

A welcome letter from our IMB Missionary in Romania

Dear Missouri Baptists,

We rejoice that God has worked to bring about a partnership with Romanian Baptists. Missouri has a great history of involvement with international partnerships and I am thankful to the Lord that he has put it on your hearts to be a part of what He is doing in Romania.

In Romania there are almost 10,000 villages without any evangelical church. In many cities with populations of 50,000 to 150,000 there are only 2 or 3 evangelical churches.

You as Missouri Baptists have much to offer to Romanian Baptists. The first is prayer. Romanian Baptists have also committed themselves to pray for you. Also, your presence on volunteer mission trips brings great encouragement to the churches. It also gives credibility to them in the eyes of the unbelievers around them. Unlike many European countries, Romania is a great friend of America and your presence will give many opportunities for witness by the local Baptist churches. You also have a rich and varied Christian experience that will be a great resource for them as they desire to get beyond their own traditions and bring fresh life into their churches and a greater passion to plant new ones.

I want to mention that the focus of the church-to-church partnerships is evangelism and church planting. We have set a goal that 2 new churches would result from each church-to-church partnership!! We desire that the focus not be on the flow of material and financial resources and we ask that you use great **caution** with your financial resources, as it is easy for unhealthy dependencies to develop and actually hinder the work. The greatest problems arise in the paying of pastor salaries, building of church buildings with primarily US resources, and funding of programs in the established churches

May the Lord bless your time of preparation and use you in a great way as you come to minister for His glory in Romania.

In Calvary's Love,

Larry Carnes (IMB Missionary)

Dear Missouri Baptist,

I want to welcome you to an adventure that could indeed be one of the most incredible experiences "with God" that you have ever had since becoming a Christian. You will be going "ON MISSION" with God to Romania. I am excited that you are going and the Romanians are excited that you are coming.

It is my desire that you experience God at work in your heart, in the lives of your team members, and in the lives of the Romanians as they are touched by God. God has many exciting things ahead for you. Remember what Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us (II Corinthians 5:20a)

Dear friend, God wants to use you in HIS WORK. Trust Him as you move forward. Lean upon Him to give you strength. Look to Him for wisdom for this great work.

On returning from Romania, I look forward to hearing how God has used you to help advance His Kingdom. I want to hear your stories about how God used you in His work. I want to rejoice with you over the lives that were changed because you went to Romania in obedience to God's call. I will be praying for you and with you.

In Christ,

Norm Howell
Missouri Baptist Convention
Partnership Missions

TEAM SCRIPTURE

*For by the grace given me I say to **every one** of you:
Do not think of **yourself** more highly than you ought, but
rather think of **yourself** with sober judgment, . . .*

*Just as **each of us** has one body with many members, and
these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we
who are many form **one body**, and **each member** belongs to all
the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is
good. Be devoted to **one another** in brotherly love.
Honor **one another** above yourselves. Never be lacking in
zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who
persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice
with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*

*Live in harmony with **one another**. Do not be proud, but
be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not
repay anyone evil for evil.*

*Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of **everybody**.
If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace
with **everyone**.*

Romans 12:3-6; 9-18 NIV

Adams & Associates **INTERNATIONAL**

Insurance Benefits for VIM Personnel International Mission Board, SBC

On the advice of your Board Staff, American International Group, in cooperation with Adams & Associates International, has developed a package of benefits for you while you are overseas and while in route to and from your assignment. (The Property Insurance is underwritten by Chubb).

This plan has been specifically designed to meet your needs and is available only for IMB, SBM Project Personnel while on active service for 1-150 days. The coverage provides a basic level of Personal Accident Protection, Permanent Total Disability and Property Insurance and is not intended to replace any personal insurance that you may have. This insurance meets the minimum IMB requirements for the coverage shown in the summary.

SUMMARY OF COVERAGE-PERSONS UP TO AGE 69

Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Principal Sum.....	\$ 100,000.00
Disability Income, per month for 1 st through 100 th months, Accident.....	\$ 1,000.00
per month for 101 st through 200 th months, Accident.....	\$ 500.00
per month for 4 th through 54 th months, Sickness.....	\$ 250.00
Medical Expense, \$100 deductible	\$ 2,500.00
Additional <u>overseas</u> Medical Expense Benefit (may be used towards a necessary medical evacuation)	\$ 7,500.00
Medical, Legal, Passport and Baggage Assistance	See AIG Insert
Emergency Medical Transportation.....	\$ 50,000.00
Repatriation of Mortal Remains	\$ 7,500.00
Family Coordination.....	\$ 7,500.00
Property & Baggage Insurance, \$100 deductible, per family unit (Chubb)	\$ 2,500.00

SUMMARY OF COVERAGE-PERSONA AGE 70 & OVER, AND, CHILDREN

Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Principal Sum.....	\$ 10,000.00
Medical Expense, \$100 deductible	\$ 2,500.00
Additional <u>overseas</u> Medical Expense Benefit (may be used towards a necessary medical evacuation)	\$ 7,500.00
Medical, Legal Passport and Baggage Assistance	See Insert
Emergency Medical Transportation.....	\$ 50,000.00
Repatriation of Mortal Remains	\$ 7,500.00
Family Coordination.....	\$ 7,500.00
Property & Baggage Insurance, \$100 deductible, per adult unit (Chubb)	\$ 2,500.00

The Property Benefit does not apply to children.

NOTE: THIS IS A SUMMARY OF COVERAGE AND NOT A CONTRACT OF INSURANCE. FOR DETAILS OF COVERAGE, PLEASE CONSUT THE MASTER POLICY NUMBER: 9021803 AND OTHER, OR SUBSEQUESTN POLICIES ON FILE WITH THE POLICYHOLDER.

AMONG THE MAJOR EXCULSIONS IN THE POLICY ARE WAR, SUICIDE AND SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF ANY COUNTRY AND CERTAIN FLYING IN NON-SCHEDULED AIRCRAFT.

RATES

The rate varies according to length of service.

The rates are computed from the date of leaving home to date of arrival home are as follows:

Group overseas 30 days or less\$2.00 per day per person (\$56.00 maximum per person)
Group overseas for 31 or more days\$1.80 per day per person
Persons age 70 or over and children 12 and younger\$.70 per day per person

An additional charge is required for groups of 21 or more persons. Please see enrollment form.

EXAMPLES:

**15 in a group that will be in service for 18 days
15 persons X 18 days = 270 person/days X \$2.00 = \$540.00 premium**

**2 persons in a group that will be in service for 60 days
2 persons X 60 days = 120 person/days X \$1.80 = \$216.00 premium**

ENROLLMENT

The enrollment should be completed fully by the group leader, travel agent or individual and the original copy returned with your premium to Adams & Associates International. The yellow copy is to be sent to the VIM Department, IMB, and your copy is pink. We suggest that this enrollment be completed well in advance of your term of service. The coverage becomes effective on the date that you indicate on the enrollment form.

CLAIMS

A set of claim forms are enclosed in the pocket of the next page. Claim instructions are attached. Travel agents should furnish each group leader with a copy of these instruction and several copies of each claim form. Please report all claims promptly to Adams & Associates International.

CHILDREN'S BENEFIT

Children age 12 and under have a benefit of \$10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Medical, Assistance, Emergency Medical Transportation and Repatriation of Mortal Remains. The rate is \$.70 per day and children should be shown separately on the enrollment form. Property (baggage) insurance is not covered. Children may be covered with full benefits, if desired, at the full rates shown above.

Volunteers serving 151 days or longer normally pay a lower rate and do not receive the Medical Expense Benefit. They may, however, choose to pay the higher rate and thereby retain the Medical Benefit.

FACTS ABOUT ROMANIA

A. General Overview

Geographical location: Southeastern Europe. North of the Balkan Peninsula, on the lower Danube and bordering the Black Sea. Romania is bordered to the north and east by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the southeast by the Black Sea, the south by Bulgaria, the southwest by Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and in the west by Hungary.

The country is divided into four main geographical regions.

- **Transylvania** - a belt of Alpine massifs of the Carpathian Mountains and extensive forests cutting through the middle of the country
- **Moldava** is the northeastern section of the country, which lies east of the north-south strip of the Carpathian Mountains. (Not to be confused with the Republic of Moldova which shares the border on the east of the Romanian region of Moldova)
- **Walachia** lies south of the Carpathians along the flat Danube plain. In this region is found the city of Bucharest, the capitol of the country. The southern edge of this section shares the border with Bulgaria being defined by the course of the Danube River. The region contains the areas known as Muntenia and Oltenia.
- **Dobrogea** - Romania's coastline along the Black Sea and the Danube Delta. In this area is found the Black Sea port of Constanta.

Neighbors: 3,175 km Romanian boundaries: Bulgaria 631 km. Hungary 445 km, Moldova 681 km. Yugoslavia 244 km. Ukraine 639 km. and the Black Sea 234 km.

Area: 237,500 sq. km - 13th largest in Europe, slightly smaller than Oregon in the United States.

Climate: temperate: Summer temperatures are moderated on the coast by sea breezes while inland at sea level it is hot. Winters are coldest in the Carpathian Mountains where there is snow from December through April. Snow also falls throughout most of the country. Winters are mildest on the coast.

Elevation Extremes: Lowest point: The Black Sea - 0 ft.
Highest point: Mount Moldoveanu - 8,350 ft.

Population- 2002 Census: 21,698,181 - 10th in Europe;
Romanian 89.5%, Hungarian 6.6%, Germans 0.2%, Gypsies 2.5%, Other 1.4%.
Urban population 52.7%. Rural - 47.3%
Male population 48.8%, Female population 51.2%

Population Growth Rate: - 0.23% (1999 est.)

Life Expectancy at Birth: Average 70.83 years; male 67.05 years; female 74.81 years (1999 est.)

Infant Mortality Rate: 18.12 deaths per 1,000 live births (1999 est.)

National Capital: Bucharest 1,921,751 million inhabitants (2002 Census)

Administrative Divisions: 40 counties and one municipality, 262 towns (80 municipalities), 2,687 communes, and 13,285 villages

Main Cities: Bucharest; Iasi; Constanta; Timisoara; Cluj-Napoca; Galati; Brasov; Craiova; all with populations over 300,000

There are 25 cities with population over 100,000

Main Airports: Otopeni International and Baneasa in Bucharest. Other important airports are in Constanta, Suceava, Arad, Sibiu, Timisoara

Main Ports: On the Black Sea: Constanta, Mangalia, and Sulina;
On the Danube - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Giurgiu, Cernavoda, Braila, Galati,
Tulcea

Official Language: Romanian, a Latin based language similar to Italian owing to Rome's conquest of the ancient region of Dacia in the second and third century AD, and thus the current name, Romania.

State Organization: Republic, according to the Constitution of November 21, 1991, with two chambers; Parliament and Senate which are elected for a four year term in a general / national election.

Vote is by party and the party that achieves 50+% of the vote places their candidate for president in office. This president selects a Prime Minister and his cabinet of ministers. Due to the large number of political parties, a run-off election is usually required to establish a majority.

National Day of Romania: December 1st (established in 1990)

Capital: Bucharest (population 2,231,000)

Flag Description: Three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and red.

Economy – overview: After the collapse of the Soviet Bloc in 1989-91 Romania was left with an obsolete industrial base and a pattern of industrial capacity wholly unsuited to its needs. In February 1997, Romania embarked on a comprehensive macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform program, but reform, subsequently has been a stop-and-go process. Restructuring programs include liquidating large energy intensive industries and major agricultural and financial sector reforms. Today, Romania is continuing its difficult transition to a market based economy. GDP declined by an estimated 7.3% in 1998 after a 6.6% decline in 1997. Tight monetary policy and slower exchange rate depreciation earlier in 1998 helped lower inflation to an estimated 41% from 152% in 1997. The large current account deficit and concerns about meeting debt payments in 1999 contributed to increased pressure on the exchange rate towards the end of 1998. Replacing the IMF standby agreement (suspended because of lack of progress on structural reforms), servicing debt payments, and bringing the budget under control

were key priorities for 1999. Now in 2003 things are continuing much the same. Government can “talk the talk” but has yet to “walk the walk”.

Education: Compulsory up to 10th grade. Attendance 98%. It is expected that the figure would be much lower if orphans and Gypsy’s were considered in the equation. Many in rural areas quit school after the 9th grade to help the family earn a living. Usually by working the land.

Literacy: Defined as -Age 15 and over can read: Total population 97%; male 98%; female 95% (Most likely, orphans and Gypsy’s were also not considered in these figures.)

Armed Forces: Composed of Army, Navy, Air Force and Air Defense Force. Military service is compulsory for 12 months for Romanian male citizens over 20 except in cases stipulated by law.

Labor force: 5.125,200 people. Unemployed 881.435 (8.800): by occupation: industry 28.8% agriculture 36.4%. other 34.8%; retired persons 5.609,000 of which 3,801,000 are on the state social security system. (1998 est)

Foreign trade: Main partners are Holland, Germany, Italy, US, France, South Korea, Turkey, Greece and United Kingdom

International relations: Romania has diplomatic relations with 176 states and is a member of the United Nations and is under consideration for membership into NATO and the European Union.

