

*19/08/2011*  
*Sibiu, ROMANIA*

*Dear friends and brothers,*

Special greetings to you all in the Name of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ.

It is because of Him that we have come to know and love you, and are still able to stand despite the many trials and disappointments of this world.

We are all well. Summer is still in full force in Sibiu and yet, it is the kind of summer that I (Maria) like – sunny but cool, very good for flowers and plants.

Seeing on TV the recent news about the London riots, we thanked the Lord that the holiday we spent there and in other parts of Britain in July was timed perfectly. Thanks again to all of you who made us feel so welcome, loved, encouraged and prayed for. Cristian and Dora loved it and keep talking about you, our friends and your lovely homes, about the food, the church, the nice roads, the lovely English language, the sea .... And the list could carry on!

The thought of a new church plant in Sibiu is becoming day by day more of a desire of our hearts. Sibiu, a city of 180,000 people with a minority of about 2,000 evangelical Christians is ready for it. Thinking about this project and its practicalities, we are falling in love again with this lovely place, blessed by God and yet in such a need of Him. Situated right in the heart of Romania, becoming the No.1 city destination for national and international tourists, former Cultural Capital of Europe in 2007, Sibiu holds a strategic position in our country.

In contemplating this project, Beni was supported by Benjamin, the senior pastor in Sibiu (whose health is almost fully recovered, praise the Lord!), as well as by friends in Britain.

There are two main issues concerning this and we commend them to your prayers:

1. Choosing a rented meeting place, church like or less traditional (i.e. a school or restaurant – this would be a first in Sibiu)
2. Finding a core of healthy Christian men around Beni, a few good families from Zion and Bethany to join us in this venture.

We are praying about these issues and wait for people to get back from their holidays so we can share our thoughts with them.

From the **22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August**, we will both be teaching at a CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) conference held in Sibiu at the headquarters of CEF Romania. It will be a retreat for the workers (14) of CEF Moldova (former Soviet Republic). Do pray for us as we prepare our messages that they will be from God, inspiring and encouraging for the team.

I have finished translating the second manual for CEF teachers “Knowing God through His Son.” It was a pleasant job, reminding me that big truth can be put in simple words which even preschoolers can understand.

**Please pray with us for:**

1. Renewed energy, strength and vision for Beni in all the decisions that need to be made.

2. Maria's father, with his ongoing lifestyle issues and resistance to the gospel.
3. Florin (36) – Beni's brother is having major surgery on 5th Sept in Bucharest.
4. Clear vision from God in all the things we plan to do, peace and strength while we do them.

Thank you for love, good words, support and all you are to us. Thank you for reminding us constantly that we are loved not only by God our Father, but also by people, our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

*With love in Christ,*

*Beni and Maria*