

‘News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.’ Acts 11:22-23

Dear beloved!!!

I have been contemplating Acts and the ministry of the first Christians for a while now. As I was reading Chapter 11 I wondered **‘why Barnabas?’**

The church in Jerusalem hears about revival among the gentiles (Greek) and sends Barnabas.

Something similar happens in chapter 8: Philip evangelizes and Samaria opens and receives the gospel. ‘Many believed and were baptized’ – and the church sends Peter and John.

This time they sent Barnabas – not one of the Apostles. **‘Why Barnabas?’** I wondered.

Acts 4:36-37 speaks about Barnabas for the first time:

Barnabas = Son of comfort, an encourager

= A Levite from Cyprus - a servant of the tent (property of God) in the Old Testament

= someone willing to sacrifice financially (he sold a property and brought the money to the Apostle’s feet)

= someone who trusted the church leadership (the apostles)

In Acts 9:27 ‘But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them...’

- While many Christians were afraid of Saul -> he is not afraid

- While no one trusted Saul -> Barnabas trusted him = believed in him and his salvation and calling

- He was willing to start relationship with him

- HE OPENED THE DOOR FOR SAUL – TO THE APOSTLES – TO THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

In Acts 11:26 Barnabas - after seeing the grace of God in the newly founded church in Antioch (that Jews as well as Gentiles attended together) - finds Paul, who had been living by himself in Tarsus for years, to bring him into an environment where he could live within his prophetic calling.

Barnabas opened the door for Paul – so he could serve God within his calling.

Even in our life there were those **special people** that opened doors for us. At this point I would like to give special thanks to **Brad Thurston**, our former mission leader who helped us find **our mission field as well as with getting to know churches and friends who have been a spiritual and financial blessing for us for 25 years.**

HE OPENED THE DOOR FOR US – SO WE COULD FIND AND LIVE OUR CALLING!!!

God wants to use you to help others FIND AND PRACTICE THEIR CALLING as well!

OUR FAMILY: We are doing well. We have really **found rest** – in our relationship with Philippus, our marriage and our church. We **appreciate God’s blessings** so much: our garden thrives, our Nelly delivered a healthy foal, our cow found a wonderful pasture with a Christian who gives us cheese regularly without us having the extra work of milking and making cheese.

An exceptional miracle (a real test on how to behave under huge pressure) was our ‘story about electricity’: In January we received a bill – ‘additional payment for the last year’ amounting to 20,000 Lei (equals €4000). We were in panic and someone advised us to buy a new meter and to compare the two – they showed the same results. So we were advised to send the old meter to Bukarest with an examination request. They told us it would take 6 months. In the meantime we received threats



form the local 'Elektrika' saying if we didn't pay until a certain date, they would cut the power (which would have threatened our water and heating system). We prayed and remained in His peace – and told them that we were waiting for an answer from Bukarest. The thought of paying very nearly choked us. Yet, we left it in God's hands. We received an answer after 4 months: 'The meter was examined by a commission and declared defective.' Our friend, who has been an electrician for years, stated that something like that happening in Romania was a miracle. They had upgraded our rates several months before – we paid twice the amount now – and they said: 'you have been paying so much already – you will receive free power for the next 6 months.' **Thank you, Lord!!!**

OUR CHURCH: After many months of church services in the yard we were allowed to start meetings in our church rooms again – with distance. We decided to start with two services. We split the worship team, our driver service, the children ministry and the team that collects our offerings. Every co-worker worked two services on one Sunday and was off the next. We were surprised to see our church grow after that. What seemed like a big challenge proved to be very effective. We still emphasize the homegroups, though. That is the place to get to know each other, ask questions and pray personally for each other.

DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL: Paused for a year due to the pandemic. We were happy to meet the future team of the discipleship and leadership school. We know that God has blessed us with those people as we unite in the vision. With God's help we want to start a second year = leadership for homegroups, worship, children ministry etc. in September. Through God's grace we are going to hold a believer's baptism in July, where several young Christian will once again bury their old lives and start a new life with Jesus.



Homegroup in Cincu

Group of tent gypsies – the women are illiterate, but open for the gospel



Youth group

Volleyball



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Bogdan

Bogdan: He is a 21 year old man who has been a faithful co-worker in our youth group for several years. He's from the church in Cuciulata and as Michael sees his potential as a future youth group leader and wants to build a discipleship relationship with him, he has invited him to spend a gap year with us. Monthly costs amount to €200 (which would cover the living expenses as well as pay for his practical help on our farm = like an allowance). If some of you would like to donate for Bogdan once or regularly, please mark your donation 'for Bogdan'



A used van: the engine of one of our old church vans we use to transport people from 4-5 villages every Sunday is broken and even the chassis is very old and it is not worth repairing, it wouldn't pass inspection either. If anyone would like to donate an old van or would like to donate towards buying one, it would be appreciated. Both vans are essential on Sundays.

The baptism: please pray that those who have decided to enter into a covenant with Jesus won't be stopped. In some cases the husbands of the women don't agree or don't want to have a civil wedding, so the woman can be baptized.

The leadership school start in September: people receiving their calling into the ministry = pay the price (being able to take one Friday off from work every two months) – we will meet five times and have an additional evangelistic outreach at the end of the school.

The summer – teenager camp in August: we would like to reach non believing teenagers with the gospel.

THANK YOU SO MUCH: to everyone who donated throughout the last year, even in all the challenges, you faithfully supported and carried us in prayer as well as financially!!! God will repay you!!!

In his love

Misch and Senta with Philippus



The team of the discipleship and leadership school to start in September

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