Major Religions in Romania: Romanian Orthodox 86.7% (The general understanding is that you are Orthodox if you are born in Romania, even if you don’t practice the faith.),

Roman Catholic – 4.7%, Reformed – 3.2%, Evangelical (Pentecostals, Baptists, Brethren)- 2.6%

Currency: 1 leu (plural lei) October 1, 2003: 1 Dollar = approx. 33,500 lei
Notes are in denominations of Lei 500,000; 100,000; 50,000; 10,000
There are three denominations of coins: 5,000 Lei, 1,000 Lei, and 500 lei.

Currency Information: Romania is largely a “**Cash Only**” economy. Credit cards are of limited benefit but are usually welcome in larger hotels, better restaurants and some stores in large cities. However, it can be risky to use them as credit card fraud has outpaced security in Eastern Europe. Traveler’s Checks are almost useless in Romania: They are accepted in some large banks and rarely in exchange shops. **DON’T BRING TRAVELERS CHECKS.**

ATM’s are now widely available in large and small cities and dispense local currency. There is usually a limit of around \$100 worth of lei per transaction but you can make multiple withdrawals if needed. No added fees by the ATM, but your local bank in the US may charge a service fee. Menu selections of the ATM’s are available in English.

US Dollar Currency Exchange: It’s recommended that visitors bring hard currency in US Dollars for most of their on ground expenses. **Dollars are easily exchanged if they are the new style (larger image), and have no tears, worn spots, marks or writing on them.** It is a good

idea to ask the bank for brand-new bills so that they will not be refused (and therefore useless in the country). Rates can vary from one place to another, so you are advised to ask your IMB missionary for guidance. DO NOT exchange money on the street or from any individual (bellboy, waiter, shopkeepers, etc.). When you exchange money you must show identification (a photocopy of your passport will do). Always ask for a currency exchange receipt. You may be asked for it and you cannot change your money back into dollars without it. Be sure the exchange house does not charge commission. ** Euros are NOT accepted at stores and restaurants but can be exchanged for local currency in the same way as the dollar.

Medical Facilities: Medical care in Romania is limited. Basic medical supplies are often scarce.

Most major cities have at least one hospital with semi-modern equipment and some well-trained doctors. Emergency medical care has dramatically improved in those city hospitals but is still far behind US Standards.

Doctors and hospitals most often expect immediate cash payment for health services.

A Christian clinic – Open Door Medical Clinic in Bucharest is directed by 2 US doctors. 021-444-1994. Doctors Milt and Linda Hansen and staff can treat minor problems and help you get directed to good care for more serious problems.

Serious medical problems are often stabilized in Romania and then airlifted to better care in Germany or the US.

NOTE U. S. medical insurance is not always valid outside the United States.**

Therefore, supplemental medical insurance with specific overseas coverage, including provision for medical evacuation is required when working with / through the IMB and is available through the IMB for mission teams with an approved project number. The cost is very reasonable (around \$2 per person per day), especially in light of the fact that an emergency evacuation can cost \$30,000 and up.

For further overseas health information, travelers may contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, International travelers hotline (Inside US) 1-888-232-3228, or go to <http://www.cdc.gov>

Required Immunizations: No vaccinations are required for entry into Romania, but selective vaccinations are recommended. Hepatitis A, and Tetanus Diphtheria (td) are good immunization shots to have. You may want to consider Hepatitis B as well (ask your doctor). Some or all of the shots will be available at your county health department for a small charge.

Passport: Passport must be valid for a minimum of 3 months after your return from Romania. Be safe, if your passport expires within 6 months of your trip. Get it renewed. If a passport is lost in Romania it can be replaced with a temporary passport in 2-3 days at the American Embassy in Bucharest but you need to have a copy with you to expedite this process.

Visas: No visa required for American citizens for stays of up to 90 days. If you intend to stay longer you may purchase a 6-month multi-entry tourist visa from the Romanian Embassy in the US before you come to Romania.

Good Resources on Romania:

Romania & Moldova - a traveler guide
By Nicola Williams
Published by: Lonely Planet Publications
Published: May 1998

Eastern & Central Europe
Traveler's Literary Companion
Edited by James Naughton
Passport Books a division of NTC
Publishing Co. 1996

A History of Romania
Edited by Kurt W. Treptow
Published by
The Romanian Cultural Foundation
Iasi 1996 Available in the English language

On the web, the Romanian Embassy
in Washington D.C. has a lot of
information and links to many sites.

B. STATUS OF EVANGELICAL WORK IN ROMANIA

2002 STATISTICS – ROMANIAN BAPTISTS

Total churches 2002 **1,722**

(Figure includes all Hungarian, Deaf, and Gypsy churches)
Net increase of 60 churches and mission churches

Members 2002 (does not include children) **98,672**

Net Increase of 3118 members

Total Baptists - Bucharest	3,023
– Southern and Eastern Romania	10,538
- Northern and Western Romania	85,111

Baptisms 2002 **5,000**

(Net increase of only 3118 members due to death and emigration)

2002 STATISTICS – ALL EVANGELICALS**

**Refers to Pentecostal, Baptist, and Brethren denominations.

Total Evangelicals*** **506,162** = 2.4% Evangelical

Bucharest **11,807** = 0.6 % Evangelical

Southern and Eastern Romania **84,163** = 0.7% Evangelical

Northern and Western Romania **410,192** = 4.9% Evangelical

***Includes children. Report from the 2002 census. Actual numbers of baptized members is roughly 76% of this figure.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC marcopolo
XPEDITIONS
www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

Preparing For Your Mission Ministry

1) Enlist a Prayer Support Team

Prayer will play a pivotal role in the success of your mission trip. Remember, this is spiritual work and we are in a spiritual battle. If a team is going to win the victory and honor the Father, they must seek Him in prayer. Team members need to enlist prayer partners to stand with them in prayer.

Below is a sample of a prayer card that you can use to help enlist prayer partners. Your prayer partners should include co-workers, friends, family members, neighbors, Sunday school class members, and fellow church members. Make plans before you leave to meet with some of these people and pray for the mission trip. Prayer needs to be a regular part of your daily life.

<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Partners</p> <p>Will you please pray for me before, during and after I return from Romania?</p> <p>Yes, I (<u>Prayer Partners Name</u>), will pray for you as you prepare for and serve in mission work in Romania. I will continue to pray for you after you return home and as you are sharing in churches, Sunday School classes, and with family and friends.</p> <p><u>Missionary's name</u> <u>Missionary's contact information</u></p>
--

2) Be Spiritually Equipped for the Mission Work

- Be Trained in Witnessing/Evangelism

All team members must be trained in personal evangelism. This could include training such as “Evangelism Explosion,” “Continuous

Witnessing Training,” “Faith Training,” “Share Jesus Without Fear,” “The Cross Training” or “The Romans Road.” During the orientation there will be some teaching on cross-cultural evangelism.

There are opportunities to witness every day of our lives. Don’t plan on just witnessing when you get to Romania. Be a witness at home, in the airport, on the airplane, while in Romania, etc.

You should plan on taking some good English tracts that you can share with others during the travel time to Romania. Once in Romania, we will have tracts and Bibles in Romanian that you will be able to hand out.

- Be Trained in Prayer Walking

Every team member should be trained in prayer walking. Prayer walking is an important part of your ministry in Romania. There are three excellent guides available. They are:

1. “Follow Me – Lessons for Becoming a Prayerwalker” by Randy Sprinkle
2. “Prayer Walking – Praying On site With Insight” by Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick
3. “Prayerwalking – Interceding for the World One Step at a Time” by the International Mission Board

All of these resources can be purchased from the Partnership Missions Department, Missouri Baptist Convention or from the IMB.

- Be Trained/Disciplined in Daily Devotions

Each member of the team should have a daily **quiet time** with God. Spend time talking with the Father and spend time reading His Word. You might want to take along one good devotional book to read while on the plane or waiting in airports.

You will be busy at times during the mission trip. Some days you will be up before the sun is up and you might not have time to spend with the Lord during the early morning hours. You should take advantage

of any “**down time**” on the trip to spend time in prayer and Bible reading.

You might want to take a **personal journal** with you on the trip and write down significant events as they happen. Write scriptures that God has spoke to your heart about while on the trip. This journal can be a valuable resource to you in the months and years to come.

- Be Trained/Prepared for Preaching (For the Preachers going)

Start now preparing sermons that you sense God wants you to preach. Avoid sermons with controversial subjects and content. Remember, you are not there to change 1,000 years of church history. You are there so that the lost can get saved and the saved can get quipped to reach out in their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Prepare two or three messages with a salvation theme in them and prepare two or three sermons that will really challenge the church to do the work of God in their communities.

- Be Trained/Prepared for Teaching Biblical Truths (in your ministry areas)

Those of us who will be doing some teaching to women, teens or children will need to be prepared and familiar with our teaching material. Do not wait until you are on the plane to find out what you will be teaching or wait until the night before the teaching time. Prepare now and then review before the teaching time.

- Be Trained in Sharing Your Personal Testimony

Below is a good process in how to write out your testimony for sharing to a non-western church group.

How to Write/Share Your Testimony for a Non-Western Audience

Testimonies are an effective and powerful method for sharing your faith with unbelievers. Each member of the mission team needs to feel comfortable in

sharing a three to four minute testimony. You may focus on something current or recent that God has done in your life or from your salvation experience.

Some Things To Include

There are some things you will want to include in your testimony such as:

1) Personal Info

- Your name
- Where you live
- Your profession
- Why you came

2) Share what being a Christian means to you

- Your life before receiving eternal life
- What were you searching for before you found Christ?
- Your life after receiving eternal life
- State at least one positive thing since being saved

3) Share why you became a Christian

- Recognized you were lost
- Always conclude your testimony by stating that you know for **sure** that you have eternal life and are going to heaven when you die

4) Share how others can become a Christian

Identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ.

- Admit you're a sinner – All have sinned (repentance)
- Believe Jesus died for you

- Confess Jesus as Lord

Some Things Not To Include

- Do not share about the age you were saved

If saved as a child, please try to avoid using your age at conversion. There is the general belief that children do not have the spiritual capacity to understand and receive salvation. You could just say, “I gave my life to Christ at a young age” and leave it up to the listener to decide whether that was at age six or age sixteen.

- Do not share about past sins (drugs, drinking, smoking, etc)

If by chance you lived an especially sinful life before coming to Christ, it is not necessary to share all of the details of that life. What is important is what your relationship with Jesus Christ means to you and how your life has been changed because of Him.

- Do not talk about money

How much the trip cost.
How God provided the money for the trip.

- Do not speak for a long time (two to three minutes tops)

- Do not use religious terms/jargon

Avoid using clichés and words that are meaningless to the non-Christian. These words and phrases are words such as “born again, blessing, glory, etc.” Avoid travelogues and unnecessary details. Share with them the area of your life that illustrates the work of Christ.

- Do not tell jokes

What we think is funny in the United State is not funny in other countries. In some cases, it can get you into serious trouble.

MY TESTIMONY WORK SHEET

Remember: This is a time to share your story, not preach a message

Introduce yourself:

Your life before becoming a Christian:

Before I received Christ I

How I became a Christian:

What it means to be a Christian – impact on life:

Now that I am a Christian

How others can have a similar experience – plan of salvation

Give the opportunity for others to make a decision for Christ:

3. After You Return Home From Your Mission Experience

- Before you leave, you have been making plans on sharing in some churches and with friends after you return. Schedule time on a calendar to share with anyone wanting to hear.
- Have a special service in your home church where you can share your experiences with your church. You might want to show a power-point presentation or a video presentation. You might have some artifacts from Romania or Hungary that you will want to share with them. Your local newspaper might want to interview you concerning your trip (be careful what you say).
- Be positive and honest in sharing with others.
- Do not bore people with your presentation.

On the next page is a great process for putting together a presentation that you may want to consider

How to Present a Mission Presentation Without Boring Your Audience

- Make your Presentation Visual

People spend very little time reading so you must consider your audience when giving a mission presentation. Select good pictures or video clips that really tell the story of what you were doing while in Romania. Make it action packed and exciting. If it is, it will touch people's emotions and challenge them to become more involved in mission work.

- Make Your Presentation of Good Quality

People select DVD/videos to watch that are of good quality. Mediocrity will turn people away. Make it interesting, fascinating, compelling. **DO NOT BORE PEOPLE WITH MISSION PRESENTATIONS!**

- Make Your Presentation Message Clear

Tell the mission message over and over in just a little different way each time. When people leave, they must know what your mission and focus was all about. They need to also be challenged to go out and help evangelize the lost.

- Make Your Presentation Honest, Practical and Relevant

Be truthful and honest. Do not touch up the work to make it more exciting. Unfortunately many of our church members have seen fakes in the ministry. Tell it like it was and don't exaggerate the facts.

- Make Your Presentation Personal and Invite Others to Join You

Your goal should be to challenge others through your presentation. People like to be included and usually want to be involved. Tell them how they can go with you on the next mission trip! Do not use a guilt or shame technique.

- Make Your Presentation Within the Allotted Time Frame

If you go over, you may never be asked to come back to that church again. If you are the pastor, you might cause your people to avoid coming the next time because you had a long presentation. Be time conscience and sensitive to the audience. Do not bore people with pictures of people that are really not important to the overall presentation. Be relevant to your audience.

- **Make Your Presentation Evangelistic**

End the service with a strong but short evangelistic message and invitation.

