

ROMANIAN REVIEW

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Teaching in the Ararat School of the Bible in Vanadzor, Armenia during the second week of January was like a close, family sharing time. In the teaching sessions on many occasions there were personal times where we opened up our hearts. There was a sense of vulnerability as the girls shared how they needed to grow in areas of their lives. Yet they also told me how they actively share their faith in the Lord on the buses with other young people they meet as they travel from their homes to the Bible School.



Other girls spoke of their dreams in the area of missions, going to other countries to share their faith. One girl's job had already allowed her to travel to India and she thought she might be going again. Last week we heard from some of the students and they spoke of how practical the sessions were and that the material was something they could use every day.



Efforts in the fight against human trafficking continue with Iana Matei and her son, Stefan, now studying in Australia in preparation for a return to his future work here. We continue to be able to link people and resources together. In a recent visit with Iana, discussion centered on how to help at the legislative and governmental levels. This is a strong challenge in light of ingrained, high-level corruption!

International churches open the doors to a broader scope of relevant ministry in the capital cities of the more than forty nations across Europe.

Terry Hoggard, leader of the Federation of International Churches across Europe, spent four excellent days with our leadership team and congregation in January. "International churches are a new way of doing church," he stated. Our congregation, comprised of internationalized Romanians, internationals living in Bucharest and the next generation Romanians who are seeking something meaningful and dynamic, fits this pattern. We were encouraged by Terry's affirmation of the Bucharest International Church, "I was really impressed by the degree of excellence and enthusiasm as well as the depth of the engagement of the people."

Prayer:

1. Against the high-level corruption in every sphere of society.
2. Bill Hybels shares at an upcoming leadership focus this Wednesday during a seminar for key leaders. This is a fabulous opportunity for our young leaders to be exposed to the positive influence of Bill's ministry experience. Pray that a healthier practice of servant leadership will develop in contrast to the more frequently seen hierarchical structure in Romania.

Dan and Mardell MacTavish

Associate Pastors of Bucharest International Church

Str. Sfanta Treime #21, Sector 2, 023726 Bucharest, Romania, Phone/fax: (4021) 210 4254, dmactavish@gmail.com, www.dmactavish.blogspot.com, www.paoc.org, www.internationalchurch.ro