



Happy Birthday - God bless you!

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:2,3 (ESV)

Richard Shaw
Director for Eastern Europe

Meet a wonderful Romanian pastor and his wife, Daniel and Marinela Dragnea, who are currently being supported by Praise International. They recently attended a pastors and wives conference where Praise International participated as a ministry partner. It was Pastor Daniel's 40th birthday on Thursday of our conference. All the pastors sang the Romanian "Happy Birthday" song. It was beautiful, in four-part harmony! Then he gave a chocolate to each person present, part of a Romanian tradition, after which he and the person to whom he gave a chocolate exchanged a "kiss on each cheek" greeting, with warm words of blessing. It was such a meaningful experience to share in his birthday celebration. Pastor Daniel, who speaks no English, communicated through his wife, Marinela, that being at the pastors' conference was the best birthday gift we could have given him! I also asked Daniel and Marinela to share the special needs of their ministry:

"We have been going to minister in the village of Feorteni, Romania, since 2002. We began by visiting families in their homes. In 2005 an elderly Christian woman in the village welcomed us to hold services in her

home every Sunday morning. In 2006 she died, and now her children have decided to sell the house and share the proceeds from the sale among themselves. The sale price for the home is \$50,000. Land in the village is very expensive, and even though the house is small and old, the location of the house is very good for our church ministry. One of the surviving children has told us that if the house is sold, he will donate his portion of the sale to our church so that we might be able to try to buy the land or find another suitable building. Our prayers are that God's will be done, but we are sad inside. The Orthodox priest in the village is very happy to see that our church might be forced to close. Now we are waiting to see what will happen; thankfully, we are able to continue to meet

in the house each Sunday until the house is sold. We know that God has a plan for everything."

-Daniel and Marinela Dragnea

Will you pray with Daniel and Marinela regarding this need for either being able to purchase the house or find another suitable location where the church will be able to meet? Your gift of any amount for their church would be a great blessing to them and their church, and will assure the continued advance of the gospel in this Romanian village. Send your gift to Praise International, designated for the "Feorteni, Romania Church Project."

God bless you!



Left to Right:
Freddie Harris of
Greater Europe
Mission, Pastor
Daniel and
Marinela Dragnea,
and Richard Shaw,
Praise International.

Praise International Office Relocation

Praise International has a new home. The offices have relocated to 1406 Main, Suite 202, in Meridian, Idaho. Our new address is Post Office Box 100, Meridian, Idaho 83680. Our local phone number is 208.884.5149, and our fax number is 208.888.0611. We thank the Lord for this gracious provision, which will provide substantial savings over our previous location. Thank you for praying with us about this need over the past several months. Please make note of our new address for your future correspondence with us.



Sent by God

“... as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:17

By Rob Kelley

Ignace Augustin served the devil.

He knew nothing better. Nearly everyone he knew in his home of La Porte, Haiti practiced voodoo; his entire family was involved in witchcraft. It promised him money and power. His environment drew him in, and what kept him was the promise—and the terror. Satan had a firm grip on his life. But it was a tenuous grip, for God had other plans.

Ignace grew more and more frustrated with life. He wanted out of voodoo but saw it to be a trap. He still had the idea that it could make him rich and powerful but found the sacrifices required for the power to be too great, and he still had none of the money it offered.

Then on a mountaintop in 1968 Ignace heard the gospel. The Spirit made it clear to him that Jesus was God. Ignace prayed, “Jesus, if You are God please show me. I know I am lost and want to be saved. I will go whatever way.” He was shown nothing. The next day as he took lunch in his apartment he was impressed to take all of his instruments of witchcraft and destroy them. Then a voice spoke in his head that to do so would kill him. Ignace knew God had spoken; he also knew the devil had spoken. He did not know God but he was familiar with Satan and was scared. He got his hands on a Bible for the very first time and opened it to the Psalms. As he read the fear left his heart. Voodoo is full of fear—a fear which the scriptures released. So Ignace destroyed the tools of his former life and knelt in his room to receive Christ.

For a time this put him in between two worlds. Darkness was still all around him but he was on a path to light. No matter the opposition, he knew he had to serve God—and he would be rewarded.

At this time the other way of his natural life, gambling, was beginning to pay off. Through it he was getting the money that voodoo had never delivered. But he soon became convinced that God did not want him gambling either. So Ignace quit. He did not know how he would live; no gambling meant no money. Still, he knew that

“the just shall live by faith.” Ignace took a step of faith.

Deciding to trust God to provide, he did not even go downtown where his friends would be, for they would surely give him money. Instead he prayed and waited. That afternoon a knock on the door revealed a friend who had become worried for him and came to give him money. Ignace knew this was a gift from God—like the birds brought to Elijah.

More convinced than ever that he would serve the Lord, Ignace soon had a dream that he would attend Bible College in the United States. In the dream he spoke in English, which he had never done in his waking life.