BEFORE THE TRIP, TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

A. BEFORE YOU PACK & AS YOU TRAVEL:

1. For your departure you'll need your documents easily accessible (passport, tickets, etc.). Please do not put these in your carry-on. It is best to use one of the document pouches that hang around your neck and can be concealed by clothing to carry your passport, credit card and cash. There is also a model that is made like a shoulder holster that works well between a man's T-shirt and outer shirt.
2. It would be a good idea to prepare a very general packing list WITHOUT values for each bag. Place a copy in the luggage and keep one with you in case of loss. This doesn't need to be detailed; it should say enough to show that you're not bringing in stuff to sell. For example: Personal effects, clothing, books, toiletries, etc. At the top of the packing list put your name, address of destination, and contact telephone numbers. Place a photocopy of your passport in each bag.
3. It is recommended that you pack in your carry-on a day's supply of clothing and all prescription medication in the event your luggage is delayed or you experience an unexpected overnight delay on your way over. Please do not bring any expensive jewelry. Many churches do not allow jewelry. Carry only essential toiletries.
4. If the airline delays your travel, they are usually required to take care of all stopover expenses including hotel, meals, and telegram / telephone call to advise of change in arrival schedule.
5. It is suggested that you bring 1 1/2 times your planned need of any prescription medications. Keep your medication with you in your carry-on. Medications should be in current, dated, prescription bottle. Please do not bring any medications in plain containers or the wrong container. You may lose them at a customs check.
6. Each person should carry a photocopy of their passport in a separate location from the original. You should also bring an emergency list that shows your name, medications that you are currently taking, allergies to medication, blood type, family doctor contact information, and family members' contact information. The list should contain any information that could be important in case of accident or sudden illness. Carry a copy of your airline tickets in a separate place in case of loss.
7. If you wear glasses, be sure to bring your prescription (or an extra pair of glasses) and carry it with your medical information.
8. In America, arrive at the airport at least 2 hours before departure for international flights.
9. During your trip, never leave your luggage unlocked or unattended. Use the buddy system and take turns watching the luggage for each other during waits at the airports.
10. In Europe, the restroom will usually be called W.C. (water closet), or simply Toilet. The door may be propped open so look carefully at the plaque on door before entering. In some cities

in Europe you may discover that there is not a separate room for men and women in some establishments.

11. Carry a few one-dollar and a few five dollar bills (should be the new style and in good condition) with you when you depart. They are accepted at most international airports and will come in handy when you want to purchase food or need to give a tip.

12. Purchase a few favorite snacks before packing. Pack larger amounts in your checked bag. These will come in handy in airports where the food is very expensive, on that rare occasion when the menu does not fit your taste, and on that not so rare occasion when your confused body-clock has you awake and hungry at 3 o'clock in the morning! Pack enough in your carry-on for the journey. In the summer be careful of candy bars and snacks that melt easily.

****IF YOU MISS YOUR PLANE:**

Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours early. If it's a tight security day, you could end up missing your flight if you arrive later. It can take a long time to process passengers if they are doing extra security checks.

B. AFTER YOU LAND IN ROMANIA

You will go through three areas:

1. Passport Control: Not a problem unless you lose your passport. Often the lines are long and the process time consuming but do not worry. We have anticipated the time it required between your touchdown and your entry into the reception area of the airport.

2. Baggage claim: You'll recognize this area. Watch and wait for your bags. **Do not exchange large sums of money at the exchange counters in the baggage claim area or the airport lobby. The rate is very bad.** There should be no reason for you to need lei to get through to the reception area of the airport. There is an ATM in the airport lobby as are other exchange booths. However, these will be at the least advantageous rates. Use the ATM or try to exchange away from the airport.

The luggage carts in the baggage area are free. Unless you need help getting your things off the belt tell the attendants "no" (we will help you when you get to the lobby). If luggage is missing, go directly to the lost luggage office by baggage claim area and report it. You'll need your bar-coded luggage tag, which is usually stapled to your ticket. If you have the address of your final destination in Romania, the airport will often deliver it. Missing luggage usually arrives by the next day.

3. Customs: You should have nothing to declare. This is where the packing list may come in handy. If you're asked what is in any of the bags, just say they're all personal effects for your trip. They may want to inspect the contents. We have had very little problem with volunteers entering even with large amounts of luggage. They rarely opened your bags. Be prepared to unlock them if asked. Just be confident as you approach the customs officers and keep walking out. They will motion you over if they want to inspect your luggage.

*****Medical Team Customs:** The laws in Romania have made it very difficult to bring in donations of medicines and other medical supplies. If you plan to do medical / dental evangelism, please contact your IMB missionaries AT LEAST 6 months before your trip so that you might determine if the trip is feasible and what paperwork for approvals must be done.

4. After Customs: You will go through large sliding doors where you will see the crowd waiting to greet friends and loved ones. Look for someone holding a sign with the letters IMB or the name of your team or team leader. Many times that person will be an IMB missionary. On other occasions it may be the Romanian pastor or the van driver that will take you to your ministry site. These details will be worked out in advance so that you know for whom you are looking. If for some reason no one is there to greet you, call the person that is to be waiting for you or an IMB missionary. To make a call you will need a calling card. There is a machine in the lobby that dispenses calling cards and you can also purchase them from the flower shop. The cost is 135,000 lei. (about \$4.50) There are two ATM machines in the lobby that dispense Lei or you may wish to exchange only 5 or 10 dollars. There are several exchange places in the lobby and their rate is usually 10% less than in the city. When you get the calling card you use the card in the orange wall phones that look like pay phones. Just sit tight, don't get a taxi or accept any offers of help (except from us, of course). Remember; watch your luggage as you would in any major airport! There will be a lot of people and some confusion as you exchange greetings and make your way out of the terminal. Watch your small bags, cameras, purses and valuables. Keep your hand on them. Local telephone numbers of IMB missionaries in Bucharest can be found on the web page www.imbromania.ro. Have these with you before you leave the US!

Once you get to the lobby and we go outside, young men may try to help with your luggage. They will attach themselves to you and offer to help and try to help even when you refuse. They can be very assertive (forceful). Just tell them NO!! and continue to tell them NO!!! Do not allow them to help you and do not pay them or reach for your wallet as if considering the possibility. They are the "pro's". You will never profit from their "help" or even their presence.

C. E-Mail addresses for Romania Missionaries:

The e-mail addresses for some of our missionaries are listed below. If you would like more information about ministry opportunities and needs in Romania, you may contact one of the people listed below. You will be provided a list of emergency telephone numbers to leave with your family before your departure to Romania.

~ Larry Carnes, Strategy Coordinator for Romania

E-mail: LPCarnes@aol.com

~ Dwayne Brown, Coordinator of Volunteer Mission Teams in Romania

E-mail: dmcbrown_2000@yahoo.com

~ Boyd Hatchel, Strategy Coordinator for the Gypsy (Romi) people

E-mail BoydHatchel@pobox.com

~ Bob Hill, Coordinator of Volunteer Mission Teams to the Gypsy (Romi) people in Romania

E-mail: bun_50@hotmail.com

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We're looking forward to your arrival!

D. Travel Money

When considering how much cash to bring for miscellaneous expenses and souvenirs, \$300 is an average amount to suggest. Big shoppers may want to bring more. The conversion rate of the US dollar to the Romanian Lei changes regularly, so you may want to inquire what the current exchange rate is as your trip nears. Please do not be concerned or even attempt to convert any dollars to Romanian currency prior to arrival in Romania. Even after you arrive, don't convert all your money at one time. Ask the IMB missionary for advice on how much to convert at a time. Finding a place to exchange money is not a problem. Please don't plan on using traveler's checks or credit cards. Most places where we will be working don't accept either. Even where they do accept credit cards, it's not always safe because theft of credit card numbers is very common in Eastern Europe. It's better to bring a little extra cash or to plan on using an ATM as they are readily available now. ATM machines are not found in the villages. Please do not bring more than one credit card and keep it in a secure place with your cash or passport. Make a copy of it and keep the copy in a safe place, separate from the card, in case you need to report the card lost.

E. Passports & Visas

All visitors to Romania must have a valid passport that expires no less than 3 months from your departure from Romania. Be safe, if your passport expires within 6 months of your trip departure date, get it renewed. Some countries won't allow you to enter if your passport expires within 6 months.

In the US, passport applications can be picked up at most local Post Offices. You will need an official birth certificate and 2 passport portraits from a qualified passport photographer. Passport photos can be obtained at many photo processing places and independent mail franchises, such as Mail Box Express, etc. The passport processing time can take from four to eight weeks and the cost is around \$85.00. If you do not currently have a valid passport, please begin this process immediately to avoid any inconveniences that a delay in processing could cause. Pre-trip Visas are not required. American visitors to Romania receive an automatic 30-day travel Visa. Team members are encouraged to make four photocopies of their passport. One to leave back in the states with a stateside point-of-contact. A second copy to carry in luggage (kept in a location separate from the original passport), a third copy to the team leader. The last one is in case of emergency or document loss.

If you lose your passport, promptly call the nearest American Embassy or consulate and the local police. The telephone number for the American Embassy in Romania is: 4-021-210-4042
FAX 4-021-211-3360.

You may be required to show your passport at any time for any or no reason as you travel and during your stay in Romania - be prepared! (** Do not however show your passport on the street to anyone claiming to be a policeman. If you are requested to do so, demand to be taken to the police station first. There are a variety of scams and cons where tourists are flashed a badge and told that their passport and money must be inspected.)

F. LUGGAGE & EXCESS LUGGAGE

THE FOLLOWING IS GENERAL INFORMATION RELATED TO LUGGAGE AND EXCESS LUGGAGE.

Airlines are not the same. Check with your travel agent or airline about their specific requirements. If you are changing airlines overseas (not interlining), you should check the requirement for both carriers. Some overseas carriers don't allow as much in weight or size for checked or carry-on luggage.

The US standard per ticket is normally 2 free checked bags, maximum 70 pounds each, depending on the carrier and destination. They are now very strict and the cost for overweight is normally \$110 or more and can be much more. No one bag may exceed 62 inches; both combined may not exceed 106 inches. To measure a piece of luggage, you add length + width + height. Some airlines will allow 2 – 62” bags. Check with the airline.

One carry-on bag is also allowed. It must fit under the seat or in the overhead bin with a 20 pound weight limit. If your valuables, prescription medication, cosmetics, toiletries, one day's change of clothing, etc. are in your carry-on, it's best not to fudge on size. They may take it from you and check it before you board. Because you have always carried that carry-on doesn't mean that it will be acceptable today...

If you take a trip within Europe, the standard for checked luggage, per person is 20 Kilograms (about 44 lbs.) with a limit of 2 pieces. Carry-on luggage, including purse, generally cannot exceed 5 Kilograms (11 lbs.).

Excess Piece of Baggage: Any baggage, which exceeds the free allowance, will be considered excess and will be assessed a charge based on the destination. If you are making connections from the USA to your final international destination, you should check you baggage all the way through to the destination. Excess pieces of baggage (more than 2 checked bags) should not exceed 62” in dimension or exceed the weight limit imposed by your international carrier.

If you voluntarily decide to stop over at any point outside the United States in route, you may be required to revert to the international baggage allowance of 44 lbs. per person. Check with your airline.

Payment for Excess Pieces: You must pay the charge for excess pieces at point of origin when checking through to your final destination. Allow extra time for this task. Personal checks are not usually accepted, and you will need sufficient funds in cash, or have a credit card. Typically, the charges run from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per piece, depending on destination and the carrier. Normally to and from Romania, it will cost \$110 - \$120 per extra bag. Be very careful when you pack. In the case of the excess piece that is also over weight or over sized the price usually triples for that piece. It is better to unload non-essential items from your overweight bags at the check-in station. It's amazing how unnecessary some items become.

Handling Excess Pieces:

1. Make arrangements as early as possible for extra luggage. Contact your departing airline at least one day before travel and explain that you will be coming in with excess pieces. Have your flight number and time ready. If you have not paid in advance for extra luggage, ascertain the charges per piece so that you can be prepared to pay when checking in.
2. Get to the airport early. Then, if problems arise, there will be time to call the agent who can get in touch with the airline or their sales representative and try to solve the problem. If possible, give the name of the attendant at the counter and their telephone number to the agency. Always have someone who can take the excess luggage back to your home in case of unresolved problems.

Mark Your Bags: Be sure that each bag has a nametag that is securely fastened. The tag should include your name, destination address, and telephone number. Use one of the nametag holders that cover the tag and are not easily opened. Guard against a stranger easily securing your home address as they watch you leave the country. Place inside the bag, your name, address in the USA, telephone number, address at destination, contact person and telephone numbers. Include a copy of your passport and an inventory list. Keep the list general (personal items, toiletries, clothes, shoes, hair dryer, etc.) and do not include dollar values. Carry a copy of the inventory for each bag with you as well. If your bag is lost, this list will be important. Mark your bags so that they are easily recognized. When you are in the luggage pickup area, many bags may look like yours. It's much easier if you are looking for the yellow band that you placed around each bag, or the safety orange reflector ribbon that you tied to the handle. Teams may use the same markings so that members can collect bags more easily.

Lost Luggage: If one or more of your bags does not arrive with you, go immediately to the claims office and file a loss claim for the luggage. Do not exit the claim area. Once you are on the other side of customs it will be difficult to prove that you did not exit with the luggage. You will be asked how you can be contacted and need to know where you will be staying. They will deliver the lost luggage to you when it arrives (Their responsibility). Otherwise the IMB missionary can arrange to have someone pick the bag up for you.

