



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE LOUK FAMILY

A NATIVITY IN LUGOJ, ROMANIA

## BLESSINGS OF 2008

### GOD'S PEOPLE

Meeting pastors, church members, and other missionaries during the year has been an unexpected privilege. The picture below shows another missionary family, the Richmonds, from the first mission conference we attended.



### GOD'S WORK

This year's fifty-two meetings have given us the opportunity to learn what God is doing in churches across many central and eastern states. Seeing others work for His glory has been encouraging.



### GOD'S CREATION

On many of our drives, we look out the windows and praise God for giving us such wonderful sights to behold. God is the supreme artist.



## God's Faithful Provision

*Phil. 4:19 "God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.."*

Dear Praying Friends

### **Provision in 2008**

Through the work of pre-field ministry, we have seen God's faithfulness displayed over and over. When we had no promised support, God gave us several thousand dollars through an anonymous brother or sister to kick start our travels. When we faced a two thousand dollar bill for our second miscarriage, God moved someone in our sending church to cover most of the cost, and He covered the rest through another individual gift. During the months when gas cost more than \$4.00 a gallon, several people filled our tank. These are just a few examples of the many ways the Lord has taken care of us.

Traveling while pregnant has been challenging, but it has given us a new appreciation for what Mary went through to birth Jesus. If we were to watch a woman have to walk to Bethlehem at nine months, we might think that she was being punished or at least that she was facing unfair circumstances. Yet God's word calls Mary blessed. We believe that we're blessed too. And traveling by '89 Oldsmobile beats traveling by donkey any day.

### **Anticipated Provision in 2009**

With twenty-four meetings already scheduled for next year, we are looking forward to an exciting year of ministry in

2009. At this point last year, we had two meetings scheduled for 2008. Hopefully we can attend another fifty-plus meetings this coming year.

In addition to participating in special meetings and missions conferences, we hope to travel to Romania in August for a second survey trip. This trip's primary purpose will be to help several potential team members discern if God wants them to minister with us and the Howertons in Romania. The trip will likely be combined with an opportunity to attend our mission board's annual European conference, which will extend our ministry training.

Our unborn child is expected to arrive near the end of February. This will surely expand and alter our ministry in wonderfully unpredictable ways. We are amazed and excited to think that he is only a couple months away from his due date. The thought of holding such a precious, life altering gift is delightfully petrifying.

Please pray for us as we push forward. Pray especially for our desire to be financially ready to go to Romania by the end of 2009.

Your fellow servants,

*Joshua & Laurel*

Joshua & Laurel Louk