

Update from Romania - April 17, 2022

Lord willing, this will be my last update from Romania as I plan to travel to Bucharest Monday, make sure my COVID-procedures are in order and the fly back to the USA, Tuesday morning.



This has been another wonderful but difficult week. We learned on Monday that Vitaly, the man with cancer who needed crutches, passed away. His last wishes were to be returned to Ukraine to be buried. Thanks to your generosity, we are making this happen, working with his wife Oxana (pictured between myself and Sorina) to get him back home.

It was also difficult to say good-bye to friends that I have grown so close to over the past four weeks.

Thankfully, two men from Jonesboro - Randy Simpkins and Mike Manning - arrived on Tuesday and I have “trained” them to assume my responsibilities. Actually, Mike was immediately “thrown into the fray!”

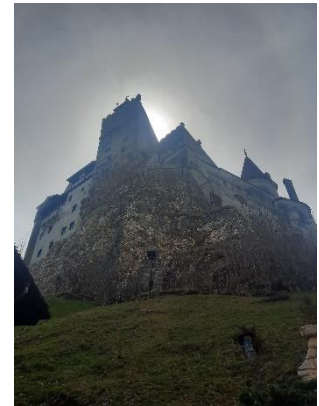
He arrived Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning they had him on the Ukraine Express - the 9+ hour journey to Chernivtsi with Adi and Dragos, an overnight stay at the church there and, then the return trip. I am happy to say they had a successful trip and Mike survived.

I spoke last Sunday in Cluj and taught English classes and have now turned these duties over to Randy. Randy was a little “anxious” about teaching English especially since they also scheduled a children’s class for him to teach on Friday.



Thursday, I traveled to Pitesti which is 75 miles north of Bucharest where I was able to reunite with my friends that rode with us from Chernivtsi. I wanted to spend a couple of days with the congregation here. They have a very active English ministry which I was interested in seeing in hopes of maybe helping with someday.

I also got to mark another item off my bucket list - a trip to Bran Castle. Only 70 miles from Pitesti, the drive is through some of the most idyllic country I have ever seen and the castle exceeded my expectations.



On Friday evening, I got to speak to the High School class at church here. It is always wonderful to make new friends with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Below are some additional pictures of my friends and English students and the trip from Pitesti to Bran and the Castle. There are also a couple of photos from the Sunday church services at Pitesti where I spoke this morning along with “three little angels” that went to the park with me Saturday!

John



