

14th January 2023

“Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing”
(**Psalm 65:11-13**).

Dear brother in Christ, William,

Warmest greetings to the saints in the **Barrhead** Assembly in the lovely Name of our unique Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. Sincere apologies for the delay in writing this letter of thanks, we have been extremely busy in the Lord’s work throughout the year, especially during the last few months with extensive travel in order to complete the literature storage facility in northern Romania, and also systematic Bible studies and ministry meetings in different areas. In fact, 32 trips have been made to Suceava and the region of Moldavia (N & NE Romania) during 2022. We give thanks to the Lord for the needed help, health and strength to serve Him for His glory, “Soli Deo gloria”.

We are so thankful for the most kind gift of **200 pounds** sent to us from the saints. The Assembly’s ongoing prayer and sacrificial practical fellowship is a source of much encouragement to us (often very timely) as we continue to press on with different aspects of the Lord’s wonderful work in this former Communist country, Romania.

30 years ago Sue and I were commended by the Cheshunt Assembly to the grace of God for work amongst the assemblies in Eastern Europe. We have been living in Romania since May 1996 and the Lord has been so good.

The above verses from **Psalm 65** in their context speak of the harvest in which our great God “crowns the year with His goodness”. They speak of rejoicing and singing, of hills and valleys, of flocks and fruits, all sharing in the joy of the harvest. We give much thanks to our unchanging God (**Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**) for His goodness in providing for our needs and especially the needs of His great work among the 700+ autonomous assemblies in Romania. We can say with the great Apostle Paul: “Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day” (**Acts 26:22**).

We trust that during these days of uncertainty, international crises, wars and rumours of wars, believers in the local assembly are experiencing Divine help from above, the preciousness of the Lord’s presence and spiritual courage daily as we await the imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended...” (**Jeremiah 8:20**) and we have different reasons for much praise and thanksgiving to our great God along with items for continued prayer:

GOSPEL TENT WORK

1. Pray for the many unsaved people who listened to the preaching of the good news of God’s free and eternal salvation in gospel tents **in 84 places** throughout Romania and in **5 places** in the Republic of Moldova.

2. Pray for preparations already being made for the 16th summer season of gospel work, especially in the North and North East of Romania, in the Counties of Suceava, Vaslui and Iași. Plans are being made to develop a tent work among children and teenagers from unsaved families in order to have weekly meetings with the younger generation and ultimately contact with their parents.

3. Give thanks to God for people saved in tent meetings. Recently a 91 year old lady who was saved in tent meetings in July in Mihoveni, County of Suceava, was baptized.

LITERATURE STORAGE FACILITY - Give thanks to God for the completion of this building near Suceava, northern Romania. Most of the literature that has been stored in our house, sheds in Ploiești and temporarily in other areas has been transported to Suceava. It is beneficial having literature stored in a strategic location with easy access. We are currently assessing the need to print and/or reprint gospel booklets and tracts.

PRINTING WORK - Prayer is greatly valued for the printing of large quantities of gospel tracts and booklets. Despite the cost of printing increasing 250% during the last 18 months we are committed to meeting the need, thus enabling gospel workers and believers to engage in personal evangelism with appropriate gospel literature.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LORD'S WORK

1. The wonderful opportunity to preach during the month of December at baptisms.

(a) December 4th – 5 believers were baptised in an assembly in Bârlad, County of Vaslui, and over 200 people were present, including 30 unsaved people.

(b) December 25th – 6 believers were baptised in the Bănești assembly, County of Suceava and the gospel hall and balcony were packed with believers and unbelievers.

2. The monthly Saturday Bible studies (16.00 to 19.00) in Craiova, SW Romania, and visits to assemblies in the area on the Lord's day.

3. 135,000 gospel calendars and 100,000 A5 gospel texts (**1 John 4:14**) with a gospel message on the reverse are being distributed by believers on the streets in many towns throughout Romania and into schools, offices, public buildings and factories. Here in the region of Moldavia (N & NE Romania) large numbers of younger believers have been on the streets in different towns and cities distributing calendars and gospel literature.

4. During the first week in January I had 14 ministry meetings in 9 assemblies in the northern Counties of Iași, Suceava and Neamț, including a series of 6 ministry meetings with the large assembly in Pașcani, County of Iași. It was a wonderfully profitable time with excellent interest in the Word of God.

FUTURE PLANS

1. Having a base for the work in the region of Moldavia (N & NE Romania) will help in the consolidation of the literature work and the expansion of gospel outreach. During the winter months much time will be spent in this area for consecutive Bible teaching. Please pray for spiritual growth amongst believers.

2. Working alongside local elders and assemblies we are seeking to develop different aspects of the Lord's work with a younger generation of believers living in a constantly changing society.

3. Continuation of consecutive Bible studies in different areas of Romania and the recommencement (**17th – 22nd January**) of them in two Romanian speaking assemblies in Italy (5 nights with the large assembly in Vilalba, Rome, and the weekend with the Spoleto assembly).

4. Continuation of the monthly Saturday Bible studies (16.00 to 19.00) in Craiova, SW Romania, and visits to assemblies in the area on the Lord's day (**28th–29th January; 25th–26th February**).

5. The completion of the translation and checking of the book Everyday Evangelism (sharing the gospel in conversation) by Paul McCauley and David Williamson.

6. Sue continues the huge task of checking the translation of the **Precious Seed books on the Old Testament**.

The Assembly's fellowship practically and in prayer is much needed and greatly appreciated. May the Lord Jesus Christ richly bless you during these challenging times as we await His imminent return (**Hebrews 10:37**).

Yours in the Master's service and with much love in the Lord,

Paul and Sue Williams