

Bob & Carol Marsh: May 2026 Update

We recently returned from a wonderful trip to southern Romania and Budapest, and we want to share a few highlights.

Our time in **Romania** centered in Giurgiu, which serves as the hub for a thriving church-planting movement. Last year, the city gifted the church a building located in the middle of a large apartment community, across from a school and playground. Since our last visit, major progress has been made: a second floor has been added, the exterior completed, and the interior is nearing completion. They hope to finish within the next few months.

We visited several church plants along the Danube corridor. An encouraging stop was the church in Vedeia. Last year, they met in a converted chicken coop seating 6–8 people. Today, they worship in a renovated home that now accommodates 15–20 people and is an important influence in the village.

Another highlight was experiencing the “Smile Caravan” outreach. Teams bring games, music, popcorn, cotton candy, and a gospel message into village parks where new churches are being planted. These events draw between 75 and 150 children and adults in very small villages — an exciting response for southern Romania. The effort is repeated twice each week over the summer.

We were also encouraged by the growth of the *Sola Scriptura* Bible College. Nicu, the movement leader in Giurgiu has a desire to raise up local leaders, pastors, and church planters. In its first year, the fully accredited two-year program has more than 40 students. We attended one of the evening classes and were deeply encouraged by what God is doing.

In Budapest we saw Zhenya, a **Ukrainian** veteran and former CRU campus worker. After serving 2.5 years on the front lines of the war with Russia, he now ministers through CRU Military to soldiers, veterans, widows, and families. One of the key ministries he leads is *Weekend in Europe Retreats* designed for small groups of Ukrainian veterans providing rest, counseling, community, and spiritual encouragement. Zhenya shared stories of the veterans he serves. One, Danyil, survived the battle of Bucha, but he lost an arm and was captured. He endured freezing Russian prison conditions, malnutrition, and lack of medical care, ultimately losing both legs and 4 fingers on his remaining hand to frostbite.

Another veteran, Valerie, spent three years in a Russian prison camp after being captured in Kherson. He suffered torture, frostbite, tuberculosis, and more than 1,500 electric shocks. Raised by believing parents, he turned to Jesus during his imprisonment. When finally released in a prisoner exchange, he weighed less than 90 pounds. Today, Zhenya is discipling him, and he now shares his testimony at the retreats. These retreats provide great care and bring desperate people to Jesus. Zhenya’s work keeps the cost of each retreat - of 5 vets - to just \$1,500.



To support these ministry efforts in southern Romania, you can give to our **Project Romania Fund**.



If you would like to support Zhenya’s work, or other gospel efforts in Ukraine, please give to the **Ukraine Relief Fund**.



Links to both funds can be found by using the QR code below or contact us directly at **bobm@converge.org**.

Thank you for praying and partnering with these ministries. We are grateful to see God continuing to work powerfully in both Romania and Ukraine.

