

Fall in Romania: Lessons Along the Way

While in school, most students are looking forward to the day of graduation, waiting for „real life” to begin. The expectation is that after you graduate, applying what was taught occupies most of your time, and the learning process slows down. This, however, is not quite the same in ministry. After ten years in Romania, we are learning just as much as we are applying, and being the parents of three school-age boys enhances this.

Andy, who turns 15 in November, is in high school. This past week he has had several mid-term tests. Though he was grateful for the results, he said for one or two of the tests he would have “liked” the highest grade. I told him he should not allow this to take away from the joy of doing so well. As I listened to myself encourage him, I couldn’t stop but take notice I too need to do the same thing on many occasions. Advice turned personal.

Eduard recently celebrated with friends and family his 10th birthday. Being a soccer enthusiast, what better way to do it than through playing soccer? In the midst of all his present interests – games, players, stats, and other sports interests – many days we find ourselves as parents encouraging him to look beyond the game. As we share about long-term values and eternal values, we too are reminded of our calling to do just the same.



Tommy, our proud second grader, continues to be the cheerful student. Being a morning person, his days begin with a song and a smile ☺ When time allows us to read and share from the Bible before going to school, he is the one most active both in listening and in questioning.



Speaking of lessons learned and taught, the Sunday school teachers from Emmanuel went on the annual retreat in September. They looked at Paul’s admonition to be a godly example (1 Timothy 4:7b), and to model godliness as they serve the children each Sunday.

In the weeks ahead, please pray for us as we lead another Marriage Preparation Seminar, prepare for end-of-the-year events, and care for Ema’s aging parents.

Blessings to you all, and an early Happy Thanksgiving!

Adrian, Ema, Andy, Eduard and Tommy Ban