

UPDATE & PRAYER

“Lord...all that we have accomplished you have done for us” Isaiah 26:12

Sum Up:

- Ethiopian Culture
- Women’s Retreat
- Easter Celebration
- Men’s Ministry
- Prague Women’s Conference
- Church Mountain Retreat
- Romanian Elections

ET Ethiopian Baby Shower ET



Hundreds of thousand of people keep losing their lives in Ethiopia due to severe poverty, illnesses, and war casualties caused by the on-going war.

Because of that, or in spite of that, our Ethiopian fellowship keeps growing. Even if getting visa for Romania (an EU country) is pricey and difficult.

Aro, the leader of the Ethiopian fellowship, traded his job of working as an assistant professor in Ethiopia to be a waiter in Romania. Because at home he was paid \$100 per month. Now he receives \$600-1,000.

Misikir and Mulat are from Ethiopia. Although we have a fellowship on Saturday nights for Ethiopians, they can't attend. Ethiopia has around 100 spoken languages in a land the size of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico put together. (It's the 26th largest country in the world by area.)

The service is held in Oromo language, the most widely spoken first language covering only 34% of population.

But, our Ethiopian "children" are fluent in several languages, but not Oromo.

A few summers ago Bill married them. Since they had no family attend the wedding, we were it. We planned it, decorated, celebrated and I even had the unorthodox request, to walk the bride. (She wanted the support of a mama.) In April we had a Baby Shower for her. Ethiopian ladies dressed in white, celebratory colors. May 6th God added little baby Grace to their family.

Women's Retreat



Theme of the retreat *Faith That Grows*. Bucharest is located between the Carpathian Mountains and the Black Sea (2 hours each way). We have been doing our church retreats in the mountains usually.

Friday night was relaxing after a road trip. Saturday AM we had I lead a session on *Bored Reading Your Bible?* We looked at creative ways to explore the Bible with joy. Saturday PM, Heather, a missionary who works with orphans did an interactive prayer session with *Prayers Stations*. Very impactful. And Sunday AM, Linda, former missionary to Ukraine (now to Romania) did a practical session on mentoring *Follow Me*.

A couple of weeks later, a bear attacked some teenagers right outside the hotel where we stayed. Thank you Jesus for protection. Our faith really grew after that. :)

Easter Celebration



For Christmas and Easter we rented a conference hall to celebrate together with our International Church, the Ethiopian Fellowship, and our Nepalese Fellowship.

Just in the worship team on stage we had

- guitar: Nepal and Ethiopia
- oboe: USA
- piano: Romania
- Cajon: UK
- Voices: Kenya, Nepal, Moldova, USA



Bill and the elders ordained John and Surbir as pastors for our Nepalese fellowship. Right after the service we had a bring-and-share lunch. We had over 20 guests that were not Christian.



Watch Easter Service on YouTube

Easter Traditions



At Easter...

- the capital of Romania is deserted
- stores and restaurants close Easter Sunday
- some stores and businesses close for several days
- people go to families in the native town (like Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem :))
- We greet everyone (family or stranger, believer or not believer) with “Christ is risen!” To which they reply “He’s risen indeed!” (Hristos a înviat! / Adevărat a înviat!)
- Romanians keep lent for 40 days. Easter Sunday they can celebrate by splurging with a fancy meal.

Interviews



Our Nepali fellowship made it in the Romanian national news. We had journalists visit the church and made a very informative interview about the difficult life of immigrants in Romania. We had a small role too in the overall broadcast.



This year we had the opportunity to interview with a Nepali Christian radio. [Here's the link to watch the video.](#)

Men's Ministry



Men's Ministry meets for Saturday breakfast about once a month. Most times they have it at church. The last time they had it at our house. It gave the opportunity for others who live closer to us to join.

Bill, or another man will share a Biblical challenge after eggs, bacon and pancakes are devoured, then they pray and have great conversations. Twice a year, men in our church have men's retreat.

