



INVESTING IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN ROMANIA

*A ministry of the Assemblies of God, represented in
Romania by the organization AG-SUA*



WHAT TO EXPECT WHILE IN ROMANIA

Team Manual & Rules

Revised January 2023

Dear Team Member,

On behalf of the Kidz Romania team, thank you for coming to Romania to serve. It means so much to us that you have chosen to work with Kidz Romania. We know there is a lot of work that takes place to prepare for this trip. Our hope, through this manual, is to help with this process and answer as many questions as possible. First and foremost please be prayed up for the trip, for yourselves, for us and for those whom you will be ministering to.

We have compiled information based on over 22 years of experience working with teams and what we find to be the most common questions people typically have prior to arriving. Reading this manual in advance will also save us a lot of time during orientation after you arrive. Although during orientation we will highlight some items from this manual we will have assumed that each member has already read the manual prior to arriving. There is also information which will help you in how to pack and prepare testimonies. We realize that this will not answer 100% of your questions, but it is a good start. Please filter all questions through your team leader who will then forward questions to the missionary. This will assist in duplication of questions from other team members.

Please contact us if you have any questions we have not covered in this manual. We look forward to your arrival and joining us and serving together here in Romania.

Your Kidz Romania Team

WHAT DOES KIDZ ROMANIA DO?

Kidz Romania exists to partner with the Romanian Evangelical Churches throughout the country to reach children and women with the transforming message of Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through:

BIBLE LESSONS, CURRICULUM, & RESOURCES

Kidz Romania comes to the aid of Bible school teachers and beyond, offering them free Bible lessons, games, skits, handwork ideas, other holiday materials, and more. These lessons are available on our website.

JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ (JBQ) & ADOLESCENT BIBLE QUIZ (ABQ)

Children learn to memorize Bible verses as well as sound doctrine in a fun & exciting way. They are eagerly learning to love God's Word and hiding it in their hearts. They come together with other churches in their region to compete in an exciting tournament that involves fly swatters. Winning teams are invited to participate in the National Final Competition with kids from 40 there teams from 6 different regions.



EVANGELISM

The Kidz Romania team, including youth volunteers, at the invitation of local churches, travel throughout Romania presenting the message of Jesus Christ and connecting children in the community to a local church. Children are presented the Gospel through creative means like puppets, skits, games, object lessons, illusions, songs and more. While children have fun they are also learning the truth about Jesus Christ and memorizing Scripture verses.



KING'S CASTLE

King's Castle is a dynamic discipleship program where children advance to various levels upon completion of various studies, activities and practice of what they learn.



TRAINING SEMINARS



Ephesians 3 calls us to equip workers for service. It is the desire of Kidz Romania to equip the local churches to disciple the children in their own community through Sunday School or some form of a kids club in which they can be disciplined on an ongoing basis. The Kidz Romania team travels throughout the country to provide hands-on, practical training seminars. We teach children's workers not only why children's ministry is crucial but practical ideas as to how to teach children in a way that will be fun for both kids (and teachers) while having a lasting impact on them.



CAMPS



Every summer, Kidz Romania offers many camps for children. We have two types of camps: overnight camps & day camps. At camp we have games, crafts, activities, and spiritual programs.



TV PROGRAM

Several TV stations have approached Kidz Romania to provide them with a good quality children's television program. Our media team is now producing a children's Christian television program which is currently being aired. Each episode clearly presents the Gospel message using clowns, puppets, animated characters and fun songs.



ROYAL RANGERS

Royal Rangers is a discipleship program to evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christ-like men, women and ministry leaders. Groups are made up of boys and girls of the same age. They will participate in weekly meetings that consist of outdoor activities, learning crafts, making new friends, and most importantly, serving others.

"CHARACTER MATTERS" PROGRAM



This is an educational program for children 3-12 years old. We are able to enter the schools and hold an assembly where Biblical values pertaining to character development are taught. Examples of some of the character themes include: honesty, respect, courage, kindness and prevention of drugs, alcohol, and smoking.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Kidz Romania team has the joy of sharing the message of hope through Jesus Christ to women throughout the country. Visiting teams help us put on an evangelistic program specifically geared towards women and teenage girls.



For more information about Kidz Romania, please visit:
www.kidzromanianews.com

You can also find a promotional video at:
<http://youtu.be/DkbG7uS3wxw> (this video is older but still gives a good idea of a lot of what we do).
Feel free to use this video to promote your missions trip.

MEET THE KIDZ ROMANIA STAFF



Name: Jan Cunningham,
Founder & Co-Director
Spouse: Rick Cunningham
In Romania since: 1996
Currently in the United States
Originally from: Missionary Kid
from Uruguay



Name: Efren & Marcela Portillo,
Co-Directors
Children: Valeria & Josias
With Kidz Romania since: 2013
Originally from: El Salvador



Name: Troy & Ashleigh King
Children: Harper & Ezra
With Kidz Romania since: 2022
Originally from: United States



Name: Walter Openda
Spouse: Rozie Openda
Children: Charlene & Jeremy
With Kidz Romania since: 2020
Originally from: Kenya



Name: Erin Brown
With Kidz Romania since: 2016
Originally from: United States



Name: Simona Kifor
Spouse: Florian ("Kif")
Children: Edi & Andrea
With Kidz Romania since: 2012
Originally from: Romania



Name: Dinora Bonilla Lima
With Kidz Romania since: 2022
Originally from: El Salvador



Name: Joel Perdomo
With Kidz Romania since: 2022
Originally from: El Salvador



Name: Isaí Ramos
With Kidz Romania since: 2022
Originally from: Mexico

ABOUT ROMANIA

Where is Romania?

