



Reaching Romania: Optimizing Your Mission Trip Experience



PRAYER PARTNERS

Weeks before you leave, find at least two or three people you trust who will pray faithfully for you before and during your trip.

Here are some points for prayer

- 1) Pray for your overall experience.
- 2) Pray for your spiritual growth.
- 3) Pray for the safe delivery of your luggage.
- 4) Pray about the spiritual warfare that will come against you personally and the team both before and during the trip.
- 5) Pray for the Lord to tangibly connect you to someone or something He's doing, either to a particular person you'll encounter or a specific activity in which you'll participate.
- 6) Pray for ongoing fruit from the seeds you plant on your mission trip.

FUNDRAISING

One of the greatest joys in mission trips is to see how God raises up friends to assist us in going on mission. We prefer to call fundraising "friendraising." When raising friends, we suggest that you send a letter of intent as well as a post trip follow-up letter.

Here is a basic sample letter. Use it as a basis to write your own personal letter to potential supporters and prayer partners.

Dear [INSERT NAME]:

I am writing this letter to tell you about some of the exciting things God has been doing in my life. I sense that God is leading me to do a short-term mission trip with Reaching Romania, an international ministry of The Union Mission. You can learn more about the organization here: www.ReachRomania.com.

On their next trip [INSERT DATES], our mission team would be helping with [INSERT KEY MINISTRY PROJECT/S] and with Reaching Romania's Feeding Body and Soul ministry to needy Romanians.

These trips are great opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those who may never hear the Gospel otherwise. Those who have ministered with Reaching Romania have returned excited about their experiences, and I eagerly anticipate the chance to go.

I am praying and seeking the Lord's provision to be able to go on this trip, which would cost \${COST}.

This is how you can help. First, please pray that I find God's will about my participation in this mission trip. Second, as you pray, ask God if you are to partner with me by giving toward the cost.

You can send your gift to:
REACHING ROMANIA
P.O. Box 3203
Norfolk, VA 23514

Please make checks payable to Reaching Romania. Please do not write my name on the memo line of the check, but include it on a separate piece of paper enclosed with your gift toward my trip costs. If you would prefer to give your support using a credit card, please contact Roseanne Dickerson at The Union Mission at (757) 627-8686, x 554, and she will post your donation to my account.

Thank you for your consideration and your prayers. Let us praise God together for what He has done and will do in our lives.

Warmest regards,

[YOUR SIGNATURE]

For a post trip follow-up, just express your gratitude to your friends who helped make this trip possible for you. You might send an excerpt from your journal that shares how God worked through you on this trip and how they were a part of His work through their generous donation.

JOURNALING ON YOUR MISSION TRIP

Journaling is an important way for you to process what you are learning about yourself, God, and the world. This short-term mission trip will be forever embedded in your mind, but after time you will begin to forget some important events, names, and feelings. If you journal, you will find yourself returning to it for many years to come.

We even suggest you begin journaling now. While on the field, try not to miss a day! It will take some discipline to journal while you are busy, but you will be glad you did! If you are asked to speak, even informally, about your mission trip, your journal will help you remember what to talk about.

1. Write down impressions you have of the Romanian culture. Was it as you expected? What did you learn about the culture? Are you burdened for the needs of this country?
2. Write special places, events, foods, etc. You will not have time to capture all the details, but journal about those that stick in your mind.

3. Write about your relationship with God. What are you learning about Him? What are you learning about His purposes in the world? What are you learning in Scripture?
4. Write about your relationships with others. How are you relating to your team? The Team Leaders and missionaries? The nationals? Any special or memorable new Romanian friends?
5. Write down what you are learning about yourself. Have you learned something new about yourself? Are there some old flesh patterns coming out? Are you learning to respond in a godly way to all things? Are you learning you have gifts and abilities you didn't know about?
6. Write down your questions, thoughts about missions, and your part in it. Consider and ponder your future.
7. Write your praises and prayer needs to God.
8. Document your answers to prayer.

COMMUNICATING WITH ROMANIANS

Your testimony: It's wise to have your testimony written out before you leave the United States. Be concise and direct. Include who you are and why you have come to Romania. Include short points about how you were saved and how anyone else can come to Christ. Include Scripture verses for clarity.

Working with an interpreter / translator

A good interpreter must translate a complete thought, not every word literally, so speak slowly, distinctly, and in complete, relatively short sentence.

Don't be surprised if your interpreter asks you to speak slower, use shorter sentences, repeat part of your last sentence or reword a phrase. He only wants to understand so he can repeat your intentions. Try not to embarrass your interpreter. Your translator will be very embarrassed if you try to have him translate compliments for himself.

Don't illustrate your ideas with references that are strictly American or not understood internationally: stories from American football or baseball, references to U.S. holidays or TV shows, for example. Don't tell jokes or make puns, which do not translate well. Avoid idiomatic expressions, such as *out on a limb*, *shot in the arm*, *welcome mat rolled out*, *I reckon*, and *they sat there like bumps on a log*, etc. Romania has its own idioms.

