

February 1, 2012

Dear Family and Friends,

It is noon as I write to you from my office. I look up at my window and cannot see out. Thick ice covers the glass. Heavy snows fell several days back; low temperatures have kept a “white blanket” over the city. Just now my thermometer reads 10 degrees F.

But Romania’s cold climate is no indication of the heart temperature of the men we serve. This past weekend my co-workers and I drove through the snows to Crasna, a Transilvanian village about 75 miles from Cluj. Long-time Entrust student and pastor, *Zoltan Kiss*, had arranged for us to conduct a seminar for 23 church leaders. These men are all ethnic Hungarians, and we were teaching in Romanian, a second language for them and for us. But they received us warmly and enthusiastically, as we led them in a study of:

our *motivation* for ministry,
Jesus’ *model* of ministry,
our *mandate* for ministry, and
ministry in *marriage*.

Sunday morning Mark, Al, and I each preached in a different church in and around Crasna.

This seminar was part of our ongoing efforts to re-visit friends, students, and churches to whom we have ministered over the years. Through the fall and into the winter, we have been with pastors and in churches from Satu Mare in the extreme NW to Constanta in the extreme SE. We have held seminars. We have counseled and encouraged pastors in crisis. We have sought to contribute to what God is doing to build His Church and His servants. At times it has been exhausting. Always it has been fulfilling.

A major focus of these months for our family has been *my mother*. As you know, her health has not been good. In December her condition deteriorated to the point that my brother called me home. She almost died my third day there. Her next four weeks were spent in the hospital. The situation was so tenuous that I delayed my return to Europe. So my 6-day visit expanded to 17 days. I returned to Romania on New Year’s Eve.



Pastor Zoltan Kiss, his wife Edit



Jerry teaching at the seminar



Crasna Church Building

România

I am grateful to those of you who have prayed for my mother as well as for me, my family here, and my ministry. Please continue to remember us, especially my mother. Asaph's words apply to her and to all of us who know and love the Lord:

²³ Nevertheless I am continually with You;
You have taken hold of my right hand.

²⁴ With Your counsel You will guide me,
And afterward receive me to glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven *but You*?
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73

Meda and the girls send their love and greetings. Between school, piano (Lauren & Savannah), guitar (Meda), our church, and extra-curricular activities, we are busy on the home front and in ministry. All the while we remain thankful for you and your continued co-labor with us through praying, staying in touch, and giving.

Grateful to Him and to you,

Jerry
for all

Please pray for:

- **My mother:** *God's grace* for her during these difficult days
- **Lauren, Savannah & their school:** Ever a challenge
- **Meda:** Her many responsibilities in the home & church
- **Jerry:** Ongoing ministry to church leaders

