

November 2017 Ministry Report

Dear Ministry Partner,

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Greetings from windy and wintery Bucharest. Although the city is cold, our hearts are warm and joyful thinking of the wonderful things the Lord did in our life and ministry in 2017. Here are some highlights:

Ministry Life

Timotheus Bible Institute (TBI)

In 2017 Elisei and Adriana continued to teach at TBI. Adriana teaches English as a ministry tool and Elisei teaches practical theology and ecclesiology. The five graduates he supervised this year finished cum laude and were recognized by the Romanian universities for their achievements.

During 2017, TBI underwent preparations to receive the institutional Romanian and European accreditation. One of the requirements was to remodel the dormitories that were built in the early 1990s with low quality, unsafe materials. The Lord again provided the financial resources and a good construction company. They were affordable and finished the project on time. When the governmental committee of eight people came to evaluate TBI in early December, they were impressed by the whole Institute: professors, students, Administration, and facilities. What a blessing for God's work in Romania and Europe! After the official recognition that will come in six months to a year, TBI will be eligible to start a Master's program.

Another great moment for TBI was in the fall when the Institute celebrated 25 years of existence. Graduates, friends from Romania, Europe and the U.S., students with their families, and teachers participated in the Jubilee. All of us celebrated 25 years of God's faithfulness and generosity in developing a university that started from a dream under communism: theological training for God's servants in Romanian and European churches. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness and grace in providing resources to touch the lives of over 600 people who studied at TBI and through them, many thousands!

Preaching in Churches

In 2017 Elisei preached almost every Sunday (sometimes in multiple churches), mainly encouraging God's people to grow spiritually, but also several evangelistic messages and people came to know Christ. This ministry takes a lot of energy and preparation time, but the outcome encourages us to continue with joy and dedication.

The highlight was the 110-year celebration of the Agape Church in Ploiesti when Elisei preached on God's faithfulness and steadfastness in sustaining His Church in bad times, during communism, and good times. After the three services, several people gave their lives to the Lord.

In the fall was the evangelistic outreach in the church in Ploiesti. In the spring the church celebrated 110 years of God's faithfulness, and in the fall Christians invited over 110 people who used to come to the church to hear again God's call for repentance and a renewed fellowship with Him. Because the Word of God has power, some of them decided to come back to the fellowship and become involved in the local church. Please pray for the people who decided to return to the church. Pray also for the others who heard the Gospel message but are still far away from God. Please pray for these people to grow in knowing the Lord and trusting Him in their spiritual walk. Elisei also preached at weddings, child dedications, and funerals throughout Romania and Europe.

Conferences

In 2017 Elisei and Adriana participated in various national and international conferences where Elisei presented topics on Religious Freedom and Freedom of Conscience, The Life and Ministry of Martin Luther, The Influence of

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Religion and Culture on Personal Faith, and The Influence of Personal Faith on Religion and Culture. These speeches were published (or will be published) in national and international publications.

Elisei and Adriana were invited to speak at conferences for families and women. In March, the Lord used Adriana to encourage women in Vienna during a one-day conference for women. Her topic was of great interest to the thirty women attending the conference: The Beauty of a Woman in the Bible. It was based on 1 Peter 3:4: Your beauty “should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” Most of the women were under the age of 30.

In October 2017, Adriana encouraged women through another conference. The topic was: How to grow spiritually through instruction and involvement. The women were very responsive, and they plan to continue meeting at least twice a year. Returning to Romania, Adriana spoke at another conference for women in Bucharest on How to Acquire Christ’s Mind, based on Philippians 2:1-7.

In May 2017, Elisei and Adriana had a family conference with over 25 couples in the Austrian Alps. For four days Elisei taught about challenges emigrant Romanian families face in the Diaspora. The focus was on how they should adapt to their new culture and become relevant in Austrian culture. During one of the evening sessions, Adriana met with the women and spoke about the role of a wife and mother in the family. They learned from Moses’ mom, who taught him to love God and His people, even as a young boy. During the same session, Elisei met with the men and spoke about the role of a husband and a father in the family.

Due to the positive response from the families, in the fall Elisei taught in Vienna a one-day conference on how to raise your children through personal example and biblical teaching. Parents from four different churches came to learn from God’s Word how to raise their children. In Bucharest Elisei also taught on challenges and methods of parenting in the 21st century. This was during the kick-off conference for the small groups family ministry in the local church in Bucharest.

Radio & TV Ministry

In 2017 Elisei continued his ministry on Christian radio and TV. On the radio, Elisei spoke about the Reformation and its importance in developing Christianity. On TV Elisei is part of a monthly panel of academics from different religious backgrounds debating the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23, and spiritual gifts and their worldly counterfeit. The program is watched in over 20 countries in Europe, and on the internet, all over the world.

This month, Elisei will deliver messages for Christmas and New Years on the radio encouraging listeners to focus on Christ and the Word of God, instead of on material things and unhealthy celebrations.

Family Life

Babies, Babies, Babies

Our family is growing! The Lord blessed us with ten grandchildren, three of them this year! We are so proud of our daughters, their husbands and our ten grandchildren!

Adriana’s Health

Although we are growing older, the Lord is protecting us and blessing us with good health. Adriana found a good doctor in Bucharest and her knees are in better shape than before. She still needs to be careful and avoid carrying heavy grocery bags, but she is functioning, and she can teach without hindrance. Elisei is in good shape and both of them are being careful with their diet and physical exercise.

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Prayer Requests

- For our daughters, their husbands, and children to grow in loving and serving the Lord.
- For the TBI students to grow in knowing and serving the Lord through studies, and developing their character and ministry skills.
- For the people who heard God's Word to give their life to Christ and to grow in their spiritual life.
- For the Romanians who are facing unprecedented inflation and explosion of prices on heating, gas, electricity, food, and medicine to return to God and trust in the Only One that never fails us.
- For the Romanian government to take into consideration the hurt it is causing due to unwise decisions.
- For Elisei as he deals with many issues both in the ministry and relationships with some church leaders.

Thank you for being such an important part of God's work in Romania and Europe. None of this could be done without your support, both in prayer and financially.

Serving the Lord together, Elisei & Adriana