He and his friends laughed at the idea. Nevertheless, he soon found himself in America doing odd jobs when two Christian book sellers sold him his first English Bible and invited him to church. They asked him if he would like to go to Bible College and become a missionary to his country. He told them about his dream; they encouraged him to follow.

One obstacle blocked his path—Ignace had no money. “If the Lord wants you to go He will provide,” they said. That May he found a good job.

Ignace began making money. A Bible College did accept him but he hesitated. His job was paying him well; he liked the wealth that could be his. He kept turning away the offers. Then a Haitian friend counseled him, “Did God call you to ministry? These men must be motivated by God.” Ignace agreed to speak to his pastor and do what he said—praying that the pastor would say no.

The pastor said, yes, he should go. Ignace ended up studying in Minneapolis, living through weather he swore he could not survive. He stayed and he studied and just over four years later he was back in Haiti. Ignace once told us about the number of men who had been sent out from Haiti to American Colleges with the hope that they would come back to help minister to the people of their home and yet never returned. The money they found they could make was too great a lure. He confessed that his own heart would have lead him that same way had he been sent by men. But Ignace knew he had not been sent by

men, but by God.

He knew he was called to serve God in Haiti. He knew he would have to marry well; the wrong woman would be disastrous to his ministry. The Lord brought him Franchette. She had once had plans to become a nun, but after she found a personal relationship with God that penetrated beyond the religion of her youth, she decided to become a missionary. They were a couple called by God.

For a time they made a living selling shrimp, but their supplier went bankrupt. Again Ignace had no money. This time he had a wife to keep as well as himself. Together they turned to God. His answer to them was that He had not called them to sell shrimp but to preach the gospel. Their message from God was clear: “If you do what I say, I will send My people to Haiti to support you.”

God has done just that many, many times. And He continues to do it today.

I was fortunate enough to be one of those people blessed by such an opportunity to serve as part of a promise of God.

God is at work in Haiti. Against the dark backdrop of Satan’s work through voodoo, Jesus’ light shines all the brighter. Praise International and all who would be part of partnering with them are blessed with the opportunity to share in such great works of our Lord.

Praise International Prayer Line

- Please pray for our pastors and their families.
- Pray for the remaining liquidation of our product inventory from World’s Treasures. The final unique new and antique inventory liquidation is now available for sale at Cherry’s Consignments, 1524 Meridian Road, Meridian, Idaho. You may view items on line, at cherrysconsignment.com, or call 208.887.9488 for more information. All proceeds from the sale of these items will go to the ministries of Praise International.
- On behalf of our pastors and their families, we express a heartfelt thanks to the Barnes Foundation and the Thomas Foundation for their recent generous gifts to the ministries of Praise International.

Dream Fulfilled

“... we were like men who dreamed.”

Psalm 126:1b

By Charlotte Waggoner

I came to live in the United States with my parents at age seven, and I never thought I would have the privilege of returning to the place of my birth, the nation of India. Visiting India again was only a dream that I assumed would never become a reality.

Sixty-three years later my dream has been fulfilled. Recently my son Jeremy accompanied me on a trip to spend a week in the land of my birth. The impetus was to “check out” the orphanage which is being built in memory of my parents.

As I visited the rather insignificant city of Tuni, I was transported back in time with unchanged memories from my childhood. On major roads I saw ox carts pulling freshly harvested stalks of sugar cane, barefoot children, floods of people who moved aside to let us through when we

gently beeped the car’s horn, and vendors trying to call out to us in the few lines of English they knew to persuade us to buy their wares. Oxen roamed freely in the streets, and once when I was walking along, one approached me on the left side, pressing the warmth of his body against me. Needless to say I was startled! My immediate reaction was, “You didn’t even say ‘Excuse me!’” It was very apparent to Jeremy and me that this city, which was stuck in time, is not a tourist attraction. Oh, the stares we got!

The purpose and highlight of this trip was to see the progress of the Waggoner Memorial Children’s Home. It is doing well, and construction of the dorm-like rooms to accommodate 40 children began the day after we left. Presently 25 children are sleeping on bunk beds in a multi-purpose room in the large building which was purchased and occupied about

four months ago. Each orphan is placed in the home by a village pastor, with the purpose of making a difference in their lives, seeing them grow up to be educated, responsible, and godly young people. The orphanage plans to keep 40 children, from age six to 14, in the home at all times.

For now, until I am able to return in a few months to help with the work, I shall be content with curry and rice and chapatis and the opportunity to look at pictures with gratefulness for having had this opportunity and privilege.



Children from the Waggoner Memorial Children’s Home joyfully hold the gifts they received from Charlotte Waggoner and her son, Jeremy.

Light in a Nation of Darkness

“But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

John 3:21 (NIV)

By Jim Cook

At Bethany Church, in Les Cayes, Haiti, pastors gathered recently to meet Mike Keefer, Central America Regional Director, and Jim Cardillo, Executive Director of Praise International. Opening the



Pastor Pierre Bernadin Victal, though blind, is able to pastor his church because of the support he receives from Praise.



