

Reformation Romania

Planting a Confessional Reformed Church in Bucharest, Romania

www.reformationromania.org

August 2016
Bucharest, Romania

Dear brothers and sisters,

I praise our Lord that by his grace I was able to complete a journey which three years ago seemed impossible. By God's mercy, after completing my seminary studies in May, I was able to sustain my candidacy exam before Classis Southwest on July 19th. Shortly after, I was ordained as a missionary under the oversight of Christ URC Santee on July 24th. Then, my wife Lidia and I returned to our home country



Romania on July 25th. These past few weeks have been full of challenges and blessings. As we said goodbye to the saints of Santee, we were reminded what a blessing it is to have a church family where our souls are nourished with the sound teaching of the word of God. We were comforted by many words of encouragement, and our hearts were filled with joy and hope even though our tears were not absent. It was indeed a bitter-sweet experience: we longed to return to our home country but we were sad to know that we would be far away from many dear friends.

Our Story

- ❖ Romania is a country in Central-Eastern Europe in which live about 20 million people of which the majority are nominal Eastern Orthodox.
- ❖ The Romanian people traces its ancestry back to the Romanized Thracian populations living in the Northern Balkans. The Romanian language is a Romance language that evolved from Vulgar Latin in 5-8th centuries AD.
- ❖ Romania is currently recovering after four decades of communism. The economic situation of the country improved especially since it became part of NATO in 2004 and a member state of the European Union in 2007.
- ❖ Bucharest (2.2 million inhabitants) is the capital of Romania and the 6th largest city of the European Union. It is the cultural and business center of Romania.
- ❖ Approximately 97% of the people living in Bucharest are Eastern Orthodox, 1% Evangelical, 1% Atheist, and 1% belonging to other religions.
- ❖ The only Romanian Reformed denomination that ever existed was formed in the 16th century by Hungarian Reformed missionaries but it died out in the 19th century.
- ❖ A small Reformed core group was formed in 2011 in Bucharest and I was invited to study at Westminster Seminary California in 2013.
- ❖ The church planting work in Bucharest is in its early stages after my wife and I returned to Bucharest late July so that I might start planting the *Evangelical Reformed Church of Bucharest (Biserica Evanghelică Reformată din București)*.

Recently, we were able to secure a meeting place in Bucharest where we are now able to start worship services with our core group and reach out to other people. In God's providence we found an affordable meeting



place in a great location downtown Bucharest: it is within 3 minutes walking distance from a subway station and one block away from the largest park downtown Bucharest. Because of this, it is easily accessible to anyone in Bucharest.

We ask you to join us in prayer that the Lord would bless the ministry of Word and Sacrament in Bucharest. Pray for the few people who are part of our church planting work: being far away from other like minded churches is difficult, especially as loneliness can become a frequent experience, both for the church planter and for the church plant members. Please pray for our financial needs and consider contributing towards our 2017 budget. We trust that the Lord will continue to use the love and generosity of URCNA churches for this work in Romania to be able to continue.

Warmly in Christ,
Rev. Mihai Corcea

P.S. If you have any questions regarding Romania or about our mission work please contact me at mihaiorcea@christurc.org

Our Plans, Projects and Prayers

- ❖ By God's mercy and grace, on July 19th of this year I sustained my candidacy exam before Classis Southwest US.
- ❖ Following my candidacy exam, I was ordained on July 24th by Christ URC in Santee as an Associate Minister and sent as a missionary to my home country Romania.
- ❖ In the few days we have been back to Romania we found a place to live and a church plant meeting place in Bucharest. We are also in the process of preparing the paperwork to register the church plant with the Romanian government.
- ❖ We were glad to be reunited with our core group and we are now able to start Sunday morning and evening worship services in our new facility downtown Bucharest.
- ❖ One outreach project we hope to start developing this fall is the founding of a Reformed publishing ministry. Over the past few years, my wife and I have translated several Reformed books, and now as we return to our home country we hope to start publishing one book each year.
- ❖ **The Council of Christ URC in Santee has reviewed our budget for 2017. The total annual cost for this church planting work is \$48,427 which covers all living expenses, church plant expenses, advertising (radio, Facebook) as well as the book publishing ministry:**

Expense	USD
Living expenses	16,800
Taxes and benefits	13,267
Ministry expenses	18,360
TOTAL 2017	48,427

- ❖ **Please consider supporting our 2017 budget and keep the mission work in Romania in your prayers.**
- ❖ **Donations can be sent to:**
Christ United Reformed Church
10333 Mast Blvd. Santee, CA 92071

