

**O.P.10, C.P.18, Ploiesti, Jud. Prahova, Romania**

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**November 2020**

Dear praying friends,

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

How thankful we are that we have a faithful, unchanging God controlling our lives. His wonderful Word gives us great stability in uncertain times. Covid 19 has brought difficulties, challenges and new opportunities using technology for Bible teaching and gospel outreach.

In 1902 William Marconi transmitted his first transatlantic radio telegraphic message. Recognising the hand and help of God in his many experiments he transmitted the historic words: **“What God hath wrought” (Numbers 23:23).**

Below are a few details of assembly work for praise and fellowship in prayer about **“What God hath wrought”** in Romania. It is very important to underline that it is not our work, it is the Lord's work, and it is the Sovereign Lord who has worked and continues to work to His praise and for His eternal glory.

#### **Autumn/Winter 2019 – Teaching, travelling, printing and distribution of literature**

Many miles were covered for Bible teaching (series of ministry meetings, intensive Bible studies, regular visits to assemblies for ministry) in Romania, Italy and Austria. Gospel literature and 2020 calendars (100,000) were distributed by assembly believers over large areas of Romania and into schools, offices, hospitals and factories. Also distribution took place among Romanians living in Spain, Italy, Brussels, Athens and London. Along with the calendars 125,000 A4 gospel texts (Luke 2:7) and 125,000 gospel tracts entitled “Christmas travellers” were printed.

Increasingly, one of our roles is to provide large quantities of gospel tracts and booklets, A4 and A5 gospel texts (with a gospel message on the back) for Romanian evangelists and believers in local assemblies.

During the last three years we have worked together with assembly believers to distribute this literature on the streets in towns and cities in different regions during the Christmas and Easter periods. We are most encouraged to see the development of this public gospel testimony and how believers have caught the vision! Last Christmas, it was good to join evangelists and believers on the streets in the towns of Deva, Motru and Baia de Aramă distributing calendars and gospel literature. Also three days were spent with a

brother from our local assembly distributing over 1,500 calendars on the streets of the city of Ploiești and engaging in conversation with some people.

**Bible teaching and gospel preaching** in our local area and further afield continue to bring much encouragement. Younger believers are progressing and developing their gifts in the Lord's work.

Last Christmas an invitation was received from the Pietrișu assembly to speak in a large public hall in Găujani, on the Romanian/Bulgarian border. The hall was packed with 300 children and young people plus a good number of unsaved adults and teachers from the school. It was a wonderful opportunity to preach the gospel to so many.

Early January, Paul was in N.E. Romania for 8 days of intense ministry meetings (one, two or three daily – 17 in total), including a series of ten ministry meetings with the large assembly in Pașcani (nightly up to 150 attended and on the two Lord's day over 250 were present with a large number of young people). Four meetings (10.00 to 12.00) took place with the Heleșteni assembly and the hall was packed with believers from two other assemblies and up to 30 young people. The monthly intensive studies on a Saturday in Sibiu were most profitable and the brethren who attended have great potential for the future.

With the Lord's help most of the **literature projects** proposed for last year were successfully completed. The new gospel tracts and booklets printed have been well used. Different A4 and A5 picture texts with a gospel message on the back are appreciated. As we continue to receive requests for **gospel and Bible teaching literature** from Romania and Romanians living abroad we continue to replenish our stocks.

2,000 copies of the “Precious Seed” publication, “Overview of the New Testament” (325 pages) were printed in May 2019 and another 2,000 copies in December. In June 2,000 copies of Clark Logan's book “Christianity in action – 1<sup>st</sup> century principles for today” (255 pages) were printed. Both books have been much appreciated by believers.

Large quantities of Bibles and New Testaments have been purchased for gospel outreach work. This month we received a request for 300 New Testaments for distribution by a Christian taxi driver in Pașcani, County of Iași.

#### **Spring/Summer 2020 – Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions**

In late January and early March Paul was in Italy for 10 days of Bible teaching in three Romanian speaking assemblies and arrived back in Romania just before strict lockdown restrictions were imposed. As we could not travel until the end of May time was spent in personal Bible study, ministry meetings using Zoom for assemblies in Romania and Italy, checking literature for printing and regular Bible studies using a mobile phone with a new convert who has just requested baptism.

**The gospel tent ministry** has been possible in some areas but has been greatly restricted by the Covid 19 pandemic. This year was the 13th summer of gospel outreach using tents. Despite the pandemic gospel tents were pitched in **44** places in nine Counties, with nearly 5,000 children attending meetings and over 5,000 people (saved and unsaved) attending gospel tent meetings. Some people professed faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though social distancing was in place 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 very good numbers of unsaved adults attended especially in Brazi de Sus, Moara Nouă and Popești. Early July, in fellowship with the Brazi assembly, we had two nights of open air gospel meetings in **Brazi Colonie**, near the oil refinery. This was the first time we have been there and official permission was granted to hold the meetings in a children's park by the apartment blocks. Each night over 20 unsaved adults as well as children attended and the interest was very good.

It has been encouraging during these challenging months to hear of believers obeying the command of the Lord Jesus Christ by being baptised by immersion. A few times this year we have visited the two assemblies in Codlea, where we lived for 11 years, for ministry meetings. Both assemblies had baptisms during the summer and the assembly where we used to be in fellowship baptised 13 believers. Also the assembly in Brazi, in our local area, baptised 11 believers. In August Paul was invited to preach in the tent in Pietrișu, County of Giurgiu, when a sister was baptised by immersion. She was saved in a Romanian speaking church in Seven Sisters, North London last year. There were about 50 unsaved present to listen to the wonderful message of salvation.

**Bible teaching** – During the last few months 11 assemblies in our home County of Prahova have been visited for ministry; monthly studies on a Saturday

continue in Sibiu (10.00 to 14.00) and also with the assembly in Pietrișu on a Lord's day evening. Encouraging visits have been made to assemblies in the Counties of Iași, Suceava, Vaslui, Vrancea, Giurgiu and Buzău.

Sue has been kept busy **teaching English** in our home to children and young people, when possible, due to the Covid 19 restrictions and also checking literature that has been translated into Romanian.

**Transportation of literature** – During the last few months Paul has transported over one million gospel tracts and booklets and has started to establish storage areas for literature in some strategic locations, especially in the region of Moldavia (N.E. Romania).

### **Winter 2020 and future plans**

God willing, 100,000 calendars for 2021 will arrive at the end of the month. They will be transported to key areas ready for believers to distribute with an A4 gospel text and a tract to personal contacts and during gospel outreaches in the month of December.

There is a need to print further gospel tracts for different occasions. The print run for each tract will be 100,000.

During the Winter and Spring months systematic Bible teaching will continue in the County of Prahova and further afield. God willing, early next year monthly studies on Saturdays will commence in the East of Romania in Galați and Tulcea.

Prayer is requested for Paul who will be involved with different brethren in the region of Moldavia (N.E. Romania) in a new gospel outreach initiative amongst the many assemblies in rural and urban areas. This will be a long term work in the context of a rapidly changing world in general and Romania in particular. In parallel with this we are making preparations for next year's tent ministry.

**Goods** sent out for the tent work and for people living in isolated communities have been much appreciated. Those who receive the goods are very grateful and thank everyone for the hard work put into the purchasing, packing and sending of them.

May God bless and encourage you all as you work faithfully for Him in your various spheres of service.

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.