

The Graef Family



Missionaries to Romania - January through March Prayer Letter

For my last prayer letter, I asked for prayer that we could fill the schedule and be very busy. God answered that prayer in a marvelous way. The schedule is pretty full through June. However, we need continued prayer to fill the Summer and Fall schedule. There is so much that I want to put in this report, but I'll try and keep it down to the highlights!



I took my son, David, with me to speak during a men's retreat with Highland Hills Baptist (Grand Rapids, MI). After the retreat, I took David up to Cadillac MI to do some skiing. We were driving along, minding our own business and following the voice commands coming from the laptop computer. We were running Microsoft Streets and Trips software and it was linked to a gps unit. It had worked flawlessly telling us when to turn. So, I wasn't paying any attention to where I was. I was just engrossed in conversation with my son. We did comment how beautiful the snow was, since it was coming down in almost "white out" conditions. After 45 minutes of traveling on a road without seeing any signs of human life, I got a little concerned. When I noticed that the only tracks on the 4 inches of snow were snowmobile tracks, and the sign that we just passed said that only jeeps and



trucks should enter... not cars, I began to wonder if we were in the right spot! The worst had happened! The tall trees and thick clouds had stopped the gps signal and we had no way of knowing where we were. The best we could tell is that we were in the middle of the Manastee National Forest on seasonal roads that were suppose to be closed. The snow had been coming down so hard

that it was getting more difficult to keep the van moving. I had visions of having to walk out the next day and coming back for the van in the Spring. We prayed and within two minutes a couple of snowmobile enthusiasts arrived. They pulled out their compass and helped us get out. It was quite an adventure!



We spoke at Faith Baptist Church of Linden MI where one of my best life-long friends attends church. It was great to see John and Betsy Wenz for the first time in several years and to do some catching up. I had the opportunity to preach in the morning and then present the work in the evening. During the morning worship service, two ladies got saved! It was thrilling to me to see how quickly the pastor met with them and made sure they understood what they had done. He told me at



lunch that they both were very sincere and wanted to get baptized!

Another great event for me

was to speak at the missions conference at Tri-Lakes Baptist Church. They invited my father and me to speak. To team up like that and minister side by side with my father was a great experience. It couldn't have happened at a better place either. That was the church my father was pastoring when I was born.



It was also a thrill to be able to marry two very special people that have been in our church for quite some time. Nate and Emma Gore have worked with our teens and are very faithful.

On one of our trips to KY to speak at Hedgeville Baptist Church, snow became an issue again. We got there on Saturday, but it snowed all night and they had to cancel church on Sunday.

However, we returned and had a great time with them. Their pastor, Travis Ferris, is a young man with a lot of vision and commitment to the Scriptures. We enjoyed our time with them greatly. One of his friends is the pastor of another church in the area that we have spoken in several times, Crab Orchard Baptist. On the morning that Hedgeville Baptist was closed, we attended there and was able to fill in playing the piano for them since their pianist was snowed in. Later that week, we met up with that youth group to go skiing at Perfect North in IN. My kids loved getting to spend time with their youth group. We are planning on Crab Orchard and Hedgeville Baptist Churches to go on a combined missions trip to Romania in 2008. This is one of the reasons we need to get there soon.



We have also presented at Knox Bible Church, Burr Oak Baptist, and filled the pulpit

for First Baptist of Beech Grove. I have really enjoyed being in these churches and being an encouragement to their missions programs.



West Pines Baptist Church is doing very well under the leadership of Pastor Marc Dowler. I helped with some of the construction projects as they prepare to open a daycare as an outreach.



Here are our upcoming events for which you can be praying.

March 25	Warren Baptist Church, Indianapolis
April 1	Drake's Creek Baptist, Preachersville, KY
May 2-6	Heritage Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA
May 20	Faith Baptist Church, Winfield, IL
May 27	First Baptist Church, Stryker, OH
June 1-3	First Baptist Church, Bremen, IN
June 6-10	West Pines Baptist Church, missions conference
June 17	Bell Center Bible Church, IN
June 24	Cedar Hill Baptist, Cleveland Heights, OH
July 1	Camden Baptist, Wellington, OH

Please pray for these upcoming events and for scheduling for the summer and fall. We really want to get to Romania before the year ends.

Praises:

1. Safety in travel
2. New individual supporters
3. We are currently at 51% of our support
4. 2 Salvations
5. Gela's back is improving
6. The kids have been doing great in school
7. A full schedule during the next few months.
8. Things going well at West Pines Baptist
9. The transmission went out on our van. With all of the horrible times it could have gone out, it went out in our driveway! We were able to get another van at auction for a great price.

Prayer:

1. Support - We have been praying that God would get us to the Candidate Seminar in April, and to Romania by 7/7/07. It does not appear to be God's plan. Though we wish it had happened, we truly trust God's timing. We are, however, praying to be at full support in time for the November prefield seminar so we can move before the end of the year. This would allow our children to be in school at the Bucharest Christian Academy for second semester.
2. Scheduling
3. Continued good Health
4. For opportunities to encourage churches, pastors toward missions as we speak.
5. That God will use us in the lives of people as we travel and that we will have more opportunities to lead people to Christ.