a privilege to distribute calendars and gospel literature with believers on the streets of different towns in the Counties of Hunedoara, Gorj and Mehedinți.

Spring/Summer 2021 – Covid-19 and lifting of some restrictions

Easter week saw us back on the streets in the County of Hunedoara with believers in the mining valley of Jiu in three towns (Petrila, Petroșani and Vulcan) and in the towns of Deva and Hunedoara distributing gospel literature about the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Different assemblies in other areas of Romania also did the same.

The gospel tent ministry entered its 14th summer season. The Lord has been so good since May 2008 when we pitched our first tent in Călimănești, in the County of Vrancea. Weather and Covid restrictions permitting gospel tents were pitched in 87 places in 17 Counties throughout Romania and in 3 villages in the Republic of Moldova (Citulești, Dumitrești and Dorățcaia), with over 14,000 children attending meetings and over 13,000 people (saved and unsaved) attending gospel tent meetings. Most encouraging is the fact that good numbers of people have been saved by Divine grace, especially in the Counties of Suceava and Hunedoara. Social distancing was in place but people were able to listen to the gospel message outside the tent, on the roadside, on their balconies or in their gardens.

In our home County of Prahova tents were pitched in different villages and good numbers of unsaved adults attended especially in Brazi de Sus, Moara Nouă, Florești, Bertești and Coada Izvorului. A tent was pitched in the grounds of a school in Moara Nouă where more than 25 unsaved adults were present and four people professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. 70 children came along to special meetings for them. On Lord’s day it was a real joy to preach in the tent when a young man was baptised by immersion.

Autumn 2021

During the year 14 assemblies in our home County of Prahova were visited fairly regularly for ministry; monthly studies on a Saturday continued in Sibiu (10.00 to 14.00) and younger brethren benefitted much from

these systematic studies on the New Testament and are developing their spiritual gift locally. Encouraging visits have been made to assemblies in the Counties of Iași, Suceava, Argeș, Vrancea and Giurgiu.

Due to Covid travel restrictions visits to Romanian speaking assemblies in Italy were not possible. However intensive Bible studies on the Old Testament continued with the Ponsacco assembly using Zoom. God willing, studies in the New Testament commence next month.

Until May 2022 systematic Bible teaching will continue in the County of Prahova and further afield. Studies on Saturdays will commence in the East of Romania in Galați this weekend.

Winter 2021

God willing, we are awaiting a delivery of 130,000 calendars for 2022. They will be transported to key areas ready for believers to distribute together with an A5 gospel text (1 Timothy 1:15) and a tract to personal contacts. Distribution will also take place during special gospel outreaches in December.

Literature projects remain a priority. The print run for each tract is usually 100,000. During the year 210,000 gospel tracts and 150,000 gospel booklets have been printed. Also, as a result of positive discussions with elders in some local assemblies, 350,000 A6 gospel texts on card (with a short gospel message on the reverse) have been printed. These will be distributed during the month of December especially to apartment blocks in towns and cities in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

Transportation of literature – During the last year huge quantities of gospel literature have been distributed throughout Romania. Over the last few months Paul has transported over one million gospel tracts and booklets. Recently we received 1.2 million gospel tracts (2 new tracts and a reprint of one). One of these new tracts (about the birth of the Lord Jesus) will be used nationally during December along with the calendars.

Purchase of land and the construction of a literature storage facility – As the gospel outreach work has expanded the storage of gospel literature, Bibles, New Testaments and Bible study books has become an increasing problem. Temporary short term measures have been found, but after looking at various options the need for a purpose built storage facility in a strategic location became very clear.

After many months of searching, with a few false starts and some disappointments, a suitable plot of land has been bought on the outskirts of the city of Suceava, Northern Romania. The Lord's hand in locating and providing for the

land has been timely. We praise and thank Him for His provision through His people. Prayer is greatly valued for the next important stages: planning permission and the construction of the storage facility for literature and other items connected with the gospel tent work, as well as office space.

At present we are exploring the possibility of having a separate building for accommodation purposes on the land.

A significant quantity of the literature printed is used in the Northern region of Moldavia. It is an area that we have been visiting for many years. During the last year 25 visits were made to Moldavia (N.E. Romania) for ministry meetings in the Counties of Iași, Suceava, Galați and Vrancea; delivery of gospel literature and discussions with brethren and gospel workers in the Counties of Iași, Suceava, Vaslui, Neamț, Botoșani, Bacău and Vrancea.

Prayer is valued for Paul and other brethren who are involved in the region of Moldavia (N.E. Romania) in a gospel outreach initiative amongst the many assemblies in urban and rural areas. It commenced last winter and there have been some positive developments.

All of the above would indicate the future direction of a significant use of our time and service for the Lord in the region.

Sue continues to keep busy checking the translation of the **Precious Seed books on the Old Testament and Everyday Evangelism (sharing the gospel in conversation)** by Paul McCauley and David Williamson. The latter book will be a significant help to the new gospel work initiative amongst assemblies in Moldavia, N.E. Romania. Sue has good contact with young people as they visit our home to improve their English.

Goods sent out for the tent work and for people living in isolated communities have been gratefully received. Thank you to everyone who has put time and effort into bringing joy to families who often have very little.

May you know much of the Lord's strength, help and encouragement in your own spheres of service, as together we "occupy until He come".

Warmly in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Paul and Sue Williams

P.S. Please let us know if you prefer to receive this prayer letter via email or no longer wish to receive it. Many thanks for your help.