PACKING FOR THE TRIP

When packing for a mission trip almost everyone packs too much. Packing too much can be a hindrance to you and others on the trip. Often the hotel rooms are not as large as in the US and in sharing the room with a roommate, large overloaded suitcases become a burden. If you stay in a home, the large over packed bags become a major burden.

A. GENERAL PACKING:

1. Don't pack those four books that you have been hoping to read. You won't have time to read them on your trip. Bring one in your carry-on to read on the airplane and during layovers as you travel.
2. You will need your Bible and a devotional book for your quiet time and share times.
3. Pack a small battery operated travel alarm. Some use alarms on their wristwatch.
4. Be sure that all hair dryers, curling irons, travel irons, etc. are convertible to 230 volt from 110 volt or will work on a travel converter. Some travel converters will not work for electric items with heater elements. If you buy or borrow an electrical converter, be sure that it is adequate for what your intended use and read the instructions carefully.
5. Don't pack expensive or large jewelry. It's best to plan on not wearing jewelry. Ladies, the one pair of conservative earrings that you wear on the trip will be enough for any purpose. It's best to leave your expensive rings at home.
6. Don't pack four pairs of shoes. One good pair of walking or athletic shoes for activities and travel, and one pair of universal, casual / dress shoes will be fine. Add shower thongs and the washable, sock-type house slippers if you like.
7. Pack - Travel poncho or umbrella.
8. Four or five clothes hangers that you won't take back.
9. Washcloths are not available in Europe except in expensive hotels that cater to the wealthy. If you need them, bring them.
10. In certain circumstances you may wish that you had brought one small bath towel as many of the towels in Eastern Europe are not very absorbent.
11. Spring through fall; pack a small size, Deep Woods Off, mosquito killer, or your favorite brand.
12. Small flashlight that will fit in your purse, backpack or pocket for use in Romania (Pack in checked bag). Lighting on city streets and in stairwells is very poor and non-existent in outhouses and other village attractions.
13. Small travel calculator for figuring money conversion.
14. Fanny-pack or backpack (not for valuables).
15. Sunglasses.
16. Extra batteries for camera. Don't forget the film, battery charger for video and digital camera, camera strap and camera carrying case. Oh, don't forget the camera. Batteries and film are available to purchase all over Romania but are more expensive.
17. Breath mints, snacks (be careful of those that melt in the summer heat).
18. Address list for mailing those post cards.
19. Journal.
20. Contact lens care kit.

B. TOILETRIES:

1. Pack a supply of the personal size facial tissue (Kleenex) packages. These will be handy for napkins, disposable handkerchiefs and toilet paper when not available (often).
2. A travel pack of handy wipes (baby wipes).
3. A 2 fl. oz. bottle of antibacterial hand sanitizer should last two weeks.
4. Pack one and a half times your planned need of any prescription medication. Pack medication only in your carry-on and only in current prescription bottle. Never pack in unmarked container.
5. Vitamins
6. Over counter medications: Sunburn ointment, Band-Aids, Eyewash, Benadryl, motion sickness tablets, Pepto-Bismol, Imodium A-D, Tylenol / Tylenol PM, Rubbing alcohol, Allergy / Sinus medication, cough drops, Dramamine, etc.
7. Small package of laundry soap. Place in zip lock bag to protect your clothing.
8. Your favorite bath soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, hair spray, comb, hairbrush, etc.
9. Sun-block lotion (in season) Sun is intense in Romania!
10. Aloe gel or other skin conditioners, hand lotion, body lotion, etc.
11. Female sanitary items.
12. Small handheld mirror.
13. Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash.
14. Disposable razors, shaving cream, after-shave lotion..
15. Cotton balls, Q-tips.

C. CLOTHING:

Clothing needs will vary greatly depending on the season of the year, area of the country and the planned projects for ministry (medical, VBS, evangelism, sports evangelism, etc.) We will advise you more specifically as you prepare. Never hesitate to ask questions of the IMB person that you are working with as you prepare for your trip. Hopefully the list below will help.

Underwear	Collared casual shirts
Long underwear (in winter)	Polo shirts
Handkerchiefs	Windbreaker/rain jacket
Socks for walking and dress, white and dark	Necktie
Hat with brim or ball cap	Sports jacket with slacks or suit
Appropriate head cover for snow & wind (in winter)	Dress shirt
Belts	Light sweater
Casual cotton pants	Blouses
Knee length, walking shorts (for travel in summer)	Headscarf for church (married women, all seasons)
Jeans (loose fitting, for sightseeing and travel)	Skirts / Dresses (knee length or longer, full)
Comfortable walking shoes	Heavy sweaters (in winter)
Dress shoes (please avoid high heels)	Good winter coat (November through March)

Pack so that you can dress in layers during Spring or Fall.
****Please – no tight fitting or revealing clothing.**

Culture Shock

What is culture shock?

The Oxford American Dictionary states that “Culture Shock is the confusion experienced when introduced to a culture strikingly different from one’s own.”

Others have said that “Culture Shock is a mental/physical disorientation that produces an uneasiness and anxiety from being in an unfamiliar culture or environment.”

Who are potential candidates for culture shock?

Culture shock happens to everyone! The most serious cases are from those who do not know how to recognize it and deal with it in a positive and constructive way.

Experiencing culture shock does not mean that you were not cut out to be a missionary or used by God. Our IMB missionaries go through culture shock when they move to an unfamiliar country. Foreign students coming to America experience culture shock as they live here in the USA.

Some signs of Culture Shock

Fatigue and anxiety

Disgruntle & complaining spirit

Discouragement

Feeling guilty of being an American

Fearful of being laughed at

How to Overcome Culture Shock

- Realize that God made us and desires to see us make changes in life
- Recognize God has ordered the steps of a righteous person
- Understand that God can help any reasonably balanced or unreasonably balanced person to adjust to any new culture
- Realize that “Culture Shock” is normal and happens to everyone regardless of race, age, or educational background
- Be aware that as believers, we should not fear the new and unfamiliar, we should only fear being outside of God’s will
- Rejoice in the fact that “Culture Shock” can be a faith building experience in your life
- Make an effort to try new things and meet new people
- Pray that God’s grace will enable you to overcome your fears of being in a new environment
- Put yourself in the shoes of the Romanian people. Try to understand where they are coming from
- Cultivate an attitude of exploration and adventure
- Don’t take yourself too seriously. Learn to laugh at yourself

Golden Rule to Culture Shock: We should not get upset with anything that God is not upset with!

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER WHILE IN ROMANIA

A. Introductory Notes

1. Romania is a beautiful country and the people are beautiful. Their customs, traditions and perspectives on life and family are often different from yours. We suggest that you don't judge but seek to understand, learn and appreciate their way of life. Please don't judge or try to change anything in the short time you are here. Many people go back to the US saying, "if only they had this" or "if we could send this or that, then we could make a difference." If you concentrate on sharing the Gospel and the love of Christ you *will* make a difference and God will do the rest.
2. Romania has a long and interesting history and you could lose yourself for weeks exploring the historical villages, castles, palaces and other sites from Roman ruins to Dracula. Some of the most beautiful mountains in the world are found in Romania. Beautiful forests abound and the soil of the farmland is among the most fertile in the world. You will love the villages with their primitive ways (compared to our standards). The horse and oxen drawn wagons and plows are common. The dress and community of the people take you back to the days when Americans had more character, values, knew their neighbors and visited at the roadside in the evenings. It would be a great idea to study up on the history of Romania before coming. Most computer encyclopedia programs have a good overview and up to date information is available in abundance on the Internet. There are many links from the resource pages of our www.imbromania.ro website.
3. If you have questions, ask one of the IMB people or your translator. Your translators are there for you. If you are not sure, ask them first. We want your visit to be pleasant and meaningful. Be careful not to use slang words. Although many Romanians speak English, they don't always understand what we mean by certain words or phrases and your comment could be misunderstood as an insult. Please remember that your translator is Romanian and don't say, "I can't believe they do this or that." when referring to the people or Romanians in general. Many translators, van drivers, etc., have had their feelings hurt.

B. Church and Community Ministry:

1. In witnessing, be sincere. Express what Jesus has done in your life and what He means to you. Then continue as the Holy Spirit leads. When speaking of spiritual things the Romanians will not appreciate the humor that some Americans blend into their testimony. The believers take their faith and their Lord very seriously. The Orthodox take their tradition seriously even though they may not know what they believe. Don't get caught up in putting Orthodoxy down. Build Christ up and share His love for them.
2. You will customarily hear the word "pace" – pronounced "pa-che", which means peace in Romanian. It is the customary greeting between church members. If you are greeted this way, feel free to respond with the same greeting. If you are not sure that someone is a church member, then don't initiate with this greeting or use another form of greeting.

3. Women in Church: In almost all church in the villages and most in the city, married women wear head coverings. Wear a scarf folded and tied behind the neck. We can show you your options. It's best not to wear jewelry. In most cases makeup should not be worn at all. If this concession cannot be made then it should be used only very conservatively. We wish this were not such a difficult point to make clear to the modern western Christian woman. In the church there is almost the perception that a woman with makeup could not be Christian. Wear a dress or skirt (length below the knees) in place of slacks.
4. Men in Church: At the very least wear a polo type shirt with a collar. Short sleeves are fine in the summer. It's best to wear a dress shirt with a tie. If you are to preach, or would like to, then wear a suit or sport coat with tie (coat optional in summer). Please don't wear shorts to a service.

*** Yes there are exceptions to the rules on dress. Because you are American, they will overlook your dress, but it is much better to win their appreciation as you show your respect. Your ministry will have more power if you dress respectfully as a leader. Most often they cannot afford more but they wear their best to church.

1. In some churches men and women sit on opposite sides of the sanctuary. The Romanians are very accommodating and may ask you to sit together in the front. Graciously accept their offer.
2. Men and Women: While visiting an area for the purpose of evangelism (unless involved in manual labor, park ministries, or certain VBS) wear conservative clothing. Avoid shorts, T-shirts and sports attire while doing ministry (sports evangelism is the exception). Even in VBS, street ministry or often in the park ministry it's better to wear a polo type shirt with collar than a T-shirt. Never wear tight-fitting clothing or shorts above the knee. Make every effort not to walk the streets visiting loudly, laughing, etc., but do have a ready smile and greeting for everyone you meet. As you walk, prayer walk, praying for prepared hearts (yours and theirs) and for opportunities. Pray for the courage to follow Gods leading and for opportunity to share the Gospel. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads you to pray. Study prayer walking before you come and practice as a team. It's a good habit.
3. Every Orthodox Romanian believes that they are Christian, due to Orthodox tradition in the country. Don't be drawn into telling them why they are wrong. Just tell them what Jesus means to you and ask them what Jesus means to them. Focus on your personal relationship with Jesus and the day-to-day difference it has made. Focus on the hope and joy we have in Him, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. (Many Romanians don't believe "rich Americans" have problems.) Then follow the Holy Spirit's lead. God has a purpose. Please know how to share your faith and understand what you believe well enough that you don't have to follow a word-by-word format.
4. Be careful using church terminology. "Christian, Faith, church, salvation" all mean something very different to the Orthodox mind.

5. In churches, unless you are the preacher, don't stand behind the pulpit to speak. Stand in front or to the side of it. When speaking (preaching or testimony) don't put your hands in your pockets, chew gum or cross your arms. Be comfortable and share what the Lord places on your heart. Speak slowly and clearly so that the translator may communicate what you have to say accurately. The people want to know more about Americans and what we believe. They see us as "having it all together", as hope and promise, and they want to hear what you have to say. You can't do it wrong. Remember that God has a plan and the power.
6. Treat your Bible with respect. Don't slam it down, bend it backwards, or handle it in a way that could be perceived as disrespectful. Bibles are not plentiful here and therefore should be cared for. It is the Word of God and should be treated with respect.
7. Christ has selected you for a purpose; He will accomplish His purpose if you are willing. He is using you even in your uncertainty. Enjoy your walk with Him while you are in Romania and listen to Him. He will guide you and use you. May His blessings and grace surround you and you come to fully understand His faithfulness and abundant grace. If you use this opportunity to join Him in His work, you can expect to return home a changed person no matter how complete you thought you were when you left.
8. If a confrontation arises with any official, Orthodox Priest or member of the community, just look pleasant and let your translator, pastor or missionary handle it. Don't stand around and listen – casually remove yourselves from the confrontation. Dispersing tends to defuse the situation. If there's a crowd, then crowd emotion will grow!

C. COURTESIES:

1. When you enter a Romanian home it is a custom to remove your shoes. When you enter begin to remove your shoes. They may insist that you keep yours on and it will be okay to do so unless they are muddy.
2. Romanians love flowers and it's a custom when visiting a home to take flowers. Always take uneven numbers, usually 3 or 5 flowers in an arrangement. An even number of flowers is for funerals, bereaved friends and family. Other gifts such as a box of candy or bag of coffee or something from the US is also appropriate.
3. Be careful how you admire things in a Romanian home, they will frequently insist you take it. Don't hesitate to voice the appreciation of something, be sincere, but not too demonstrative.
4. After a relationship has been established, Romanians will embrace and kiss each other on each cheek. You can expect this after a couple of meetings and a genuine friendship has been established. Very common among women and not uncommon among men.

