

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE QUARLES



Dear Friends and Church Family:

We are so thankful to God for the way He has provided for us all these years and we are thankful for those of you who faithfully prayed for us and financially supported our large family and the establishment of two churches in Romania in a spiritually dark time. We are thankful for the lost souls who received the forgiveness of God by accepting the good news of Jesus and the price He paid for their sin and for the believers who have been built up by the teaching of the Word of God, worshipping Him and having fellowship with the saints of God. God isn't finished with us yet, and the ministry in Romania continues and we pray will flourish as the world gets darker and the need grows more intense in these last days.

This past year and a half has been perhaps one of the hardest we have ever personally experienced, excepting, of course, the year and a half we battled cancer alongside our son Nicholas. Although it has been a hard time, we have also been extremely blessed to spend more time with our kids and grandkids than we have been free to do for many years. However, we will confine this letter to the things that directly contributed to our decision to leave the mission field.

In the spring of 2018 Alice was diagnosed with Primary Myelofibrosis, a rare type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow. We stayed in Romania and she was treated there until her doctor told her that the treatments weren't working and she needed to seek a doctor in the U.S. who

would have more current treatments. So we came back to our home in Missouri in June of 2018 and began looking for a specialist and tried to figure out how we were going to get health insurance. We were insured in Romania and our treatments there were covered but now we needed health insurance here.

We are thankful because we found a doctor in St. Louis who specializes in rare blood disorders and cancers and who was willing to waive re-doing all of the expensive tests to confirm the diagnosis given by the Romanian specialists. We paid cash for doctors' appointments and eventually found a way to get discounts online for the weekly blood tests which had to be done. Alice began taking a new, super expensive medicine in November. God led us to an organization which provided the medicine 100% cost free to us because of our income and lack of insurance. The treatment had less side effects and was more effective than the previous medicine she had been taking. So all that was helpful and encouraging.

However, each time we talked with the doctors or nurses they asked if we had insurance yet and explained that the next treatment option when this medicine stopped working would be a stem cell transplant (bone marrow transplant) and this could not be done without medical insurance. So, after exhausting every possibility we could think of to get medical insurance (with a pre-existing condition), Steve began a training program for working as a guard in a state penitentiary. Yes, we live in a jail and he works at a prison. It is really no joke. It is a hard and unpleasant job much of the time. Steve said he has heard more foul language in the last few weeks than in his entire life outside of this job. That is the world that many people live in. But it has medical insurance.

Right now Alice is doing relatively well, much better than on the previous medicine, but they tell us that the medicine

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has so far only been effective for 1 to 2, rarely 3 years. She has been taking it for more than 7 months. We know that God is able to heal her or to continue to give her strength for each day as He has been doing and we trust Him with our futures. We want to be faithful to serve Him here as He directs us and opens doors for work and ministry.

But, what about the churches in Romania? Cristi Ionescu has been working with us nearly the entire time we have been in Romania and he is continuing to pastor both churches. Melissa Wood is working with kids and women and leads worship when it is needed. We believe it would be best if someone were willing to be in Romania in our place because it is very difficult to effectively minister to two churches so far apart and to keep up with all the repairs on the church buildings. It is too much for just Cristi to do long-term. We have been praying for God to send someone to fill this need. Please pray with us for this.

During this past year, thanks to your financial support, we were able to take two short trips to Romania, one at the end of August in which we stayed in Germany for a week and Steve taught at a retreat for young adults, then we continued on to Romania. During the second trip which was in April of this year, we gave our house in Ciorani to our "adopted Romanian daughter," Patrana, who is in the process of completing her University degree. We hope to continue making trips to Romania, but we feel that we can no longer be considered "missionaries" as we must be here in the States for Alice's treatment. Now that Steve has a job, we have decided that we will no longer receive support as missionaries, however, we hope that many of you will continue to support the two churches in Romania that you helped to plant.

We so appreciate all of the prayer and financial support you have given, individually and as a church, over the 24 years our family has served as missionaries. We appreciate

the support you have continued to provide during this year of re-entry into "civilian life." We hope that you will continue to pray for us as we serve the Lord in a different capacity and attempt to glorify Him regardless of our situation. At the present time, our home church, Calvary Chapel of Lake Elsinore, will continue to receive your donations and transfer them in full to the Romania ministry work.

Again, we want you to know that God continues to help us with our trials. He has been faithful to encourage us and to grow us into the likeness of our Savior no matter what is going on around us or within our own bodies. He is faithful! He is good! He loves us and will return for His bride soon! Let's all glorify Him and share His love with a sad and hopeless generation before it is too late. One way or another, time is running out for a Christ rejecting world. Do we care enough about these lost souls to tell them the truth and lead them to freedom and eternal life with Creator God through His Son, Jesus the Messiah? Let us pray that the Holy Spirit would revive His beloved Bride and cause another great awakening. We love you all and hope you will continue to communicate with us. We pray for you all and for the Churches here and in Romania.

Steve & Alice Quarles

The same as before you can contact us at: qhouse@me.com

Tax deductible financial support can be sent through:

Calvary Chapel Lake Elsinore (Tell them that your gift is for Romania Missions)

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