Pastor Leroy Esfravines, a widower, continues to lead his church and care for his grandchildren with the support he receives from his Praise International sponsor.

meeting, over 100 pastors sang in worship, their voices building together a bulwark of praise to God, blending together in common purpose.

Many of the pastors came forward to talk about their ministries. One of the pastors, Pierre Bernadin Victal is blind. He was gently led to the front of the church

supported by two other pastors. Pierre is able to continue pastoring because of the support he receives, allowing him to lead his church, as he has been led. Another pastor, Leroy Esfravines talked about his wife’s death, and the death of his daughter, leaving him to raise twin grandchildren. He talked about the ability to care for his grandchildren and still pastor his church, supported by Praise. After the meeting, lunch was provided, a small pastry and a soft drink. For men who have so little, their first thought was the meeting of our needs. These men, the front line for the gospel in Les Cayes, fight against spiritual darkness, poverty, illness, and despair. The gifts they receive from Praise International allow them to fulfill what God has called them to do.

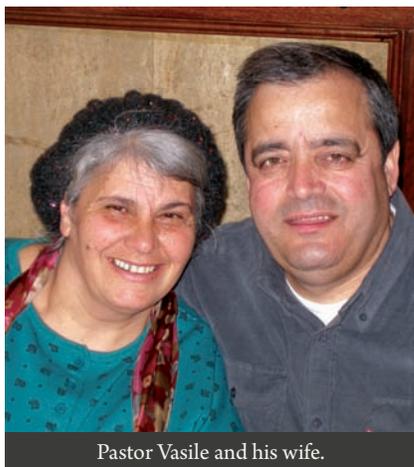
The One who calls you is Faithful

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”

I Thessalonians 5:23, 24 (NIV)

Richard Shaw
Representative for Eastern Europe

The last two weeks of March I had the wonderful privilege of representing Praise International in two conferences for pastors and wives in Eastern Europe, with one week in Romania and another week in Moldova. Our team included Freddie Harris and Bob Gonzalez with Greater Europe Mission, Roger and Cheryl Marini with Ambassadors for Christ International, retired school teacher Marilyn Knapp, and Jennie Stevenson, a retired stewardess. The first week our conference was held in Sanaia, Romania, in a hotel built in the 19th century, with rooms and meals provided by the hotel and made possible by gifts given through Praise and the other ministries. Our host pastor couple for the week was Ion and Elena Vasile, who live and pastor in Campina, Romania.



Pastor Vasile and his wife.

Pastor Vasile and his wife have a particular burden for his home village, Florica, Romania. It is a small, isolated village of 2,000 people in an area of spiritual darkness. He has received government authorization to plant a Bible teaching church in this village, but the local priest has expressed very strong opposition and ordered the church planters

not to come back to the village. He hopes to be able to purchase a house in the village and convert the building into a place where the church plant could begin holding services. Please pray for the village of Florica, that God will provide the resources needed to plant this Bible-teaching church.

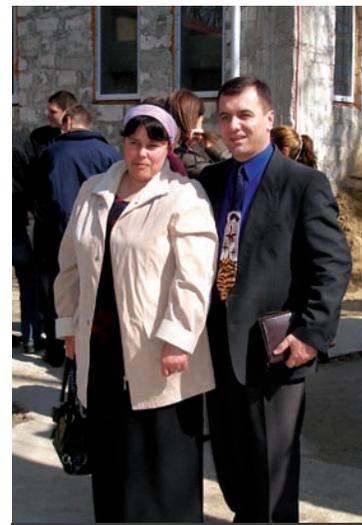
Ministry continues to be a challenge in post-communist Romania, but we had the great privilege to encourage our brothers and sisters with teaching from Joshua, Ruth and Colossians, and a study on the attributes of God.



Here is a picture of our team mingling with the pastors and wives in front of the Hospitality House in Chisinau, Moldova.

The second week we ministered to the pastors and wives in Chisinau, Moldova. We were able to gather in a Christian hospitality house in the center of the capital city, where we enjoyed their gracious accommodations and meals.

Our pastors and wives were so appreciative of being able to come to the conference. One of the wives said, *“This is our first time at a conference like this, and this week has been the greatest in our lives. For a long time, we prayed for this time, for a few days to think and meditate on God. He gave it to us! I learned from Ruth especially how a wife should be. I am so thankful for the sisters from the team. It was wonderful to share with my sisters, to see that God works miracles in all lives. We are all different, but one in Christ.”*



Pastor Mihai and his wife stand in front of their church building under construction in Chisinau.

God is working in the lives of people in this country, which was formerly part of the old Soviet Union. Sixty percent of the people speak Romanian, and 40 percent speak Russian. In the church where I had the privilege of preaching, part of the worship music was sung in Romanian and part in Russian, and the message I preached was translated into Russian. The church is excited about the construction of their new building.

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