5. Tipping: In restaurants the tip is normally 10% (no more) but look over the check. Occasionally the tip is added to the check as service. In hotels you can tip the bellboy 20,000 Lei per bag but no more than 50,000 Lei total. At hotels where the continental breakfast is included it's difficult to tip. If the attendant has been very helpful, you may slip them 20,000 Lei per table. When in doubt ask the IMB person present.
6. We would hope this goes without saying, but when visiting local restaurants, meeting places, or homes, a strict no-smoking, no-drinking policy is to be observed. Please use your best manners and try not to be loud and boisterous. Be polite, remove your hat or cap when indoors
7. When staying in a home, it is appropriate to give a hospitality gift. Good gifts would include a set of towels, Christian tapes and CD's, something special to your area of the US. If the family has children it is appropriate to take a toy or bag of candy.
8. It is also appropriate to leave a sum of money with the family to cover their expenses. This should be established with the local pastor, team leader and missionary. We usually suggest \$5-10 per person per day for the bed and breakfast and around \$5 per meal for other meals. Talk with the local pastor or missionary to see if it is more appropriate to give it to the family, leave in an envelope with a thank you note or to give it to the local pastor to give to the family.

D. DO'S AND DON'TS:

1. Much has changed in Romania since the 1989 revolution and much is changing daily. You will be here a short time and hopefully have an experience that will bless you forever. Don't criticize the culture of how things are done. Don't tell them how you do it in America unless you are asked, and then keep it simple and return the focus to them. It's your chance to learn all about their culture and their life. You are in Romania for the purpose of sharing the Gospel and exhibit the presence of Christ in you.
2. In the villages don't make fun of or tease one another about the facilities (outdoor toilets, the paper etc.) or use words such as gross, awful, etc. Certain circumstances are part of the everyday life of the people and not the unusual. Your translators may live in such surroundings or have many relatives that do. Remember to be gracious.
3. Don't eat snacks or drink soft drinks in front of the children or people in the villages unless you are prepared to share what you have with them. They can't afford them. If you offer candy or snacks to children, be prepared for all the kids in the village or neighborhood to be pulling on your sleeve in a few minutes. The word gets out!
4. Be sensitive to the people. They may not be as affluent, educated or sophisticated as you are, but they are God's special people and He has placed you there to be a caring example of Christ. However, you will be amazed at how many have degrees from a university, but it may not be apparent. The culture is different.

5. Do bring pictures of your family. They will ask you about your spouse, children, grandchildren, fiancée or sweetheart. Plan ahead and take special pictures for this occasion. Take them in front of a wooded area, a beautiful shrub, a waterfall or looking off a mountaintop. Place them in a small presentation book that you can pass around if asked. DON'T take a lot of pictures with your fine home or new vehicle in the background. Don't bring pictures that document how well you live or how well your home is decorated. Keep it personal; be sure that all your pictures are of those you love not of your accumulated abundance. If you show such pictures, you will never convince them that you are not wealthy. Help them to understand that your joy (happiness) has its source in Jesus Christ, not because you have so much.
6. Please DO NOT give any gifts to the residents while visiting an orphanage or foundation unless you have received the approval of the administrator. Don't ask another volunteer or employee unless the administrator has made it clear that they have the authority. When in doubt, ask the IMB missionary.
7. DO NOT give cash to orphans or employees of a care facility. You may give an orphan just what they need to run away and end up back on the streets. Give cash gifts only to the administrator/director and even then you should first check with the IMB missionary with whom you are working.
8. No cash, tips, etc., should be given to Romanians (interpreters, workers, pastors, etc.) without prior approval of an IMB representative. They work here and know best. They know the proper way gifts should be given or they may know of a greater need that would glorify the Lord.
9. Everyone involved with the American mission team should refrain from entering the room of members of the opposite sex. This is even more important when that person is Romanian.
10. Please be aware that one-on-one time together with Romanians (outside the group activity setting) is strongly discouraged. The Romanian culture is quite unlike ours, and what may seem harmless/innocent acts of friendship may be interpreted much differently than we would realize.
11. You and the translators are going to form a binding relationship based on your dependency on them to get you through many situations. Some may be traumatic, others a time of joy and excitement. You will share experiences together that you will never forget. Be careful of your emotions! Be considerate of theirs. Don't promise anything. If you do, be sure to follow through. Remember a surprise is better than a broken promise. They can develop great expectations of Americans, and your promises can slip your mind. Once back in their environment, some Americans never get around to their good intentioned promises. A "maybe", "we'll see", or "wouldn't it be nice" will usually be interpreted as a hard and fast commitment. Avail yourself of the counsel of the on-site missionary especially with regard to your translators.

12. We often use two levels of translators. Those who are older and paid for their service and the younger teenagers who just love to be with the Americans and involved in the activities. The latter are eager to help and will love every minute of it. (Please do not use them for serious ministry. Use them to translate with other children and for casual conversations). The free drinks, food and treats that you might want to give them are more than they expect. Teams often give them gifts such as ball caps or leave with the pastor the soccer balls and other game equipment for them to play with as a group. Please don't give the young ones money unless the IMB missionary instructs you to do so. You should depend on the missionary to arrange all monetary gifts. You could insult their sincere desire to do ministry alongside of you. You could corrupt the purity of their motivation. Or, you could set a precedent that raises the expectations of others and leads to future dissatisfaction.

E. OTHER PRACTICAL DETAILS:

1. Bottled water is readily available. Plain water is called "apa plata". The water preferred by most Romanians is "apa minerale," meaning that it has both gas (carbonation) and minerals added.
2. Your favorite soft drink may be available. Coke is called Coke or cola and Diet Coke is Coke Lite. Ask for 7 UP, Sprite and Pepsi by name. The diet Pepsi is called Pepsi Max or Pepsi Light. The soft drink called Fanta is very good and comes in several flavors. Other familiar goodies available in Romania are Mars Bars and Snickers Bars, peanut M&Ms, with more coming available all the time.
3. Fast food is also available and there are McDonalds in all major cities. There are many types of cookies, candies, and chips available. Romanian food is very tasty and is usually heavy with a lot of meat, potatoes, breads, soups and salads. Romanians eat a lot of pork and know how to make it delicious!
4. Tap water in Romania is not as bad as in some countries, but it is a good idea not to drink the water. The danger is not so much with microbes (although well water in villages may present that problem), but chemicals, minerals and metals in the water. Brushing your teeth from the tap is probably OK, if you don't have an overly sensitive system. If you do, be safe and use bottled water to brush your teeth. Raw vegetables and fruits are generally safe to eat but it's a good idea to peel the fruit. If you have a sensitive system don't over do it unless you know the restaurant is okay and it's safe to eat the salad. All cooked vegetables are safe. Coffee and other boiled drinks are OK.
5. Electrical current in Romania is 230 volt, 50 cycles, and a transformer will be necessary for your electrical items. Some hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors, battery chargers, etc. have a switch to change from 120 volt to 230 volt or automatically change when plugged in but you will need a plug adapter. You can purchase a travel kit that will work in most countries at stores that sell travel items.

6. You are an American representing our Lord Jesus Christ . . . please represent God and America well. Things will not always be convenient or comfortable but God is sufficient and the blessing will ultimately be yours.

G. SECURITY:

Romania is in many ways less dangerous than the USA. You are far less apt to experience physical harm from an individual than in the US. Petty theft is what you should guard against. When in the cities or using mass transit systems, obey the same rules that you would anywhere else in the world as you travel. If it's valuable, keep your hands on it or have it well concealed on your person. Assume that a pickpocket or thief is watching you at all times waiting for you to let your guard down.

1. Please keep all of your valuable possessions in the front of your person. **DO NOT** carry your wallet in your hip pocket. Ladies, shorten your purse straps so that the purse body is further under your arm. Move your backpack to the front if it contains valuables.
2. Make sure you know where your passport and airline tickets are at all times. Keep money, credit cards and valuables in hidden pockets or money belts as much as possible, only keeping out what you will need for the days events.
3. **DO NOT** engage in conversation with street kids or beggars. That is a specialized ministry and there are agencies and foundations that specialize in their care. When 3 or 4 children at a time crowd around you on the street, be careful of your belongings. They can be very entertaining and very swift.
4. **DO NOT** place your handbag, camera bag, backpack, etc. in the chair next to you at the restaurant. Please don't hang your purse or bags on the chair back or arm, or lay them on the table. Keep them in your lap, or setting in the floor between your feet, placing one foot through the shoulder strap.
5. **DO NOT** take pictures of anyone in a police or military uniform.
6. **DO NOT** take pictures of buildings with uniformed guards in front of them. Not even of the American Embassy or Ambassadors Home. There are many of these buildings in Bucharest. If you value your camera, be careful.
7. When you exchange money get an exchange receipt and keep it where you can find it. You may be asked for it. **DO NOT** walk out of the exchange office handling money. **DO NOT** keep your money in large wads so that you have to sort through it when you pay. Organize your money by denomination and don't keep it all in one place. Keep at hand only what you anticipate needing for that day. Visitors are required to change money only at official rates and exchange offices. You may need to show your exchange receipt from an exchange office when paying for hotels, air and international train tickets in Lei.

8. Romanian law allows foreigners to bring up to \$10,000 in cash into Romania, but requires them to declare any amount above \$10,000 upon entry. No amount in excess of that declared upon entry may be taken out of Romania upon departure. Sums larger than \$10,000 per person must be transferred through banks.
9. Beware of sidewalk moneychangers. Never stop to talk to anyone asking about making change or exchanging money. Never show your money to anyone claiming to be a policeman. Occasionally we hear of a scam involving individuals posing as policemen, who approach you, flash a badge, and ask for your passport and wallet. The false policeman will flee with your passport and wallet. Stay in a group of three or more and this scenario is not likely to occur. Stay with your translator or IMB missionary.
10. Europeans stand closer than the Americans when in conversation. Don't be afraid unless there is another obvious reason.
11. DO NOT use ethnic references when out in public. Words such as "Gypsy" can cause you a problem no matter how it's used. That may be the only word that someone understands and they can assume the worst. Up to 1858 the Roma (Gypsy) people were slaves in Romania.
12. Stay away from the dogs. DO NOT feed them, pet them, or call them. If a dog becomes excited and begins to bark, a pack can form quickly. If you don't like to go to the doctor or get shots, stay away from the dogs.
13. No mission team members should be outside their hotel/accommodations after 11 PM unless with team members involved in ministry. (Occasionally a team is later arriving back at the hotel).
14. Don't go out alone, especially at night. Even when in a group, stay in well lighted areas at night. Don't do anything to call attention to yourself. Avoid loud laughter and talk, and pay attention to the surroundings. A group should include one or more translators or IMB missionary.
15. When in doubt, don't stop to explain or discuss anything. Keep on walking, and don't look at the person. Most will recognize you as an American or at least a tourist. They know that you don't understand the language and depend on the confusion as a distraction. Remember that they may understand your English and use that to their advantage.
16. DO NOT, PLEASE DO NOT be afraid. The above is to help you diminish the probability of trouble. Our people will do their best to keep you secure. Earlier you were told that Romania is safer than America, and it is. But like in other countries, as an American tourist, any thief or scam artist around will target you. Romanians think Americans are all rich. In fact, in most countries of the world, Americans are considered to be rich. That makes you a likely target if a thief is around. You are rich by most standards in the world.
17. Please be careful of your camera, purse, backpack, or anything that can be perceived as being valuable or containing something of value. Placing such temptation in front of some, even at

church, may be more than they can handle. We don't want to tempt a child, teenager or adult to take something because we have been careless with our possessions.

AFTER YOU RETURN TO AMERICA

After you return home there will be no doubt that your lives have been touched and that you have touched other lives. We rejoice that you were willing to say “Yes, Lord,” and come to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with the Romanian people. We want to know how each of the team members that came to Romania are doing and what impact the mission trip to Romania had on their lives and that of their families. We would appreciate each team member taking a few minutes to answer the following questions. It will help us to know how God is working in the different parts of Romania and how we together with our national Baptist brothers, can follow up on the work in which you were involved. This will also help us as we prepare for other volunteer teams that will be coming to this or other areas.

Please take a few minutes and answer the following questions. You may E-mail your reply the IMB person that you are working with in Romania or to info@imbromania.ro.

You may also mail it to to:

CEF-IMB,
C. P. 4 – 85,
Bucharest, Romania.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK FORM:

1. What was the location and focus of your ministry?
2. Did you understand your role before coming to Romania and do you feel you fulfilled that role?
3. What was the best thing that happened on your trip?
4. What was the most difficult thing about your trip?
5. What things could you have done better in preparing for your trip?
6. What things could have been done better by others in preparing for you on this trip?
7. What other things did you see God do during your trip?
8. What is the main thing that God did in your life as a result of the trip?
9. Do you plan to come back as a volunteer to Romania?
9. Other comments that you would like to share?

EVANGELISM

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

- W – Win
- I – Instruct
- T – Train
- N – Nurture
- E – Encourage
- S – Sow seeds
- S – Serve

Witnessing is the primary method of evangelism we use in Romania. Although many of the aspects of witnessing to Romanians are similar as to Americans, the culture is different and volunteers need to be aware of areas they need to make adjustments. This effort is necessary if the volunteer team is going to be successful in witnessing about Jesus.

A. Witness By Actions

Romanians watch the American volunteers and therefore actions and behavior are very important.