Be sensitive to the economic and educational levels of the people to whom you speak, but do not "talk down" to them.

Talk directly to your listener, not to your interpreter. Use the first person, such as "I am glad to be here." rather than saying to your interpreter "Tell them I'm glad to be here." The translator becomes your voice.

Using an interpreter while preaching or public speaking

Make sure that your interpreter is familiar with any special or technical terminology that you plan to use. This includes language that is particularly in vogue with young people today or words that are unique to your subject matter. This may include Bible stories or references. Help your translator look up words in a dictionary or explain the background basics to help him understand.

Don't read long Scripture passages in English unless you are addressing an English-speaking group. Introduce and announce the passage, then let the interpreter read the Scripture in Romanian. This will save time.

Always quote the Scripture and cite the Romanian reference. This will give the interpreter time to look it up and read it. This gives greater authority to the Scripture verses (and more security to the translator). It can be helpful to make sure your translator has a Bible that he can mark up for all Scripture references that you plan to use before you speak.

While your interpreter is translating, use the time to prepare your next thoughts. Don't concentrate on what he is saying to the extent that you are not prepared to speak when it is your turn.

Remember that speaking through an interpreter will effectively double your speaking time. Therefore, if you have 40 minutes to preach, plan to speak for 20 and be translated for another 20.

Remember, you and your interpreter are a team. You share the same goal: effective communication about Jesus Christ—how He has worked in your life and can work in the lives of those you address!

HELPFUL ROMANIAN PHRASES

Greetings and Salutations

Good morning	Buna dimineata	BOO-nah dee-meen-YAhtsah
Good afternoon	Buna ziua	BOO-nah ZEE-wah
Good evening	Buna seara	BOO-nah see-YAH-rah
Good night	Noape buna	no-WAHP-teh BOO-nah
Goodbye	La revedere	LAH reh-veh-DEH-reh

Everyday Niceties

Please.	Va rog	vah ROHG
Thank you.	Multumesc	moolt-soo-MESK
...Very Much	...foarte mult	fwar-te moolt
You're welcome.	Cu placere	koo play-CHAY-ray
Yes	Da	Da
No	Nu	Noo
OK	Bine	Bi-ne
How are you?	Ce mai faceti?	Che may fa-chets'?
I'm fine, thanks.	Bine, multumesc	Bi-ne mool-tsoo-mesk
And how are you?	Si dumnea voastra?	doom-nea-vwas-truh?

Foods and Beverages

water	apa	AH-pah
soda	cola	KOH-la
salt	sare	SAH-reh
pepper	piper	PEE-per
bread	piine	POY-nay
cheese	brinza	BRIN-zah
salad	salanta	SAH-LAH-TAH
meat	carne	KAR-nay

Numbers

1 / one	una/unu	OO-nah/OO-noo
2 / two	doua/doi	DOH-wah/DOH-ee
3 / three	trei	tray
4 / four	patru	PAH-troo
5 / five	cinci	cheen-ch
6 / six	sase	SHAN-say
7 / seven	sapte	SHAP-tay
8 / eight	opt	ahpt
9 / nine	noua	NOH-wah
10 / ten	zece	ZAY-chay
100 / one hundred	suta	SOO-tah
1000 / one thousand	mie	MEE-yay

THE ART OF TRAVELING

1. TRAVEL LIGHTLY: Remember, you are not traveling for people to see you. Take only what you need, and leave your fancy clothes at home.
2. TRAVEL EXPECTANTLY: Every place you visit is a surprise package waiting to be opened. Untie the strings with an expectation of high adventure.
3. TRAVEL HUMBLY: Visit people and places with respect for their traditions and ways of life, as different they may be from your own.
4. TRAVEL COURTEOUSLY: Consideration for your fellow travelers and for all you meet along the way will enhance your pleasure.
5. TRAVEL GRATEFULLY: Show appreciation for the many things done by others for your enjoyment and comfort.
6. TRAVEL WITH AN OPEN MIND: Leave all your prejudices at home.
7. TRAVEL FLEXIBLY: Have a flexible attitude especially when you experience unexpected delays or changes in your travel plans.
8. TRAVEL WITH CURIOSITY: It's not how far you go, but how deeply you go that mines the gold of the experience.
9. TRAVEL PATIENTLY: Take time to understand people in other countries—especially when there are language barriers. Learn a few words, if only to say “hello” and “goodbye.” The nationals in the countries you visit will love it.
10. TRAVEL WITH THE SPIRIT OF A WORLD CITIZEN: You'll discover people are basically much the same the world over. Appoint yourself an Ambassador of Good Will wherever you go. And remember, after all, we are all Ambassadors for Christ.