

ROMANIA MISSION PROJECT INFO

JUNE 15 – JULY 1, 2010

INTRO & BACKGROUND INFO

Mission projects have been an important part of my youth ministry strategy. I have personally been a part of nine different short-term mission projects ranging from ten days to nearly a year. I personally organized and led five of those nine for FBC Uth.

1998	Urban Chicago	2004	Trinidad
2006	Texas / Mexico Border	2008	Urban Nashville
2009	Jungle Jump Off		

How did we choose Romania?

I first became aware of the opportunity in Romania during the summer of 2007. I have been in conversation with the Elder Board numerous times, but our plans continued to get put off until now. This past August and September the leadership (Elders and Youth Ministry Committee) committed to prayer about where and when to go. At the end of September, a postcard was sent out to youth requesting a formal expression of interest by Oct. 15. The Youth Ministry Committee weighed some other options but unanimously felt that Romania was the best location for us. I share this with you so you can get a sense of all that has gone into our decision to go.

Reasons for why Romania stood out?

Randy Schmor (Gateway Teams Executive Director) suggested this location for us. Rev. Alan Steier (from Century Baptist Church in Bismarck) has been there twice and has offered his counsel to me as I prepare.

The ministry opportunities in the country are highly relational. We will have opportunity to relate with children, youth and adults. There are also lots of dynamic ministry opportunities such as: ESL, VBS, evangelism, drama, music, etc. The church in Romania has been experiencing a revival, and they have been able to reach the Roma people. Roma are a minority group commonly known as Gypsies. They have been highly oppressed, and few churches have even attempted to minister to them.

MAIN DETAILS

Financial Costs

The estimated cost per person is about \$2300. This estimate is based on two variables, team budget and airfare.

The team budget is about \$13,250 (\$800-\$850/person). This includes: food, lodging, in country travel, ministry materials, insurance, training costs, and t-shirts.

The flight options are Minot: \$1372 each, Fargo: \$1282 each, MSP: \$1358 each. All flights go from MSP to Amsterdam to Budapest. Actual airfare cannot be determined until tickets are reserved.

NW5697T 15JUN TU MOTMSP 450P 620P	NW 246T 15JUN TU MSPAMS 740P 1100A
KL3203T 16JUN WE AMSBUD 135P 335P	
KL3200Q 01JUL TH BUDAMS 710A 915A	NW 245Q 01JUL TH AMSMSP 240P 440P
NW5716Q 01JUL TH MSPMOT 955P 1127P	

Your Personal Costs

Each team member must reserve their place on the team with a \$100 donation (non-refundable deposit). Other costs include a passport (if you don't have one), gifts and mementos for family and supporters. There could potentially be some meals that would need to be covered during air travel.

Dates

Current dates are set for June 15 – July 1. However, this could change slightly.

Fundraising

The three primary sources of funds include: FBC budget, partner letters, and fundraising events. Each team member will be required to send out a minimum of 15 letters to non-FBC family and friends. These letters will get sent out at our January meeting. Additional letters may be required later (April).

As a team, we will select specific fundraising activities for the FBC family. Ideas include: rent-a-uth, spaghetti dinner, and maybe selling items such as pies or pizzas.

I have always required our teams to fundraise as a team. Everyone must put forward equal effort. Money that comes in is for the project, not you personally.

Team Meetings

- Fundraising: 1 per month from Dec. to March
- Ministry training meetings: 2 in April, 2 in May, 1 in June
- There will also be some things for students to do on their own to prepare spiritually
- Lastly, we will give a report to FBC after our return

Team Size

Due to in country travel arrangements, we are most cost efficient at 9 or 18 (including adults). If we have room, I am open to including people from outside our youth group, such as former FBC Uth and friends of Uth.

Culture

The Roma people have been discriminated against for generations. They have a strong cultural heritage. They love their traditions of music and dance. They are quite socially vocal. The Hungarian Baptist Church has been able to develop a strong network of churches, and they have overcome social and economic barriers to reach out to the Roma.

DECIDING TO GO

Mission projects require you to be

- Flexible (we live by God's plan, not our own) - Loving to the team and to the Romanians
- Obedient to the leadership - Full on at every moment

Impact

You will do far more than you thought possible. Each student will be expected to lead certain aspects of our team. Spiritually this could radically change things for you. What Christ means to you, how you relate, the direction of your life... Identity questions often get answered because the real you is going to surface in many ways. One of my main areas of emphasis is on team unity. Consequently, the teams I bring back have always been in much deeper relationship than before.

Decision date: Sunday, Dec. 13

This will be our first team meeting. You must bring a completed application and sign off on the Gateway Team Policy. You must also bring a \$100 donation (non-refundable deposit).

Everyone has their own personal reasons to go or not go. I hope that each of you makes this a decision that you pray about. God may not directly tell you to go or not go. God may allow you the freedom of that choice. However, if you go, then go in honor of Christ. If you stay, stay to honor Christ. God wants you to make a personal commitment to him either way.

NEXT STEPS

If you are interested, contact me and I will provide you with an application and some more information. Seats are limited and filling up, so please contact me in a timely manner.

Regards,

Paul Pankratz

Lastly, see info on our website: www.fbc-uth.com