1. Men should remove their hats whenever praying or in church.
2. Married women should wear a scarf on their head when in church. This is a sign of submission to their husbands.
3. Romanians always stand when praying and saying grace.
4. Male and female believers do not show very much affection to one another (married or not) in public; however you’ll see girls/women holding hands while walking around or a couple of guys with one’s arm around another. Men are much more open with affection with men and likewise women with women, but not mixed genders - sends the wrong signal! Volunteers should refrain from hugging members of the opposite sex (including translators).
5. CAUTION: Young Romanian women perceive attention from a male as serious and leading to marriage. No matter how innocent the motivation, it hurts our witness and our mission.
6. Women do not lead devotions if men are present.
7. NO clapping or lifting up of hands in churches - at all - for any reason. Romanians consider this an inappropriate approach to a holy God.

8. Romanian believers think that Christians should be separate from the world and will judge your spirituality based upon your appearance. **Therefore, women should NOT wear jewelry, make-up, or nail polish AND should dress modestly.**
9. Romanian worship services **do not** have altar calls as we understand them in the west. This is not wrong – just different than the American way of worship. In Romanian churches, people are encouraged to talk with the Pastor after the service about receiving Jesus Christ. Volunteers who speak in Romanian churches should respect this difference in culture.

B. Witness by Words

Romanian Orthodoxy teaches the Romanians that they are born with the living water of Orthodoxy in them and they will all say they are “Christians” whether they go to church or now. Orthodoxy is very works oriented. Therefore emphasis must be placed on repentance and Lordship. The people who live under the influence of the Romanian Orthodox Church do not have to be convinced of the basic tenets of Christianity. The average person on the street usually knows something about the fact that God created the world, man is sinful, Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and rose again. Unlike most people from the west, he does not have to be convinced he is a sinner and headed to hell.

If traditional western methods fall short, how can we communicate the true gospel to them? What is proper strategy and method of spreading the message of salvation among these people? With this in mind, the following steps are highly recommended:

1. Visitors to this part of the world must come with a servant's attitude. Self-serving agendas and quick fixes are not the answer. You must spend quality time with the people. They are very inquisitive by nature and would like to speak with you at length. Mass evangelistic methods should only be used as a tool to gather interested people into more intimate follow-up discussions. Not only the number of people who indicate decisions for Christ but the quality of the seed planted as well should measure successes.
2. Realize that most of the people you will witness to do not attend any church. They will not be rooted in their faith. With this in mind, the subject of Orthodox beliefs will probably not even surface. Should the subject come up, it is best never to argue. There are only two possible results to arguing. First, you could lose the argument and lose all credibility. Second, even if you win the argument; you destroy their self-esteem. Simply emphasize the positive aspects of the gospel message.
3. Please realize that none of us are experts on the complicated subject of Romanian Orthodoxy. This summary is only the tip of the iceberg. The purpose of sharing this is to acquaint you with the world view and mind set of our target audience. It is not meant as ammunition for a frontal attack on Orthodoxy.

4. The western method of presenting the gospel must be modified. Spend less time telling the basic tenets of the faith and spend more time encouraging them to have a personal relationship with the Lord. Most western methods emphasize the free gift of salvation and saying a sinner's prayer. Certainly, these issues are genuine, but much more emphasis must be placed on repentance and Lordship.
 - Some suggested passages on the theme of repentance are:
 - Matthew 4:17 – *“Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’”*
 - Luke 13:3, 5 – *“I tell you, unless you repent, you will all perish.”*
 - Acts 17:30 – *“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”*
 - Emphasize the fact that God forgives us completely and places us in a position of acceptance immediately upon our repentance.
 - Emphasize that grace is a gift from God that cannot be earned or deserved. *“It is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8,9)
 - Explain how Christ's sacrifice restores us into an immediate fellowship with God.
 - Explain how grace is immediately received through faith and not by works. *“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”* (Titus 3:5)

Help them understand that the decision of salvation is a life-changing event, not simply a ritual.

5. In a positive way, emphasize that we can know God personally. We have access to Him through the work that Jesus did on the cross and the Holy Spirit's work today.
 - If the issue arises, do not negate their belief in prayers to icons, etc. Simply teach them there is a better way.
 - Explain that we have God's Spirit interceding for us. *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”* (Romans 8:26).
 - Stress that since we have direct access to God through Christ's work, there is no need to have another intercessor to do the same.

6. Depend on the Holy Spirit for wisdom in each situation.

The following gospel presentation has been found to work well.

Introduction

- We came to Romania to show God's love for all of us. I would like to take a few minutes to discuss some spiritual matters.
- May I ask you a question?

Diagnostic Questions

- Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven? (Or If you died today would you go to heaven?)
- One of the reasons the Bible was written was so we would know how we might have eternal life. Scripture tells us “*I write these things ..., so that you may know you have eternal life.*” (I John 3:16)
- May I share with you how I came to know for certain that I have eternal life and how you can know it too?
- Before I do, let me ask you a second question.
- Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He asked you “Why should I let you into my heaven?” “What would you say?”
- Let me be sure I understand what you would say to God. You would say Is that what you would say?

Transition: When you answered that first question, I thought I had some news for you. But after hearing your answer to the second question, I know that I have the greatest news you have ever heard.

The Gospel

A. Grace

1. Heaven is a free gift.
 - The Bible tells us “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (Romans 6:23)
2. It is not earned or deserved.
 - Scripture says “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast*” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Transition: This can be seen more clearly when we understand what the Bible says about man.

B. Man

1. Man is a sinner.
 - The Bible tells us “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:26)

2. Cannot save himself

- The Bible tells us “*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” (Matthew 5:48)
- **Omelet with Bad Egg Illustration:** Suppose I was making an omelet for guests and have four eggs in a bowl. I crack the fifth egg but it is rotten. If I go ahead and mix the rotten egg with the good eggs and cook the omelet, it will not be acceptable to eat.

Even less can we serve up our lives to God, which may have many good works, and yet are filled with deeds and thoughts that are rotten, and expect them to be acceptable to God? A little sin contaminates the whole and makes us unacceptable to God the same way one bad egg ruins the omelet.

If we want to get into heaven by our own works, then all we have to do is to be perfect. God’s standard is complete obedience to Him in all things and at all times. We all fall short of this.

Do you see why it’s impossible for anyone to get into heaven by doing good works?

Transition: This comes into sharper focus when we look at what the Bible says about God.

C. God

1. God is merciful – therefore he does not want to punish us
 - The Bible tells us “*God is love*” (I John 4:8b).
2. God is just – therefore he must punish sin
 - Scripture says “*Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished*” (Exodus 34:7b).

Transition: This creates an apparent problem because God does not want to punish us but must punish sin. God solved this problem in the person of Jesus Christ.

D. Christ

1. Who he is – the infinite Man/God
 - The Bible tells us “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth*”. (John 1:1,14)

2. What he did – He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins and purchase a place in heaven for us.

Record Book Illustration: Let's imagine that this book in my right hand is a minutely detailed account of my life. Each page details the sin of a particular day – everything I have done wrong. Here then is the problem (hold up book) – my sin (place book in palm of left hand). God loves me (point to your left hand) but he hates my sin (point to book on top of your left hand) and must punish it (bring right hand above left hand). When God looks down at me, he sees my sin.

To solve this problem, He sent Jesus into this world (bring right hand down parallel to left hand). The Scripture says "*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him* (transfer the book in one distinct motion from your left hand to your right hand) *the iniquity of us all.*" (Isaiah 53:6) All of my sin, which God hates, has been placed on Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. He was buried in a grave for three days (put book in your lap) but he rose from the dead and went to heaven to prepare a place for you and me (bring right hand back above left hand). Now when God looks down, He no longer sees my sins and (clasp hands together) now I can have a personal relationship with Him. Jesus offers eternal life to you and me as a gift.

Transition: This gift is received by faith.

E. Faith

1. What it is not

- Head knowledge – believing Jesus lived 2000 years ago the same way we believe King Carol lived 100 years ago. We may believe Jesus was a real person in history but do not trust him to do anything for us now. The Bible tells us "*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shutter.*" (James 2:19)
- Temporal faith – trusting God for temporary things like recovering from an illness.
- While these types of faith are not wrong, they will not give us eternal life.

2. What it is – Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.

Transition - Does this make sense to you?

Commitment

- Commitment - Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life?
- Clarification – let me clarify what this involves:

1. Transfer trust from yourself and good works to what Jesus has done
 2. Receive the resurrected and living Christ as Savior
 3. Receive Christ as Lord
 4. Repent
- Prayer

If that's what you really want, I can lead us in a prayer and we can tell God what you just told me.

 1. Pray for him to understand, repent, and believe.
 2. Pray with him (short phases of the gospel personalized)
 3. Pray for him for assurance
 - Assurance
 1. I would like you to read something Jesus says about what you have just done
 2. John 6:47 – *"I assure you, anyone who believes in me already has eternal life."*

Five Means of Growing

- Attend church
- Read bible
- Pray
- Fellowship with other Christians
- Tell others about Jesus

C. Guide To Romanian Orthodoxy

Introduction

Literally thousands from the west have had the opportunity to visit Eastern Europe over the past few years. If one were to add up all of those who made a commitment to Christ, according to reported statistics, it would total over half the population in the former Soviet block countries. Unfortunately, only a very small percentage of these ever attend church. The basis for these conflicting reports cannot simply be blamed on poor follow-up. Ignorance about the spiritual worldview of those living under the influence of the Romanian Orthodox Church must also be considered.

Romanian Orthodoxy can be summarized by three 'M's: mysterious, mystical, and magical. The sacraments are referred to as mysteries and much of the popular understanding of a person's relationship to God through rituals is akin to mysticism and magic. Just as a child might believe his rabbit's foot brings good luck, so is the popular understanding of faith in Orthodoxy.

Source of Authority

Tradition is seen as the one and only true source of authority. The Bible is held in high regard but only as a product or result of tradition. In fact, the general populace often treats it like an icon.

Theological Issues

Fall of Man - Adam and Eve were not created perfect. They did not fall into grave sin. They simply took a wrong turn that forfeited their ability to reach full fellowship with God.

Salvation - Salvation is thought of in terms of theosis or deification (becoming god). The goal is to reclaim the path of theosis forfeited at the fall. Participation in the sacraments, prayer, fasting, and other works are necessary means for this goal. There is little concern over the broken relationship with God due to sin in our lives.

Atonement - Christ's sacrifice and victory over Satan gives man the opportunity to continue on the path of theosis. Payment for man's sin is considered a minor issue.

Grace - "Unmerited favor" is not found in the Orthodox concept of grace. Grace is the activities or energies of God, through the Orthodox Church, which lead to deification of believers. A person receives grace by partaking of the sacraments and by human effort. The process begins at one's baptism, is maintained with penance, and achieved temporarily through participation in the Eucharist (Lord's Supper) when the participant literally becomes one with Christ. Interestingly, personal faith is not necessary. Simple (voluntarily or involuntarily) participation in the sacraments gives grace to the individual.

Church - The Church is not simply a body of called out believers. It is not simply a building. The Church is literally God Incarnate through the person of the Holy Spirit. It is heaven on earth. Salvation cannot take place outside of the Orthodox Church.

Saints, Icons, and Relics

Saints are thought of as intercessors and protectors. They are believed to pray for the Orthodox believer just like Protestant believers pray for each other today. Mary is revered above all others because she, as the Mother of God, is the only one who most completely achieved the goal of theosis.

Orthodoxy is a very ritualistic religion filled with sights, smells, and sounds; Icons are thought of as "windows to the divine world" and play a major role in these rituals. They not only represent the person of their image, but also actually are the essence of that person. In other words, when a person lights a candle, kisses, or says a prayer in front of an icon or relic, they are asking the help of that person to solve personal problems and achieve theosis.

Practical Issues

People living under the influence of the Romanian Orthodox Church view Christianity as a set of rituals that must be accomplished in order to mystically and magically receive mysterious grace from God. A personal relationship with God is not considered important or even necessary.

With this in mind, standard western methods of witnessing such as EE, CWT, The Four Spiritual Laws, The Roman Road, etc. all fall short of communicating the true meaning of the gospel. The people hear the words but interpret it through their cultural and religious experiences. They perceive the idea of praying a sinner's prayer as nothing more than a Protestant ritual that might help them. In fact, they will often readily and willingly pray a sinner's prayer even without hearing the gospel message. Certainly, some understand and genuine salvation does take place. In most cases, however, their lives do not change and they do not embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In other words, the only thing that they perceive they are doing is to add what they believe to be a Protestant ritual to their Orthodox ones.

Summary

Romanian Orthodoxy is not Roman Catholicism. It is a very mystical and ritualistic religion. Praying to icons, lighting candles, kissing caskets of dead saints, burning incense, chants, and other rituals are all means to the path of theosis. In addition, there are three major issues that surface that differ from Protestant theology:

1. Man's sinful condition - He only took a wrong turn off the path of deification.
2. Grace - It is simply God's activities and work through the Church's rituals. It is not unmerited favor.
3. Salvation - The goal is to obtain deification without concern for justification.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR MISSION WORK

***Will you not revive us again: that Your people
may rejoice in You (Psalm 85:6)?***

God is eagerly waiting to manifest His reviving presence and power to HIS PEOPLE the church. Before God will release His power and presence in the church body we must take steps to **prepare** for the release of His fullness in our midst. The only thing that will keep God from filling us with HIS power and God from using us for HIS glory is our own personal sin

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isaiah 59:1, 2).

O Lord, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive your work in the midst of the years (Habakkuk 3:2)!

The psalmist knew and understood the importance of preparing for personal renewal and revival.

He wrote, "*Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps*" (Psalm 85:13).

