



The Master's Mission, Inc.

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Dear Ministry Partners,

Daniel and Nellie, TMM missionaries in Romania have had a busy year.

After all of us did battle with COVID in December 2020 (only Nellie and Samy had some mild symptoms, the rest of us "just knowing" we had it), 2021 started with high hopes considering our recent immunity. However, late in January my Dad contracted a fairly severe form of the virus, and was hospitalized for two weeks. It was not until Easter he was well enough to go to church again and to fill the pulpit in my absence, which I'm very thankful for. Nellie's Mom had to go to Cluj for six weeks of radio therapy, as she's battling breast cancer, and we rented an apartment for her and for Nellie's sister somewhere close to the clinic. The weeks came and went, and the results are encouraging, thank God.

Meanwhile I was frantically searching the net for a tractor for the farm, both in Romania and in Europe, but the prices have increased so much over the last year that it was nearly impossible to stay within the budget. Just as I was about to lose hope, I saw a new announcement of a John Deere tractor that had everything I wanted, and the price was around 13.000 \$. It was 11 pm, but I immediately called the seller and set up an appointment for the next day. Noticing the absence of profanity in the seller's vocabulary, which is a strange thing in a "Christian" country like Romania, I asked him if he was a church goer. He said yes, and he thought I was a believer, too. So I found out he is a Baptist brother, and we have some acquaintances in the area. The final price was 12.000 \$ transport included, so this was the hand of God. The tractor runs well and right away we started plowing and tilling the ground, which was a great improvement over the old tractor. Thankful to God for the way He works things out for the best.

There is now a third church who asked me to be their pastor, and it's on my way from the city to the two churches in the mountains. Ministry has increased, but so also the opportunities for our members to help have increased. Despite the pandemic, the three churches are doing well. Anyone who visits the churches up in the mountains gets spiritually refreshed. We just had VBS at the church in the village of Teliuc, near Hunedoara. 20-30 kids every day.

One exciting project this year is the completion of the additions to the second building on the farm (the blue house for those who know) as a place for fellowship, training and fun activities especially for young people and for families. I intend to kick things off with the European Soccer Championship, which starts in June 2021, inviting young people (Christians and their non-Christian friends) to watch soccer games on a big-screen TV, with loudspeakers, away from the city, where we don't bother anyone even into the night. Pancakes, juice, foosball table, ping pong, will be available at half-time and between games, a time to get to know each other and maybe start some discussions that eventually will lead to closer relationships, evangelism and discipleship. The beach volleyball court will receive an upgrade, some solar lights will be installed and let the games begin. This has been on my heart for a long time, but now we are finally able to use some solar electricity, and these dreams can become reality. And once they get familiar with the property and its owners 😊 maybe the Lord will bring into their life more than just having some healthy, wholesome good time!

In May I had arthroscopic surgery on my left knee. Meniscus and ligaments were taken care of, but as the doctor said, they can only repair what's left, I can't get back what I already lost. I only have a little more than half of my left meniscus, and the MRIs say the same about my right knee. Upon recovering from this surgery, I will be scheduled for a similar procedure on my right knee. All this to delay knee replacement surgery, which will probably be necessary on both my knees. The doctor said that depending on how well I recover, this might give me a 2-3 or a 5-10-year extension. (Editor's note: On Sept 15, Daniel had surgery to remove steel from his leg following a weed eater accident on the farm).

It's a hot and dry summer in Hunedoara. We haven't had rain for two months and it's terrible. I haul water twice a day and sometimes three times a day with my van, 120 gallons a trip, and that's only for the animals. NO garden this year. We keep an eye out for fires and the plow is always ready, just in case someone or something causes a fire. The tractor is working fine, a major improvement over what we had before. Four-wheel drive really helps. Minor problems detected, will start servicing as soon as haying season is over.

Thanks for thinking of us and praying for us. We do the same for you. We are in the same battle, thousands of miles away. God's blessings to you all.

Your fellow servant of Christ,

Daniel Popa