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"And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men..." 2 Chronicles 20:22

Hello my dears!!!

Gratitude, praise - is an attitude, a decision, puts God first, gives God control, rules over circumstances, wins => gives glory to God!

You have probably experienced a lot of it yourself, I would like to encourage you again: GOD is and remains faithful!!! About this word from 2 Chronicles 20, (you are welcome to read the whole chapter - it's worth it), God spoke to me very emphatically this year. Apparently I have practiced very little of it so far, since my personality is rather strict, military, with little joy.

But it is sooo nice to be happy and to be able to win - because we deliberately in faith give up control to GOD and say: JESUS you go ahead, we will follow you, even if we sometimes do not understand anything or would act completely differently - **we trust you!**

In our family we have been going through ups and downs lately. Especially with **Filip** we sometimes reach our limits. During these challenging times we especially have experienced God's intervention, for example: Misch drives into the city with Filip - has a lot to do - Filip suddenly wants to go back home (sometimes a spirit of unrest, confusion or fear comes over him). Misch is under time pressure, doesn't know a way out, calls to God for help. "By chance" he drives past the hospital to withdraw money from the ATM. The hospital guard waves from the courtyard, Filip recognizes a friend in him (he only is on duty sometimes) and runs straight towards him. At the invitation to stay with the guard, Filip cheerfully agreed and Misch had 2 hours of time to do his errands.

Such experiences occur very often in different facets and both of us, especially in dealing with Filip, learn to stay completely dependent on God's guidance and peace every day. This peace of God is then transferred to him. By the grace of God our two grown-up kids and their familys are doing well also.

> It was a miracle last Sunday that our cow gave birth to her calf all by herself - which can actually be very difficult and dangerous. Thank you Lord for your wonderful provision!!!





View of Fagaras and its mountains when we drive from Sharosh to the city

In our community we are currently experiencing a very beautiful movement. Almost every Sunday there are new people (sometimes it is so full that there are only places to stand left) and we notice that people are hungry for God. A woman, who has been coming to the church for about 2 months (she also brought her neighbor and his children with her) told me that she asked her husband on the phone (he works abroad) what he thought about her wish to convert to God. This Thursday we will start with a house group in her home for the first time. Likewise, we started another new house group in Vistea, a village ca. 30 km away, about 4 months ago.

On Sundays there is quite a lot of transport service necessary because most of the people of the 5 villages around Fagaras have to be picked up - there are no buses that go into town on Sundays.



The children's meeting in Sharosh: I (Senta) started in November last year. The reason for this were the shoeboxes (Operation Christmas Child) that came for Christmas and in the boxes was children's training material that contained 12 biblical lessons that every staffmember should cover with the children. The nice thing is that this has resulted in a regular children's ministry here in our village and a group of 4-5 girls (10, 13, 14 years old) even come to churchservice every Sunday. Last Sunday afternoon I started reading with them in the Gospel of Matthew for the first time (everyone got a Bible - thanks to the many Bibles Friedrich and Gabi brought from Baiersbronn).

Our teenage ministry has progressed, too. Since Misch was allowed to use a neighboring farm here in the village to offer free riding lessons on Saturday afternoons, many teenagers love to come. Of course, after the sporty part, we also have a biblical prayer, where our 4 young "teenage-leader", who were at the ranger camp in Senden last year, do their part very well. They prepare a topic in turn (e.g. the parables of Jesus) and present it in very different ways - sometimes with pictures on the wall, sometimes with practical objects. The big challenge is that they have to prepare the kids camp for the summer alone (with the help of Steff the head of the Ranger tribe in Senden) - with topics, games, workshops etc. Gemeinde in Făgăraș



Die Kinder aus der Kirche













At first the young foal is being fatigued, so it won't be to wild to ride.

<u>Crihalma a branch of Cuciulata</u>: a family from the church of Cuciulata, (one of our daughter churches), lives in Crihalma and started a house group in their home. This is so well attended that sometimes up to 30 people gather in their home. Before the house group starts they also have a kids programm with 40 - 50 children. Now they want to enlarge the garage in spring to make room for these meetings.

Corina, the wife of this family, also started a Bible reading group with the young girls. Last Saturday I gave her 12 new Bibles.

<u>The surprise</u>: for a long time we have been wishing and praying for an off-road vehicle that is "forest-capable". Our old horse (the green bus) was no longer able to pull the wood-laden trailer out of the forest this winter. We needed all-wheel drive (so we rented an off-road vehicle a few times).

One day a call came from dear friends from Birkenfeld that they had sold their deceased father's car and wanted to add something to get us a forest-capable car. We were stunned. For a month we searched the internet and our friends looked at different offers. It was a tough test of patience but God wanted to check if we were still putting His priorities (discipleship school etc) in the first place. Then finally the day came when Misch looked at a car in the Internet and had the impression "that's it". Our friends were willing to drive the 450km, do the repair and so we were able to pick up the Nissan Pathfinder in mid-February. Thank you Lord!!! The car already passed the forest test last week.



Prayer requests:

We pray that God will show us what the future will look like when it comes to larger rooms. We pray for wisdom and patience in dealing with Filip. We pray that the new people will come through and that we can accompany them to baptism.

> Thank you soooo much for all your support in prayer and finances, a blessed new year with God's guidance and joy for every day, heartfelt wishes from,

> > Misch + Senta with Filip

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