On the next few pages are questions designed to reveal specific and targeted areas of spiritual need in your life. In order for a genuine refreshing of God's presence to come to you, you must allow God's Holy Spirit to reveal & convict you of sin that needs to be dealt with in your life. Many times you may overlook your own personal sin and easily see the sin in the lives of others. God will never overlook nor excuse your sin.

Taking the Steps to Walk in HIS LIGHT

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

- **Pray** for personal identification of sin. Read the questions below and be totally honest with yourself in answering them.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (I John 1:6)

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23, 24).

- **Agree** with God as He reveals to you your sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and truth is not in us (I John 1:8).

- **Confess** each sin with the willingness to make it right before God and anyone else that might be affected by your sin.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).

- **Praise & Thank** God for His cleansing and forgiveness.

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15).

- **Let God** re-new and rebuild your life for His glory.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).

1. Genuine Salvation Experience (II Corinthians 5:17)

- Was there ever a time in my life that I genuinely repented of my sin?
- Was there ever a time in my life that I placed all my trust in Jesus Christ alone to save me?
- Was there ever a time in my life that I completely surrendered to Jesus Christ as the Master and Lord of my life?

2. God's Word (Psalm 119:97; 119:40; James 1:22-25)

- Do I love to read and meditate on the Word of God?
- Are my personal devotions consistent and meaningful?
- Do I put to practice and apply God's Word to my everyday life?
- Am I just a hearer of God's Word and not a doer?

3. Humility (Isaiah 57:15)

- Am I quick to recognize and agree with God in confession when I have sinned?
- Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong?
- Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed by people?
- Do I esteem others as better than myself?

4. Obedience (Hebrews 13:7; James 4:17; I Samuel 15:22)

- Do I consistently obey what I know God wants me to do?
- Do I consistently obey the "laws of our land" that God has placed over me?
- Am I consistently sensitive to God's Spirit leading me?

5. Pure Heart (I John 1:9, Psalm 51:10)

- Do I confess my sin by name?
- Am I willing to give up all sin for God?
- Do I desire to have a pure heart and clean spirit before God?

6. Clear Mind/Conscience (Acts 24:16, I John 2:28)

- Do I consistently seek forgiveness from those I wrong or offend?
- Is my conscience clear with every man?

- When you meet or think of people who have wronged you do you have peace in your heart or a grudge and un-trust toward them?

7. Priorities (Matthew 6:33)

- Does my schedule reveal that God is first in my life?
- Does my checkbook reveal that God is first in my life?
- Next to my relationship with God, is my relationship with my family my highest priority?
- Next to God and my family, is my relationship with my church a high priority in my life?

8. Values (Colossians 3:12)

- Do I love what God loves and hate what God hates?
- Do I value highly the things that please God (giving, witnessing to lost souls, studying His Word, prayer, etc)?
- Are my affections and goals fixed on eternal values?
- Do I love the “Church” as Christ loves the church?

9. Sacrifice (Philippians 3:7, 8)

- Am I willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to see God move in my life and church (time, convenience, comfort, reputation, pleasure, etc)?
- Is my life characterized by genuine sacrifice for the cause of Christ?

10. Spirit Control (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:18-21)

- Am I allowing Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to “fill” (control) my life each day?
- Is there consistent evidence of the “fruit of the Spirit” being produced in my life?

11. “First Love” (Matthew 22:37; Philippians 1:21, 3:10, 23; Revelation 2:4, 5)

- Am I as much in love with Jesus as I have ever been?
- Am I thrilled with Jesus, filled with his joy and peace, and making Him the continual object of my love?
- Do I desire to know Jesus more each day of my life?

12. Motives (Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28)

- Am I more concerned about what God thinks about my life than about what others think?
- Would I pray, read my Bible, give, and serve as much if nobody but God ever noticed?
- Am I more concerned about pleasing God than I am about being accepted and appreciated by men?

13. Moral Purity (Matthew 5:27-30, Ephesians 5:3, 4)

- Do I keep my mind free from books, magazines, the internet, or entertainment that could stimulate fantasizing or thoughts that are not morally pure?
- Are my conversation and behavior in public and private pure and above reproach?

14. Forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:12, 13)

- Do I seek to resolve conflicts in relationships as soon as possible?
- Am I quick to forgive those who wrong me or hurt me?
- Do I hold grudges against others?

15. Sensitivity (Matthew 5:23, 24)

- Am I sensitive to the conviction and prompting of God's Spirit?
- Am I quick to respond in humility and obedience to the conviction and prompting of God's Spirit?

16. Evangelism (Proverbs 11:30; Romans 9:3; Luke 24:46, 48)

- Do I have a burden for lost souls?
- Do I consistently witness for Christ?
- Am I conscious about the vast number of lost souls that come into contact with me each day?

17. Prayer (I Timothy 2:1)

- Am I faithful in praying for the needs of others?
- Do I pray specifically, fervently, and faithfully for revival in my life, my

church, and our nation?

18. Lifestyle choices

- What most determines my sense of “needs”? TV? Career? Status? Peers? Or, Christ’s global cause and the need of reaching un-reached people?
- Is my lifestyle shaped by a desire for more – more possessions, more happiness, more power? Or, is it shaped by a desire for increased personal freedom and availability of resources in order to serve the world’s un-reached?
- What are the excesses in my life? What do I have too much of right now? Where do I presently squander, waste, or overindulge? How will this affect further outreach to the ends of the earth?
- Out of my 168 hours a week, can I justify the overall allotment of my time in light of Christ’s global cause? What specific time commitments need to be cut back in order to prepare me for increased future outreach? Are there places my investments of time should be re-channeled right now?
- Of the decisions I am making right now which ones will have a lasting impact on how involved I am in the worldwide outreach in the future? Which decisions might increase my effectiveness over what it is now? How should love for the un-reached guide my choices, such as where to live, whom to marry, what profession to pursue, new friendships to seek, purchase, prayer and Bible reading habits, service on a church committee, family size, magazine subscriptions, or Christian conferences I attend?

Addendum #1.

Tips for Sharing through an Interpreter

Keep the following in mind as you speak using an interpreter:

- Speak clear and slowly.
- Speak to the audience (look at them), not the interpreter.
- Speak loud enough for the interpreter to hear you.
- Speak using short simple phrases. Stop after each phrase to allow the interpreter time to translate.
- Avoid using slang terms or expressions we use in America.
- Speak with excitement and enthusiasm.
- Hand gestures or visual aids can be useful. Make sure the gestures & aids are appropriate for their culture.
- If your interpreter doesn't understand, rephrase the sentence. Otherwise, move on so not to embarrass them. If you think there are things he may not understand, then go over the message before you preach to the congregation.
- When you are speaking about theological, medical or technical information, ask if the audience understands or needs clarification. Or ask them a question about what you said. This assures you are communicating clearly.
- Practice your sermon/testimony by writing it out before hand then go over it.

WORKING WITH TRANSLATORS

Translators are an integral part of your trip and can greatly impact the effectiveness of your team. Many times we will help to recruit your translators and on other occasions they will come from the local church with which you are working. So that you may know what we expect of our translators, and so that you might better evaluate and encourage the translators provided locally, the orientation sheet we use is placed below. They will also receive language skills evaluation and be interviewed concerning their faith and understanding of how to share the Gospel.

Unfortunately, not all Romanians who speak English are good translators. Some are too proud to admit they do not understand something and make up what they don't understand. Others adapt what you say to fit their own worldview or theological understanding.

We know many exceptional Romanian teens and young adults and all those we recommend will have appropriate language skills for the task assigned. Some are skilled at translating for preachers, others for home witnessing, medical assistance, children's and sports ministries, etc.

Some translators have become unusable because they focused on building relationships with Americans for the purpose of financial gain or getting to America rather than doing an effective ministry. Translators will often share their struggles with all areas of life including financial struggles. These needs are usually genuine but occasionally the urgency and depth of the need are exaggerated. Occasionally translators will ask for ongoing support as a Christian worker or missionary. As a rule we encourage you to **NOT** give large financial gifts to translators and do not use your definition of "large". Remember that the average *monthly* salary is around \$150. They are being paid a fair amount for the work they are doing. If there is a special need that is expressed to you, please check with the missionary or local pastor to verify that need.

We **strongly discourage** you from making promises for any type of long-term support or for assistance in getting the translator to America to continue his study, a personal visit, or for any other reason. Please help your translators keep their eyes on what God is doing in Romania rather than your money or things or the possibility of a "better life" in America.

Please understand that the explanation above is to help you understand that we work at knowing and cultivating young Romanians in the ministry of Christ. In everyday life we encourage them, pray for and with them, counsel them, and occasionally even help them with a monetary need. Help us to preserve the young people for the ministry. Please don't offer monetary support or gifts unless you ask us about their circumstances. We assure them that Christ is sufficient and that we will pray for them. He is faithful to bring about His plan, and we are all blessed by it.

TRANSLATOR ORIENTATION

Translator Expectations:

- ❖ A commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior.
This is a fundamental expectation, as you will be working with people who are coming to Romania to do the work God has called them to do. If you had no understanding of what that means and why they are paying a great deal of money to come here this work would be very difficult.
- ❖ An understanding of the doctrines of the Baptist and evangelical doctrines.
You and the Americans will be doing God's work. You will be reaching out to people in the name of Jesus. Whether it's evangelizing, discipleship, church planting, sports clinics or medical clinics, it will be showing the love and character of Jesus. Knowing what we believe, and why, is important. Having some knowledge of what others believe, and why, is also important.
- ❖ Exemplify Christ-likeness in the activity in which you are involved.
- ❖ Mature Christian behavior as a life style is expected.
- ❖ Be prepared to share your salvation story and testimony.
- ❖ A very good grasp of English language and American expressions is expected.
- ❖ Cooperation with team members, translators, leaders and others.
- ❖ A commitment to personal integrity and pride in doing a job well done, your very best.
- ❖ A commitment to faithfully follow the instructions of the IMB missionary in charge.

Translator Requirements:

- ❖ Promise not to have any emotional attachments beyond general friendship with volunteers or team members during the assignment.
- ❖ Certification of skill categories.
- ❖ Commitment to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ as your first priority.
- ❖ Ask nothing from the team members.
- ❖ Promptness. Be on time, every time.
- ❖ Accuracy of translation for context and content. If you are not sure that you understand ask, "How do you mean that?"
- ❖ Do not enter the rooms of the opposite sex. Appearances are important.
- ❖ Unless ministry activity dictates otherwise, you should be in your hotel or host home by 10 PM (22:00 hours). Lights out, music off, conversation ended. Team members are depending on you to be sharp and alert.
- ❖ Get up in time to arrange yourself properly and arrive at breakfast, on time, looking sharp and ready to go.
- ❖ Dress appropriately. You are representing the Lord Jesus Christ, the American team, and the local church. You should look the part. No shorts, tight fitting or revealing clothing, tank tops or obviously worn out or torn clothing. Good taste and conservative style are the best choices to make. If on a team involved in manual labor or sports as a ministry, your mission supervisor will approve clothing options which may allow knee length shorts.
- ❖ If you have a conflict, or have a concern, go immediately to the IMB missionary in charge or team leader if no missionary is present. Everyone is depending on your

- eyes, ears, and understanding of the culture to alert us as to possible offenses or problems.
- ❖ Don't patronize the Americans. Answer their questions honestly and advise them how to be courteous in certain situation, when to be quiet, how much to tip at a restaurant, if something costs too much, etc. We depend on you and they will be depending on you.
 - ❖ Be at the airport, or appointed meeting place on time, ready to leave with the team.

Translator Do's and Don'ts:

Do:

- ❖ Maintain a friendly and joyful projection of your personality.
- ❖ Do keep your personal problems and opinions to yourself.
- ❖ Do keep conversations neutral and get the IMB missionary immediately if the conversation gets heated or out of control.
- ❖ Do help the Americans understand the culture but don't expect them to accept or understand it fully.
- ❖ Forgive them when for the seventieth time they say, "In America we would have done that so and so way". They really do mean well but don't always understand your culture.
- ❖ Be tolerant of American pushiness and abruptness. It's their culture.
- ❖ Be tolerant of peoples varying views (they are only there for 1-2 weeks)

Don't:

- ❖ Ask for anything from the volunteers.
- ❖ Don't expect anything even if it's promised (they mean well but often forget).
- ❖ Don't become emotionally involved beyond general friendship with volunteers or translators. If you feel this is becoming a problem (Example, someone on the team getting too personal), discuss it with the IMB missionary, team leader or local pastor. All discussions will be strictly confidential.
- ❖ Don't voice your opinions (unless asked and then be sensitive) or argue.
- ❖ Don't say that you know anything you don't know for sure, 100%.
- ❖ Don't break any rule because someone else does. Two wrongs don't make a right.
- ❖ Don't allow the Americans that you are with to go where they should not.
- ❖ Don't let them seek out street children, etc., unless that is the ministry they are doing.

Other Expectations:

As a translator, your responsibilities may also include assisting the IMB missionaries in arranging the details of accommodations, food and transportation. Helping the team members with resolving problems such as health care needs at a Farmacia, gift selections and price negotiations, advising them in the handling of their money (Lei) and general cultural advice. Remember that you are a vital part of this team. Our desire is to help the American team be as effective as possible in their ministry. We also want you to grow as a Christian through this experience and to continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as a translator for mission teams and in your own personal ministry in the place where God has called you. When you have problems, hurts, and concerns or just need someone to listen and pray with you, please come to us. We want to be here for you. These conversations will be held in the strictest of confidence.

