



Pelunca

ON THE FIELD

Edition 40 | May 2025

Newsletter 40

Good day, dear sweethearts. We've already reached newsletter number 40! Forty! Wow, that's starting to count, isn't it? Believe me, I should know—I now have that same number next to my name. Man, time flies.

Blowing candleless

To be clear: in April, I too got to blow out 40 candles. And it was a special birthday edition. A few days before mine, Rosalie turned 7, but both our birthdays fell during the BMT (Belgian Mission Team) week. So we wrapped up that Saturday with a big barbecue! Super cozy, super fun! A few people from church came by as well, and my good friend Ismael was there too. We were happy!

And I had a small personal victory that day. After two years, I was finally able to do the Bible walk again. Granted, with Nordic walking sticks, but still. I was overwhelmed with gratitude. Praise the Lord!



Support project PeLunca

IBAN: BE58 1030 7716 4679

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/PeluncaRomania

Support familie Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: NICABEBB

Always mention: "familie Priem"

Tijs, Jessica and Kids

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Another great week with Belgian Mission Team

All in all, it was a beautiful ending to yet another wonderful week with BMT. There were fewer of them this time, but that was certainly not a disadvantage. Everything has its pros and cons. Since many of our regular translators are currently abroad, this worked out well. Plus, the moments of 'study' and/or fellowship were all the more personal. Once again, it was a week full of home visits—this time in Geoagiu itself. In the afternoons, they helped at the center with the children's program, and outdoor activities were organized. At the final outdoor event, all the kids and attending parents were treated to a tasty hot dog and a soft drink. So, one amazing week! Once again, we heard many testimonies of what God did. But as always, the primary focus was on serving, evangelizing, and praying for the Roma people. And by the end of the week, we always see how much the Lord was also working in us/BMT. We're already looking forward to next year!



Raluca and baby Eremia

Those who've been following us probably saw the beautiful story of Raluca. We were able to pray for her with the whole BMT team and shared some affirming words that made clear God was with her. But for those unfamiliar with the story: Raluca is a very sweet mother of three and was pregnant with her fourth. A few months ago, she came to Jessica in a panic, telling her that the doctor had said there was a serious complication. The chances of her surviving childbirth were very slim. The doctor would first try to save her, and only then see if they could save the baby. We supported Raluca financially so she could continue medical check-ups, but things didn't look good. We prayed for her, BMT prayed for her, the church prayed for her, and her story was shared in many groups so even more people could pray.

And then the time came: she went into labor. The frightened young mother was sent from pillar to post without explanation and eventually had to be transferred to another hospital two hours away. But Raluca kept her phone close and kept messaging with Jessica. In that way, we were at her side with words and deeds. And finally, the relieving message came. The birth was over, and Raluca was alive—praise the Lord! But what about the baby? The baby was taken away immediately to another facility. Only later that day did Raluca—and then we—hear the continuation of God's blessing: the baby was also alive. In an incubator, yes, but not in critical condition. How fantastic is that! Welcome, little Eremia! All honor and glory to our deeply compassionate Father!

As always, we do, and He leads, corrects, prevents, and blesses.



Help for some families

So Pe lunca is still far from quiet. The usual things—bookkeeping, home visits with the Roma, help with medicine, milk for babies, help with building materials—are all continuing. Thanks to a generous donation at the end of last year, we were able to help one family with new windows and doors. But not only that... There was still some money left from the donation, allowing us to help several more families. The sponsors of our family files also made this possible. We're grateful for your generous hearts. For example: (PFF28) Farcas Romolus and Ana received 4 pallets of bricks, cement, and plaster, (PFF18) Lidia and her little girl received 2 pallets of bricks with cement and plaster, The Paul sisters needed some cement and roofing sheets for repairs, (PFF25) Bacrau Saul and Alina got a new stove and paint to freshen up their home. This family still had a little budget left and wanted to use it to help someone else—Denisa.

Denisa gave birth to her fourth daughter about a month and a half ago. The baby was in bad shape and was transferred to a hospital in Timisoara. Denisa comes to us for diapers and clothes to take to her daughter, but she has no money to get there. So far, we've been able to help her travel there three times. Thank you, dear sponsor—your donation made that possible. Due to the distance and Denisa's absence, she unfortunately no longer produces breast milk. We're now hoping to find a sponsor to help provide formula milk.

Musical help

We also visited one of the local churches in the Roma village. A small church with a passionate heart for the Lord. I (Tijs) was immediately invited to preach, and they also asked us for help. We were able to bless them with metal roof-plates, and after I played a bit on their broken, cymbal-less drum kit with someone from the church, I got back in the car and said to Jessica, "I'm giving them my drum set." With both sadness and joy in my heart, I went back a few days later with my drum kit. Their joy was overwhelming!! May the Lord be praised, honored, and worshipped through it!



