

"Let us go over to the other side..."

Dear friends,

We trust that you are all well and that you have stepped into this New Year full of hope and excitement for the plans that God has in store for you personally, your families, your church, your friends, your neighbourhood, your ministries, etc. Life with God is never a dull moment, and if ever it gets to that then there must be something we're not doing right.

You might be wondering why the newsletter?

Over the last 12 months there's been a lot of things happening for us as a family, and we thought that it'd be better to share our news with you in this way, and at a later date, if opportunity allows it, to talk more about it face to face with some of you.

We've got some exciting news to share. We understand that this may come as a surprise or a shock to some of you, but we have been praying and thinking about this for over 12 months now. We believe that God is calling us to move to Romania and begin a ministry among the Deaf people in Nora's home city, Constanta.

This wasn't completely strange to Brent, as every time we would visit Nora's family in Romania, he would come back home saying that he would like to move to Romania for a while and do some work there, but there was no clear vision at that time. For me, Nora, it was very uncertain and improbable.

However, in December 2012, God began to stir something new in our minds and hearts. It all became very clear when we received a newsletter from a couple of friends, Bob and Gaby McFarland, in which they were sharing what God had been doing in their lives and ministry throughout 2012. Prior to reading the newsletter, neither of us had been talking about moving to Romania or about working there with the Deaf people. Brent read the newsletter first and then he just asked me if I had read it, which I hadn't, so he just told me to read it.

In the newsletter, Bob and Gaby were sharing about their journey to Israel, and said that when they were on a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee, God reminded him of the scripture where Jesus said to his disciples "Let us go over to the other side..."(Mark 4:35). Bob referred to this as a challenge unto the readers. What would that mean to you and me? As soon as I read that I was all covered in goose bumps and felt very strongly that it was referring to working in Romania.

After I had read it and Brent got back home from work, I told him what I had experienced and Brent said that he felt exactly the same. We were both overwhelmed!!!

So here we are, 1 year on, after many prayers and many words of confirmation from God, we feel that the year for the move should be next year, 2015.

We know that there is a great need for outreach into the Deaf community in Constanta and the surrounding area as there is no church/fellowship, as far as we know, having researched and talked to other people involved in the Deaf community. There are some Deaf churches in the West of the country, and there seems to be a lot more outreach activity in those areas as a

result of it. But nothing in Constanta! We have visited the Deaf club in Constanta and we know that there are many Deaf people living in the city and around it.

There is a great need and we have chosen to answer God's call to minister in this area. The Deaf people in Romania live a very modest life, many without jobs, basic education and very little support from the government. Compared to their quality of life, the Deaf community in this country are so privileged to have so much support and access in many areas of life, work, education etc.

As we embark on this new journey, will you please pray with us that:

- God will continue to guide us as we consider what is best in regards to letting our home in England, or selling it
- Brent's family who are not Christian will be softened by God's spirit to understand why we are doing this
- We will find the right home in the right area to live in
- God will provide us with the sufficient financial support to be able to carry this ministry out and settle and live a balanced life in Romania

We appreciate your support, words of encouragement, prayers, so please feel free to get in touch with us at BNTL.allen@gmail.com

If you would like us to keep you posted with our progress and future newsletters, please do email us and let us know.

I'm sorry if this was a long read for some of you, but as it's a lot to take in and such a big change for us, we felt it was appropriate to share a bit of the story with you all.

May God bless you all and pour His grace and favour upon you throughout 2014!

With love in Christ,

Nora, Brent, Tobias and Lucas x