

## Update following the Barnabas Outreach Trust trip to Romania 24<sup>th</sup> June- 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

We thank you for your prayers for this mission trip. One of our prayer requests before the trip was that following the rail strikes, travel to the airport would not be a problem and that our flight departure would be on schedule because of a late evening arrival at the hotel following the onward drive from Bucharest airport. As you know, we went to Romania, and we came back safely. However, we did face challenges and setbacks even before taking-off.

On arrival at Heathrow's Terminal 2, on time, we expected to drop off our luggage, and go to wheelchair assistance to save one member of the team of 5 from having to walk the lengths of the airport corridors to board the flight, having first cleared passport control and security.

We joined the slow-moving queue for baggage drop-off, having already been told the queue to go through passport control and security was so long, that it went out of the terminal building, and to expect an hour's delay. We also knew that earlier that week the baggage conveyor system in Terminals 2 & 3 had broken, over 300 flights had been cancelled and approximately 5,000 people had been affected as a result.

We slowly edged forward in the queue for baggage drop-off, there were 3 or 4 groups of people ahead of us and 2 check-in desks in operation. It was almost our turn, then the baggage conveyors stopped at all the drop off desks! We sent up some quick prayers. Even believing we would travel, I found it a little stressful. Time was ticking by. Then after a while a member of staff opened another check in desk, beckoned us forward, accepted our luggage and assured us it would be on the flight, even though the conveyors had not started. At least we could find our way through crowds of people and proceed to the wheelchair assistance desk.... only to find quite a few groups of people there in front of us and there were no wheelchairs available. We were told there would be 30-40 minutes to wait. More prayers went up! Amazingly within 5 or 10 minutes a wheelchair was found. Our group was called forward and directed to a fast-track route through security, completely missing the one hour's queue out of the building. So armed with our sandwiches and drinks for the remainder of the journey, our whole group was given priority boarding at the gate. This also enabled us to have space in the overhead lockers for our bags on the full flight! We thank God that our flight was delayed by over an hour and those that had to queue also made it in time, also for blessing us with a free meal on arrival at the hotel, a 11.40pm! Our adventure started!

We thank you for all your support and prayers. God answered many prayers, not always in the way we would have chosen, but beyond what we could ask or imagine, and showed that in our weaknesses, His power is perfected, for His glory! I look forward to sharing more in church in a few weeks' time and in general conversations, in the meantime attached is what Ann and Clive McIntyre have written following the trip.

Marian Bateman

14<sup>th</sup> July 2022