
LADAGE NEWS



Berlin to Bucharest

“That’s the end of my travels!” I exclaimed to Bobby as we wearily climbed the four flights of stairs to our apartment, dragging our suitcases behind us. We just returned from a trip to Bucharest that should have taken only 2 1/2 hours by plane, but instead the trip took 12 hours! Thankfully my passion for seeing churches planted and cities filled with the gospel fuels me or my exhaustion would win out.

Bucharest is the capital and largest city in Romania. It has approximately 2.5 million residents with only 0.5% evangelical believers. Ben and his wife Anda, our Romanian church planters, have struggled for several years, but are excited to see how God is adding to their numbers and is providing more space for their meetings in the center of the

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city. Starting with 2 couples and no other believers the church has grown slowly, but now all 75 seats are filled on a Sunday morning. Unlike many places in the US, planting a church is very difficult because there are so few believers. Resources are limited and few Christians are available to be on church planting teams.

God is also bringing pastors and leaders from six churches in Bucharest to network in order to see the city reached with the gospel. In the fall we will return to partner with them in A Gospel in the City day to cast vision and promote training for those who are interested.

Whether we are traveling in Berlin or in another city in Europe we are surprised at the number of people who have never heard the gospel, although we are excited to see more and more churches planted in these secular cities.

You might remember reading in our December newsletter that our European network leaders from various cities proposed a vision for 400 new churches in the major cities of Europe over the next 5 years. How will they be able to accomplish such a large number of churches? Only if God is in it! Training church planters in each of the major cities continues to be our strategy. Right now there are 6 church planters and their wives in the process of planting in Kiev, Warsaw, Krakow, Moscow, and Stockholm. Of course, there are other churches being planted in various cities where we don't work. We also encourage churches to build a network that crosses multiple denominations. Together they can reach the whole city with the gospel through prayer, faith and work, and mercy and justice ministries.

“When a gospel city movement occurs, the whole body of Christ grows faster than the population so that the percentage of Christians in the city rises. We call this a movement because it consists of an energy that extends across multiple denominations and networks. It does not reside in a single church or set of leaders or in any particular command center, and its forward motion does not depend on any one organization. It is organic and self-propagating, the result of a set of forces that interact, support, sustain, and stimulate one another.” -Dr. Timothy J. Keller

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

Partnering together for His glory,

Bobby & Teresa

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