



Geoff and Gill Kimber

CMS Mission Partners serving in Romania

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Our dear friends,

Inevitably time is going quickly. It has been absolutely great to see our link churches again over the past few months, and to meet new ones. We've been tremendously encouraged by your interest and your support, and would like to thank you all for your love, kindness and generosity. We return to Romania on 6th January enriched by the time we have been able to spend with you.

Just before we left Romania in July, something very significant happened, too late for our last link letter. God led us, in His mysterious way! – to the Orthodox Archbishop of Alba Iulia, Andrei Andrecuts. The upshot of our meeting was that he has invited us to join the staff of his theological faculty when we return, Gill to teach English and Geoff to teach a variety of subjects, including Anglicanism, ecumenism, and possibly even mission. To our amazement, we were able to sign a formal Mission Partner Agreement, with our Regional Manager Timothy Okroev and Archbishop Andrei at the end of June.

When we go back we will therefore be moving to Alba Iulia. We are also expecting to work much more with different Lord's Army groups. The visit of Nicu and Aurelia Pavel to UK in September went very well, and they were challenged and stimulated by all that they were able to do here. Nicu is already planning a more advanced stage for the lay training course that he runs. Gill and Aurelia are looking forward to working more with LA women, encouraging them in mission too. This is new for them, as it's always the men who do the preaching and evangelism!

We will continue with our Cross of Nails work, in the new Centre for Ecumenical Research in Sibiu, the Lutheran/Orthodox initiative we mentioned to you last time. We're excited that CMS is planning a Praxis* visit to Romania in September 2006, and we're arranging the re-presentation of the Cross of Nails to the Centre, along with the presentation of our theological library, to coincide with their visit. It feels like a step forward on to a stronger foundation.

It has of course been great seeing our family. Juliet and Ian had a lovely wedding in July, and we were able to go on holiday afterwards with Hannah, Mauricio and of course our new grand-daughter Naomi. Robin graduated and was taken on part-time by Bath Abbey as a youth worker. Caris gave us an anxious time in September when

she was admitted to hospital with severe, acute pancreatitis: but she recovered well after surgery and is now back at work, thoroughly enjoying her job as a doctor in Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge. We are grateful to all those who knew about this and prayed for her.

We look forward now to our first full family Christmas for many years. After that it will be Gill's Dad's birthday, then packing up and moving out from Charlie's little house in Coventry that has served us well as an excellent base. We fly first to Timisoara in Romania, where we will be on a Romanian language refresher course for a couple of weeks. Then on to Alba Iulia, where we will be flat-hunting – in the middle of winter! Below-zero temperatures for many weeks are not something we're thrilled about.



For this reason we can't yet give you our Romanian address, but once we've found somewhere we'll let you know. We will have to move all the furniture from Sibiu.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Please accept this letter as our Christmas card to you. We praise God for you and your prayerful support, and pray that he will bless you with his overflowing love this Christmas as we worship him for his great gift of Jesus our Lord.

In His love,

Gill and Geoff

Praise God for:

Safety in all our traveling
Hospitality and generosity of our churches, friends and family
Being able to worship in Anglican churches – in English!
Time with our family, and especially Caris' recovery
The support and partnership of the CMS team

Please pray for:

Our journey back to Romania
The ability to adapt quickly again to the culture and language
The provision of a suitable flat in Alba Iulia
Our new relationships with Archbishop Andrei and his staff
God's blessing and guidance on our work with the Lord's Army
The fact that we will be missing family very much

We'd like to leave you with the quotation that we have been using with you all:

"The nearer we draw to Christ, the nearer we draw to each other."

** If you would like more details of the Praxis visit to Romania next September, please contact Debbie James, the CMS cross-cultural engagement adviser, on debbie.james@cms-uk.org or write to her at CMS, Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU 020 7928 8681*



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