Maturity of perspective and actions expected:

In the course of your ministry as a translator, you will find that many things will happen that you will not expect or be able to anticipate. Situations will arise and they will demand of you to handle them appropriately and tactfully. A suggestion is that if you can set aside your personal judgments and prejudices, it will help you to handle things more easily. Usually we become over-involved when we expect to introduce and implement our own agenda.

If your personal beliefs are different and conflict with the person who you are translating for, do not debate the doctrine. You are only being asked to translate and not interpret the theology. Translate them as accurately as possible. If you are not sure that you understand what they were trying to say, ask them what they meant when they made the reference. Ask them to help you understand but do not debate it with them if you discover that you don't agree.

Occasionally, comments may be made unthoughtfully or insensitively by the Americans about your country or your culture that can offend your sense of personal pride in your country and heritage. In a spirit of forgiveness, please try to understand that most Americans know very little about Romania, and even less about the cultural history and ethnic pressures and prejudices. They may live a very sheltered life and simply not understand the demands that are made on some people, or that people don't always have a choice in their circumstances.

Compensation:

All of your transportation expenses will be covered. This includes transportation from your home to the ministry location.

Housing or hotel accommodations and food expenses will be paid by the team.

You will receive \$10 per day for your translation services.

If you have a question about any of the above or feel you need to discuss it further, please ask the International Mission Board missionary in charge.

I have read, understand, and agree with the above:

Agreement accepted:

Translator

IMB Missionary in charge.

Addendum #2

New Travel Security Measures: What You Can Expect

What Can You Expect?

The FAA has released new security measures, which, among other things, prohibit off-airport and curbside check-in.

Expect Delays

Of all the potential inconveniences travelers will experience the most reliable is this: there will be delays. There can be a delay at every possible checkpoint in your travels - entering the airport, in the parking lot, when being dropped off, when checking in, when checking luggage, when passing through metal detectors, at the gate, after boarding the plane, right before take-off. Often, planes are delayed on the runway because someone checked a bag and did not board. Leave for the airport early. Should you experience a delay, it can be expected to add up to a significant chunk of your time if security is extra tight at that time. It's to insure your safety.

Recent reports from travelers reveal that the delays are not as bad as they once were, and that things have calmed down somewhat. However, it only takes one security alert and everything changes.

Expect Some Chaos

You need to be ready to adapt to and accept almost any situation. Hopefully this won't happen to you but be prepared to be flexible. It only takes one telephone call from a nut to change everything.

Be Prepared to Be Searched

All travelers are going to have to forfeit some level of privacy to ensure a higher level of safety. Your bags may be opened and searched extensively, you may be physically searched, you may be pulled aside for questioning, or you may be asked to present identification without warning. This is most often done at random so don't feel offended. Traveling with a minimum of suspicious or questionable items is in your best interest.

Bring a Good Attitude

Reports indicate that travelers have been exceptionally cooperative. Today's security can at times test the patience of every person in the airport, and security personnel are not likely to be charitable toward someone with a bad attitude. Cooperation from all involved is going to be essential. You will be safer, and more likely to get where you want to go, if you bring a good attitude to the airport. Consider it your opportunity to be a witness.

Arrive At Least Two Hours before Check-In

Officials have requested that all travelers arrive at the airport fully two hours before departure to accommodate substantially increased security measures. It's better to wait at the gate than for the next flight.

E-Tickets

E-ticketing will not cease, but most airlines are going to require that you print out and present the itinerary or receipt for your e-ticket at check-in.

Packing

Make absolutely no assumptions that a questionable item might be acceptable. Security officials have been requiring that travelers discard objects as seemingly innocuous as a nail file, nail clippers, and sewing kits.

If in doubt and you don't want to lose it, don't pack it.

Carry-On Restrictions and Prohibitions

You can expect restrictive carry-on rules from time to time. Carry-on luggage may be searched with extreme scrutiny, to the extent that you may be asked to empty all the contents of your bag, and certain items may be confiscated. Pack your carry-on in such a way that you won't worry about it if it becomes checked luggage.

Security Checkpoints

Security checkpoints will be much tighter. Gone are the days of casually blitzing through the metal detectors, walking around other people who are being checked, and general looseness at the various security checkpoints. Expect each checkpoint to be more of a full search, and comply fully with any requests by security personnel. Be prepared to turn on you computer, camera or any other electronic devise that you may carry. Normally, you can expect to remove your laptop computer from its carrying case at every checkpoint.

Security May Vary Considerably By Airport

Expect widely varied procedures from airport to airport. At present, some airports are merely observing the FAA's requirements and have stepped up police presence, while others are applying much more stringent standards ranging from towing any and all cars they deem to be too close to the airport, to opening and searching every single piece of luggage of passengers in random checks, whether checked or carry-on.

Service Could Shut Down at Any Time

If further terrorist attacks are perceived imminent, specific airlines, airports, or the entire flight system could be shut down at any time and on very short notice. Always keep your ID on you person as well as extra cash and credit card. You will need them if your flight is canceled and you are not at your home airport. Your luggage may not be available if you have already checked it, or if the flight is interrupted at a layover point. Always keep an extra one-week supply of necessary prescription medications with you when traveling.

Photo Identification Required

All travel will require a photo ID, and you may be asked to present this ID at any time. Be prepared and cooperative. Keep it in a safe place on you person. There are passport and money holders made for this purpose.

Baggage Matching

Baggage matching, quite common in Europe and the Middle East, is almost non-existent in the U.S. This may change very soon. The tactic requires that every bag checked in be matched to the specific passenger (you will be required to identify your luggage), and that no bags are loaded onto the plane until each passenger is on board the plane. This, along with pre-flight cabin checks, may make for considerable delays after you've already boarded the plane. Tag your luggage with good quality ID tags before leaving for the airport. Place you name, address and destination address inside the bag along with telephone contact numbers.

Border Crossings by Vehicle

Border crossings can be slowed considerably depending on world events or in country circumstances. Border crossings of 1-2 hours are not uncommon. . Border crossings not usually a problem between Euro Union countries.

Most of the Changes are Only New to America

We may never return to "business as usual." Travelers to Europe and other international destinations have become accustomed to the presence of armed military personnel, extensive searches at all stages

of the travel process, and occasional interrogations prior to check-in. A good attitude and cooperation will make this a so, so, experience. A bad attitude may get you side tracked and delayed. Be a good witness, show the others waiting how a Christian handles adversity.

Have Your Act Together

Unless you want to be delayed or even detained, refrain from any suspicious behavior, pack very conservatively, and err on the side of safety and prudence. Don't pack pen knives, tools, and similar items in carry-on luggage. Don't make jokes that are security related at security checkpoints or in airport terminals. Have complete documentation on your person and easily accessible. Do not take pictures of security check points.

Banned in Flight:

New Rules for Carry-On Luggage

By George Hobic

Back in the early days of air travel, passengers carried on board nothing heavier than a small flight bag filled with something to read, essential medications. Today, we're accustomed to bringing much more with us. But in light of world security, there are new restrictions on what we can pack in our carry-on.

U.S. airlines now prohibit what they call, broadly, "cutting instruments" -- basically anything with which you can cut or puncture something or someone. There is no comprehensive list of what kinds of sharp or dangerous objects are restricted, so use your common sense. (Just because a bow and arrow isn't on the no-fly list, don't try to sneak it onboard.).

Here's a partial list of banned items:

Forbidden, in carry-on or checked luggage:

- toy guns
- fireworks
- explosives
- butane lighter refills
- paints
- bleaches
- knives, scissors or shears of any kind or size
- nail clippers (if they have a sharp pointed file)
- straight-edged and certain other razors
- box and carpet cutters
- ice picks
- "cutting instruments" of any kind
- darts
- baseball bats
- pool cues
- knitting needles

Because the regulations are somewhat open to interpretation by individual security agents and airports, it's better to err on the side of safe rather than sorry. And to make things even more challenging, airport and civil aviation authorities outside the U.S. may have their own set of rules. If it could be used to inflict a wound don't pack it in your carry-on.

To sum up, here's a good rule of thumb: if you have the slightest doubt that an item you're carrying might be construed as a sharp, potentially dangerous item or a weapon of any kind, then pack it in your checked

luggage. **Even better:** Minimize what you carry on board as much as possible. As always, never put essential medications, valuables such as jewelry and expensive or fragile equipment such as cameras in checked luggage -- but now would be a great time to take a big step backward to the golden age of air travel and just bring the above on board and a good book. This will speed you through security, and prevent any questionable items from being confiscated.

Addendum #3

The U.S. Department of State publishes travel advisories related to security concerns. These have become even more important since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and other worldwide events. You will be responsible for checking the web-sites provided, securing the updated materials, preparing accordingly and taking any necessary precaution. Following this letter the orientation manual for Romania continues with much more information.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT -WORLDWIDE CAUTION,

The U.S. Government continues to receive credible reports that extremist individuals are planning additional terrorist actions against U.S. interests. Such actions may be imminent and include suicide operations. We have no further information on specific targets, timing or method of attack. We remind American citizens to remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and to exercise caution.

Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. These may include facilities where Americans are generally known to congregate or visit, such as clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools or outdoor recreation events. Americans should increase their security awareness when they are at such locations, avoid them, or switch to other locations where Americans in large numbers generally do not congregate. American citizens may be targeted for kidnapping. U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert. These facilities may on occasion temporarily close or suspend public services to review their security posture and ensure its adequacy. In those instances, U.S. Embassies and Consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to American citizens. Americans are urged to monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

The Department will continue to develop information about potential threats to Americans overseas and to share with them credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents.

U.S. citizens planning to travel abroad should consult the Department of State's Public Announcements, Travel Warnings, Consular Information Sheets, and regional travel brochures, all of which are available at the [Consular Affairs Internet website](http://travel.state.gov) at <http://travel.state.gov> We will continue to provide updated information should it become available.

In addition to information on the Internet, U.S. travelers may hear recorded information by calling the Department of State in Washington, D.C. at 202-647-5225 from their touch-tone telephone, or receive information by automated telefax by dialing 202-647-3000 from their fax machine.

nu moolt-su-mesk

10. Va rog Please!
vah rog
11. Poftim? Sorry? Pardon! (when you want something said again)
pof-tim
12. Scuzati Sorry! (to apologize)
sku-zats
13. Vorbiti englezeste doamna? Do you speak English, madam?
vor-bits eng-le-zesh-te do-am-na
14. Vorbiti englezeste domnule? Do you speak English, sir?
vor-bits eng-le-zesh-te dom-nu-le
15. Vorbiti englezeste domnisoara? Do you speak English, miss?
vor-bits eng-le-zesh-te dom-ni-sho-ara
16. Bine OK!
bi-ne
17. Foarte bine Very well!
fo-ar-te bi-ne
18. Cema! faceti? How are you?
ke-mai fa-kets
19. Bine, multumesc Well, thank you!
bi-ne mool-su-mesk
20. Dar dumneavoastra? And you?
dar dum-nea-voas-tra
21. Asa si asa So so!
asha shi asha
22. Cat Costa? How much is the price?
Kut costa?

Addendum #5

Team Member Commitment

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

In order to not damage the established mission work and in the best interests of your mission team, the interpreters, and the Romanian people, these requirements must be followed during your trip:

A. The following requirements should be followed for safety concerns:

1. No mission team members should be outside their hotel/accommodations after 10 pm.
2. When traveling, shopping, etc., all team members should be with a buddy. At no time should anyone be out alone (without another home team member.)
3. No money, tips, etc., should be given to Romanians (interpreters, workers, pastors, etc.) without prior approval.
4. All team members should be aware that they are targets for theft. Showing large amounts of money in public is discouraged.

B. The following guidelines are to help our team demonstrate moral integrity and a blameless witness:

1. Do not discuss money or visas with the Romanians. Translators are subject to dismissal if they discuss these types of matters with you. Please respect this requirement placed on both parties.
2. If visiting local restaurants or meeting places, a strict no-smoking, no-drinking policy is to be observed. Remember that you are representing your home church and the Lord.
3. Everyone involved with the American mission team should refrain from visiting the rooms of members of the opposite sex.
4. Please be aware that one-on-one time together with Romanians (outside the group activity setting) is strongly discouraged. The Romanian culture is quite unlike ours and what may seem harmless/innocent acts of friendship may be interpreted much differently than we would realize.
5. All team members should review the Witness By Actions material and agree to follow the requirements outlined there. For women this includes not wearing makeup, jewelry, (including earrings, nail polish) and should dress modestly. For men and women this includes refraining from hugging members of the opposite sex (including translators). It is required that all team members participating in this ministry read, understand and respect the above requirements before stepping out onto the mission field.

I have read and understand the program's guidelines and agree to abide by these guidelines while on this mission trip.

Signed _____

Date _____

Evaluation Form for International Partnership Missions

Please complete this form and return it to the Missouri Baptist Convention upon completion of your International Mission Board Project. (Group Leader: Please submit a photo of the group to the Partnership Office immediately upon your return)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (work): _____ (home) _____

Pastor of _____ Church
(If other than pastor, list position)

Project Date _____

What type of project did your group do?

What was the highlight of the trip for you?

What other results did you see?

Please share the number ofProfessions of Faith _____; Other Decisions: _____

Comments/Suggestions: (If you need more room, write on the back)

Return to: Norm Howell, Partnership Missions
Missouri Baptist Convention
400 E. High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