Centrul de zi: 'Inima Lui'

This has become a big part of Pe lunca. The center is incredibly important for the Roma kids and their future. That's why we want to invest directly in them. Would you please share our Facebook/Instagram group? That would be super sweet. We want to inspire many more people to get involved in the center's work. Amazing things are happening, but we still need helping hands. Simona (our paid staff) does her best, but she cannot manage alone. She really needs Jessica to guide her, but Jessica is constantly being called away by people from the village in need. That makes it hard to lead and also offer one-on-one support to some of the children. Especially with homework, the kids need individual help. So it's quite demanding. We're looking into how I can be more involved in the center myself, but right now I'm still fully occupied with home renovations, preparing for visitors and groups, the website, bookkeeping, emails, sermons, and of course, caring for our own children... So we continue to pray for more finances and the right people to work with us.



Thankfully, we were able to recharge a bit at the beginning of May during a three-day worship conference in Arad. The kids stayed with someone from church, so we could fully focus on God's Word, study, worship, and fellowship. It was especially helpful for Jessica, who—as most of you know—is a worship leader in our church. We're definitely raising the bar for her now, haha.

Our summer plans also took a sudden turn. We had originally planned to come to Belgium again in the second half of August. But our home team was hoping we could attend the 10th edition of the benefit event (a Flemish fair with a walking tour). After some reshuffling, we made it work—so our two weeks in Belgium have moved from August to June. Last year's benefit was truly beautiful, and this year promises to be even better. We've done everything to be there—so you will be too, right?! Unfortunately, our kids will have to miss their last week of school for it. For Lowie, that's even his last week with teacher Ana, after four years. His final week at that school. All of this so we can see everyone at the benefit ☺ Get it? I mean... Hihi. Alright, I'll stop trying to guilt-trip you! See you at the benefit then :D

We're also fully preparing for the hot summer months, all the upcoming visits, Global Encounters USA, camps, and hopefully even a little vacation. So more about all this in the next letter.

Many blessings to all of you!

To Him be all praise, honor, and glory!!!

Do you like our project and would you like to help us, to give others a better life? This can be done by:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Single donation or monthly amount.

Support project PeLunca:

IBAN: BE58 1030 7716 4679

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/PeluncaRomania

Support family Priem:

Family Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

PRAYER

- For the center – that the final paperwork for the ground floor may be completed, and then that we can continue with the upper floor construction. Please pray especially for the finances needed for this.
- For the children who come daily – that they may finish the school year well.
- For the non-registered children and those who have dropped out. Life is a harsh reality for them, and many things easily draw them (back) away.
- Please pray for more help. Simona is present every day, but Jessica remains indispensable alongside her.
- Please pray for Jessica – besides the center, there is still a lot of other work. Finding a balance continues to be a challenge.
- Pray for clarity on what God does and does not expect from us.
- There seems to be a sense of change, but it remains unclear. Our hearts burn for more evangelism and discipleship. Please pray that only His will may be done.
- Pray also for the upcoming camps, visits, preparations, online meetings, and hopefully some free time for our family.
- Please keep praying for our kids. There are moments they are intensely engaged with God, but at the same time, they face spiritual battles.
- Above all, pray that we may never lack faith, passion, or love. Pray that only Jesus may be seen through us.

SPONSORS

COTTIGNIES

Tuinen
SANDER
Tuinaanleg en onderhoud

PROJECTS

- Create social surveys and help with basic needs
- Pe Lunca Family Files (PFF): build houses, rebuild, purchase stoves.
- Pe Lunca Food Parcels (PFP): Compose - distribute foodpackages
- Pe Lunca Child Program (PCP): Financially adopt a child
- Pe Lunca Build Program (PBP): Building a community centre
- Provide baby's with powdered milk
- Sort clothing and give packages to the families
- Child and youth activities (sports, games, relaxation, bible reading)
- Medical Support (Doctor, Purchase of medicines, ...)
- Social support (helping teenage mothers, provide ID cards and other papers)

THANKS

- For the center – all obtained documents, permits, accreditation, and license.
- For the regular children who come independently every day and the progress they are making.
- For our volunteer Sandra, who helps in the center every Monday. She truly has a warm heart for the kids.
- So grateful for Raluca and Eremia and all the help that came for them!
- For all the support we've been able to offer so many different families.
- The upcoming visits, groups, and camps.
- The dedication of our support team for the 10th benefit event – and that we will be able to attend.
- New connections and friendships.
- So thankful for the privilege of belonging to the Royal family!

