

Building bridges



Steve and Rosie Kennedy

PCI global mission workers in Romania

We arrived in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár in Hungarian) in the time between Christmas and New Year along with our two children, and are working within the Tóvidéki Church congregation in the city. This fellowship has for some time sought to build bridges through providing simultaneous translation of worship services from Hungarian into both English and Romanian, as well as welcoming mission teams from a range of countries. English language provides a connection point for many different groups in Cluj, and a ministry began in 2008 to reach out across the city through worship services conducted in English. A revitalisation of this ministry is where we have been invited to serve, and it is operating under the name of Cluj Christian Fellowship.

With the global pandemic pushing many of us to online and video communication, we were able to connect ahead of time with the new ministry in Cluj in which we will serve in ways that we had not anticipated. The new ministry began its services in November, and continues on the second Sunday of each month, with 25–30 people gathering once a month, and more joining online. As a new community of faith seeking to serve the city of Cluj-Napoca, we started by studying together the opening chapters of the book of Acts, where we read of a new community of faith exploring the impact of the gospel on life, worship and witness in the city of Jerusalem.

We have also begun a series of Lent devotions – a verse of

Scripture, followed by a reflection and prayer which is being distributed to around 15 of our group daily throughout the Lent season.

Steve has begun to work with the youth praise band at Tóvidéki Church, and we hope in the coming weeks to include a number of new younger members.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Much of the administration required in relocating to another country is now complete, and we are deeply thankful to God for how smooth it has all been – we have a deep sense of him journeying both before and with us, even in the more mundane matters of residency,

bank accounts, car insurance, and so on. We feel very settled and welcomed in home, school and church.

One of our primary focuses in these early days of ministry is to meet far and wide, and make as many connections as possible. In the days of the global pandemic, this is met with inevitable restrictions and difficulties. Yet we are encouraged by the connections we have made through church, school and with other mission agencies, and hope to continue to develop these further.

Please pray:

- Pray for opportunities to make connections, particularly with the international community in Cluj.
- Pray for our family as we continue to settle in and learn both Hungarian and Romanian languages.