Cornerstone - Global Ministries

One Nation at a Time - ROMANIA

Grace and peace to you in our Lord! In order to facilitate a global perspective amongst the staff and communities, we have put together a template to encourage the body to pray for a specific country and partnership each week.

Pray for All People:

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

--1 Timothy.2:1-4

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

--James.5:16b

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 805.581.9532 or e-mail:

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The Country

The principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia - for centuries under the suzerainty of the Turkish Ottoman Empire - secured their autonomy in 1856; they united in 1859 and a few years later adopted the new name of Romania. The country gained recognition of its independence in 1878. It joined the Allied Powers in World War I and acquired new territories - most notably Transylvania - following the conflict. In 1940, Romania allied with the Axis powers and participated in the 1941 German invasion of the USSR. Three years later, overrun by the Soviets, Romania signed an armistice. The post-war Soviet occupation led to the formation of a Communist "people's republic" in 1947 and the abdication of the king. The decades-long rule of dictator Nicolae CEAUSESCU, who took power in 1965, and his Securitate police state became increasingly oppressive and draconian through the 1980s. CEAUSESCU was overthrown and executed in late 1989. Former Communists dominated the government until 1996 when they were swept from power. Romania joined NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2007.*

Facts and Figures

Capital City: Bucharest

Population: 22,215,421 (July 2009 est.)

Religion: Eastern Orthodox (including all sub-denominations) 86.8%, Protestant (various denominations including Reformate and Pentecostal) 7.5%, Roman Catholic 4.7%, other (mostly Muslim) and unspecified 0.9%, none 0.1% (2002 census)*

Language: Romanian 91% (official), Hungarian 6.7%, Romany (Gypsy) 1.1%, other 1.2%

The Church

The Church in Romania faces many challenges. Pray that the church would be flexible in weathering and embracing the transition from severe persecution and restrictions to freedom of worship. Pray also that ethnic and denominational division would not infect and break down Evangelical church bodies. *

Our Prayer

- Praise God for the amazing work that has been done in Romania since 1989. Romania has the third highest population of Evangelicals in Europe, and until 1999 there were an average of five new churches opening each week. Pray that this growth would be sustained, and that there would be adequate human and material resources available to support it.
- Pray for the pastors in Romania who, on average, supervise five churches. Most churches lack a pastor and many pastors lack training.
- Pray that this need would be addressed and that workers would be released into Romania to disciple new believers and lead the church in effective and Spirit-led evangelism.

Our Partnerships

- **Pastor Viorel Cruceru** serves in Slatina, Romania, with Grace Bible Church. The church currently owns the house and property for the House of Grace Orphanage. They have 11 teenagers and can accommodate a total of 22. These teens are required to be a part of GBC and must graduate from high school. The orphanage just graduated eight teens to secondary schools throughout Romania. The church also owns property in the downtown area and is compiling funds for a building. The five men on the board use the contributions for their salaries to support the orphanage and put monies away in savings for the building fund.
- Please pray for the **Cruceru** family as they continue to minister to the orphans and community in Slatina. They are in need of short term lead contractors to build and/or complete selected building projects, as well as funds with which to compensate for the labor.
- Pray for books and study materials for college students, including scholarships for each session.

*Some statistics and information were gathered from the Operation World Prayer Calendar and CIA World Factbook.