

## Establishing the Church

Last Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> we read Psalm 17 during our church gathering. Since we made a covenant as members to form this church, we have read one Psalm at the beginning of our worship service. This means that our church was formed 17 weeks ago, and we praise God for the way we have been growing as a family formed by the gospel of Jesus and for the way God is using us as a church to proclaim and display the gospel.



## College Mentoring Program And Work at a Gypsy Village

### Looking back

One of the main reasons Vanessa and I began to consider moving to Romania was because during our time in West Texas, Redeemer Church Lubbock modeled for us and equipped us on how college students could be reached with the gospel and disciplined in the local church to devote their present time in college and future plans to make disciples where they are. Then, after graduation, to strategically use their career to work where a new church is being planted, join a missionary team working with an unreached people group, or faithfully and generously support new church plants and overseas missionaries.

We were inspired to see how God is using this church to impact the local university and we prayed that one day we could see a movement like that in Brasov, Romania.

### The need

Our local university—Transilvania University—has over 20,000 students. We are taking steps to reach and disciple these students by formally taking responsibility as a church to mentor 0.001% of these students during this school year. This number looks small, but they are 21 students, almost all non-Christians, that we will be spending time with on a weekly basis from this time until May of next year.

At the same time, there are children from a nearby Gypsy village that have a great need to have the opportunity and help to receive education. According to the Eurostat, "Romania has the highest share of children who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU. Roughly 41.5% of Romanian children are in this situation, compared to the European average of 24.4%." And they have an even greater need for them and their families to know Jesus and have a church in their community.

### What the program looks like?

These 21 students from the faculty of literature need to complete a 90-hour practice program during their second year. Some members of our church had developed a relationship with the university dean and also with an elementary school teacher at a Gypsy village close to our city. The college students will teach children in this Gypsy village to read and write and inspire them to not drop their education after elementary school. We are entrusted to lead this program by mentoring the college students as they teach and develop a relationship with the children.

Part of this mentoring includes one-to-one meetings with members from our church and weekly lessons that I will lead using the material of Relational Wisdom that was developed using biblical principles. Though this is not a Bible study, I will be able to teach eight parables of Jesus throughout the year as part of their literature program and we pray that through the time spent with them we will develop genuine relationships and speak proudly and clearly of Jesus as the only way to be forgiven of sins and reconciled with God.

Here is a picture of our first meeting with the college students for introduction and team-building.



We ask you to join us in prayer for the following:

- For our church to grow in our understanding and love of Jesus resulting in unity, love for others, and a readiness to speak of him.
- For the 21 students of Transilvania University to complete the program and their hearts to be ready to respond to the gospel.
- For the children of the Gypsy village of Garcini and their families. That God will give us an open door to proclaim the gospel there and a church to be planted there in the future.

*Thank you for being with us,  
Cristian and Vanessa*