

EUROPE

April/May 2014 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Since becoming Europe director for BIMI Carole and I have been doing all we can to get to know our missionaries better so that we can be more effective in our service. We just returned from a great trip to the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. This is without doubt one of the most productive things we have done in our efforts to become personally involved in the lives and ministries of our missionaries in Europe. I will just give a quick summary of our visits. At a later date I would like to take the time to elaborate a little more on the impact these visits had on us.

In all, we were able to visit with 10 of our BIMI Europe families. In the Republic of Ireland we saw Jerome and Michelle Pittman in Swords (close to Dublin), Steven and Katherine Finley in Athlone and Bob and Kathi Zemeski in Leixlip (also close to Dublin). In Northern Ireland we visited with Bob and Joan Bissett in Nutts Corner Crumlin (close to Belfast). Traveling to Scotland we saw Arvin and Marsha Devers in Houston (close to Glasgow). (The Devers are currently filling for Brother and Mrs. Dennis Snelson who are on furlough.) In England we saw first Jack and Doretha Moorman in Morden Surrey (London), Matt and Amanda Green at Stoke on Trent, Ryan and Elisabeth Strother at Feltham, Middlesex (London), James and Andrea Mansfield at Liverpool and Andrew and Sarah Bunnell at Surrey (London). Whew! This was a lot of traveling for five weeks, but we had a precious time with each family. We were able to stay three to four days with each missionary and visit not only in their homes but also in their churches. We were able to meet the children, (sometimes grandchildren), learn the histories, share a lot of laughter as well as many burdens. We are absolutely sure that we now have a much better understanding of each family we visited as well as of the particular challenges of each field of service.

Carole and I were overwhelmed at the gracious reception and hospitality we received at each and every home! We were made to feel welcome at every stop. So many people went out of their way to prepare special foods unique to their country, take us to see local points of interest and share with us their burdens and vision for ministry. It was a great time for us to grow much closer to each family with whom we stayed. Our hearts were filled to overflowing as we talked with the people in the churches where our folk are ministering. To see the Lord working in so many different areas in such a wonderful way is just indescribable.

We pray that we were able to let each family know how very thankful we are for them and their service to our Savior. We really do have some of the highest quality missionaries in the world. Our trip was never intended as an "inspection"; it was a means to make us better servants to some of the most dedicated men and women of God in the world.

As we are better able to serve our missionaries, we are also better able to serve YOU our supporting churches. Effective missionary work requires faithful service in so many areas. Our responsibilities are currently very different than they were for many years, but in so many ways, Carole and I can see that our ministry has not changed as much as it has EXPANDED! What a privilege we have to be co-laborers with our Lord, our missionaries and YOU! Thank you for helping.

We will catch you up on other news about Romania in our next newsletter. As it is, this letter is quite long enough.

Your missionaries to Europe,

Ed & Carole Hembree



Jeremy & Michelle Pittman's Church group near Dublin, Ireland

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Matt & Amanda Green & family in Milton, England



James & Andrea Mansfield & family in Liverpool, England



Ed & Joan Bissett's group near Belfast, N. Ireland



Arvin and Marsha Devers in Scotland



Steven & Katherine Finley & family in Athlone, Ireland



Andrew & Sarah Bunnell & family in Surrey, (London)



The Bunnell's church in Surrey, (London)



Robert and Kathi Zemeski's Church group in Leixlip, Ireland

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DIRECTOR
WITH CONTINUING
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ROMANIA

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