

Remarkable

Romanian

Renewal!

In May, I (Bob) had the privilege of visiting Romania, where I witnessed the incredible work God is doing there. My journey took me to **Giurgiu**, a city of 60,000 along the Danube River. Let me share it with you!

I first met **Nicu Bragadireanu**, our ministry partner in Giurgiu, through New Jersey ministry leaders Joe Faraldi, Jim Minutella, and Nick Daleo, who have dedicated over 20 years to supporting the Romanian church. It was a blessing to join them on this trip and connect with Joe's wife, Pat.

Nicu, a banker by profession and a church leader by calling, comes from a family of devoted Christians. His parents hosted underground services during the Soviet era, facing persecution for their faith. Today, Nicu serves as the senior elder of Bethel Church Giurgiu, which meets in a renovated house. Despite the evangelical church representing less than 0.1% of Giurgiu, Nicu aims to increase that to 1% within ten years.

The challenges are significant. Although Romania is now a democratic nation, the church contends with secularism, materialism, and opposition from the national Orthodox church. Nicu's unwavering vision is to transform southern Romania through the gospel, focusing on discipleship, leadership development, and church multiplication.

By God's grace, that vision is becoming a reality. Bethel Church is growing. The city council has given them a building for a larger worship center in a densely populated area! Last Christmas, the congregation delivered gift bags to every apartment in the complex, demonstrating their commitment to outreach even during renovation construction.

The church is also multiplying into nearby villages. New congregations have been established in three locations, with elders traveling to hold services. In **Vedea**, the church meets in a converted chicken coop, while in **Pietrasani**, a renovated worship center was filled during our visit, with people gathering outside to join the service. The property also serves as a venue for community events.

Pietrisu, the smallest village, is home to the **Sola Scriptura Bible College**, a significant achievement in Nicu's vision. Partnering with a seminary in Bucharest, they offer a two-year program that has attracted **41 students**—far exceeding the initial goal of 6-8. The total cost for training is just \$700 per student.

The work in Giurgiu exemplifies the mission of our Mission Catalyst Team. Through prayer, coaching, and networking, we can empower local leaders to bring the gospel to the least-reached communities in our region.



Bob & Carol Marsh



TRAVEL & PRAYER CALENDAR

OHIO: June 9-12

- **Canfield: Converge MidAtlantic Gathering**

ILLINOIS: July 13-19

- **Little Galilee Camp Trades Camp on Missions Careers**

POLAND: July 23-31

- **Converge Euro/Med Regional Gathering**

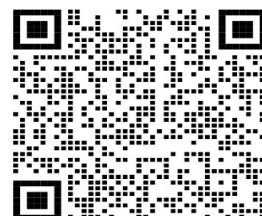
UKRAINE: August 4-9

- **Uzhhorod Ministry Focus**

HUNGARY: August 8-11

- **Budapest Ministry Focus**

For a more in-depth report, and lots of photos of this ministry trip to Romania, click on the link below:



<https://shorturl.at/6jfib>