Prague Women's Conference



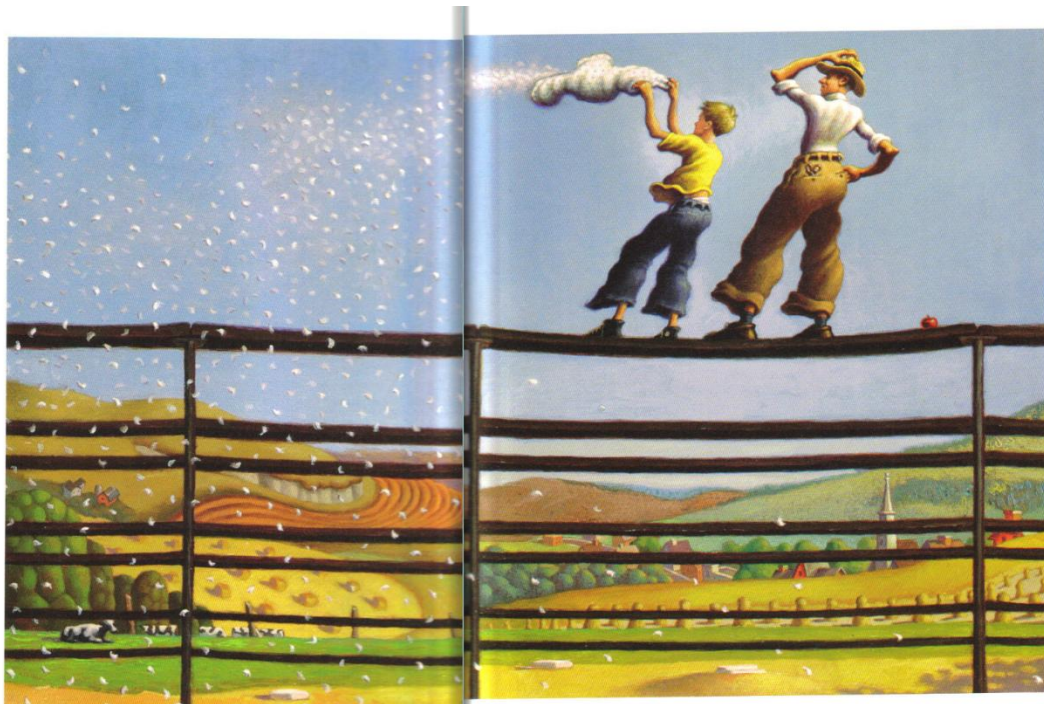
I am part of the Women's Team in the IBC Convention organizing the women's conference. This year we had it in Prague, (Czech Republic).

Because we work with so many international churches in Europe, we try to change the location from year to year to make it more accessible to many. Next year, we are going back to Frankfurt area, Germany.

To the left is Olesia. She's from Ukraine. Her, her husband and daughter serve in hot areas. Our ministry with Ukraine is focused more on supporting a few leaders on the frontlines. We also bring them out of Ukraine to catch their breath. This weekend was refreshing for Olesia as she shared a testimony at the conference, connected with many ladies, and benefited from rest and healthy teaching.

Sunday night, our flight back to Bucharest got canceled. We had to get a hotel nearby the airport. Above our room, there was sudden noise, and thuds... it was painful to see my sweet friend's sensitivity to common noise and her terrified face wondering if she's back in Ukraine.

Back in Bucharest, our girls created baskets filled with snacks for chaplain Lena and some other friends from Ukraine for Olesia to take back.



The wind carries the thousands of feathers far and wide.

This year, our speaker Sheryl Vasso taught us some practical and biblical lessons on how we use our words. Theme was *A Way With Words*.

We learned about “Gate Keepers”... before we let our words exit our mouth, we must check with the gate keepers:

1. Is it nice?
 2. Is it kind?
 3. Is it necessary?
- Another great takeaway was to make sure not to broadcast someone’s secret. (For preachers... “not everything is a sermon illustration”)
 - We are often tempted to tell our story, when others are telling theirs
 - Also learned about the “sin of beguilement”: to assume the worst, conclude wrongly, then share falsely. As in the children’s book above... all the wrong rumors we spread, can’t be gathered back like feathers let go in a pillow.



My favorite friend from Fiji. We made great tech team this year. Except... the sign did not pass the “gatekeepers” “:)



Many nations. One glorious God. I also had the joy to lead the Saturday evening session we (almost) creatively called *singNshare*. We had an amazing worship team made from different international churches, who had little time for practice, but God used their heart of servant and their skill to benefit our souls.





Nicola, our worship leader writes a lot of songs. Here's one of my favorites. You can find her songs on most popular platforms. You can bless her and support her by listening to her songs. (Our church used her song as the theme song for the Mountain's Church Retreat.)

Elections In Romania



On Sunday, right after we returned from the church retreat several of us headed to the election stations to vote for our president.

It seems that less than 40% of Romanians voted. The diaspora (those living outside of Romania) voted for George Simion who carries the same message as Calin Georgescu.

Although, Mr. Georgescu's name came up in J.D. Vance speeches, his replacement (Mr. Simion) uses this as his leverage to gain popularity.

I am for honoring people's choice of voting (unless the law was broken). There are contradictory information on this topic. From personal research, Mr. Simion and Georgescu will do more damage to the progress Romania has made. Especially because of the knee-jerk reaction that we hear from diverse companies who are considering moving out of Romania if Mr. Simion wins. Potentially could affect the ex-pat community we serve.

As my dad would often quote Matthew when I was a kid "Today has enough trouble of its own."

We trust Jesus with these results, while doing our diligent duty to go vote this Sunday, May 18th.

Church Yearly Retreat



Church yearly retreat was in the Carpathians mountains... on the same road where the show Wednesday is filmed. We did different type of spiritual work of course.

Theme was *Be Still And Know* with theme song that Nicola made. Bill did a marvelous job walking us through Elijah's journey of exhaustion and discouragement after great victory. Lots of people could relate and were encouraged by the practical message.

Be still in Psalm 46:10 means "cease striving" so you can know/ discern.

We don't have enough words to express how much we are grateful for your partnership in all God is doing among many nations gathered in Eastern Europe.

Thank you for serving TOGETHER !!!

GIVE TO UKRAINE

GIVE TO THE TULLY'S