Romania is situated in the southeastern part of Europe and shares borders with Hungary to the northwest, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, the Black Sea to the southeast, Ukraine to the east and to the north and the Republic of Moldova to the east.



Fun Facts

Time Zone: Seven hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time (GMT + 2)

Area: 92,043 sq. miles (238,391 sq. km) - a little larger than the state of Minnesota

Flag of Romania: Three vertical stripes: blue, yellow and red.

Population: 19,031,335 (2022)

Main Ethnic Groups:

Romanian 84%, Hungarian 6.1%, Gipsy 3.1%, German 0.2%, Ukrainian 0.2%

Official Language: Romanian

Currency: Leu (plural *Lei* --- pronunciation "lay" --- abbreviations: Lei or RON)

Climate: Temperate, four distinct seasons, similar to northeastern USA

Capital: Bucharest (*București* --- pronunciation: *boo koo resht*)

*Taken from www.romaniatourism.com

For more fun and interesting facts about Romania visit:

<http://romaniatourism.com/did-you-know.html>

BASIC RULES & EXPECTATIONS

- Be flexible
- Follow the schedule that has been given to your team
- Listen to and trust the Kidz Romania Staff
- Be respectful
- Don't go off by yourself, please stay with the group (if for some reason you need to go somewhere, please take someone with you)
- Understand you are in a different country and the language and culture will be different - and that's ok.

At the end of your trip, once you are home, will you please go online and fill out the following form to let us know how your trip was, how we can grow, and if you have any great testimonies we can share? We will send this to the team leader again once you are home:

<https://forms.gle/yjv7GqkY19zKigFU8>

Stay connected to us!

Email: KidzRomania@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/KidzRomaniaEnglish

www.kidzromanianews.com (English), www.kidzromania.com (Romanian)

Kidz Romania is a part of the Assemblies of God

If you'd like to support Kidz Romania financially, you can give online at:

<https://giving.ag.org/donate/600001-690229>

Or contact us at the information above if you are interested in serving with us again!

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARE IN ROMANIA

CLIMATE

Romania has a temperate climate, similar to the northeastern United States, with four distinct seasons.

Spring: Pleasant with cool mornings, nights and warm days.

Summer: Quite warm, with extended sunny days. The hottest areas in summer are the lowlands in southern and eastern Romania where 100F is often reached in July and August. Temperatures are always cooler in the mountains

Autumn: Dry and cool, with fields and trees producing colorful foliage, much like New England.

Winters: Can be very cold, especially in the mountains. While not the rule, abundant snowfalls may occur throughout the country, from December to mid-March (however there have been years where snow storms happened in May)

There are significant regional differences of the climate between different regions of Romania.

Weather for Bucharest - <https://www.wunderground.com/weather/ro/bucharest/44.4%2C26.083>

Kidz Romania recommends that you plan to wear layers each day and check online for predictions.

SIGHTINGS

During your stay in Romania you will be exposed to a variety of sights, sounds and smells that you possibly may not be accustomed to. Here are a few things you might encounter:

- **City life** is fast, crowded, loud and driving is insane.
- **Village life** is slower, quieter and typically will take you back about 50 years. Some things you may observe (each village is different and some are more modern than others):
 - Outhouse hole in ground toilet
 - Well water
 - Farm animals roaming streets
 - Horse and carts
- **Street dogs:** You will notice there are many street dogs. We recommend you not approach or pet any animal without first checking with Kidz Romania leaders.
- **Pornography:** Unfortunately, throughout Europe, what is allowed on television, newsstands, billboards, advertisements etc, is extremely more liberal.

- **Toilets:** Some areas we may travel to may have an outhouse consisting of either a hole in the ground or a toilet. Be sure to bring Kleenex and hand sanitizer in case there is not anything sufficient. *Hint: for those who are sensitive to smells, rub a little Vicks menthol under nostrils.*
 - In many places, you should throw away toilet paper and not flush (as many of the pipes and sewer systems are older)
- **Beggars:** It is not uncommon, especially in the cities, to have children approach the vehicle begging for money. You may also be approached in the villages from individuals requesting help with money. It is our general policy to not give out money. In some situations food may be given but at the discretion of the missionary. **ASK** before giving out any food. Situations have occurred where teams did not follow the warning of the missionary and instead gave out food to a couple of children only to get mobbed within seconds when word spread rapidly that foreigners were giving out food.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity voltage in Europe is 220V while in America it is 110V. Because of this difference you cannot plug your electronics directly into the outlets in Europe unless you have one or both of the following:

- **Adapter:** Most travel electronics (laptops, cameras, phone chargers etc.) will have "input 100-240V" imprinted on them. If this is the case then all you need is a plug adapter. A plug adapter is simply an item which allows you to plug an American plug (rectangle and flat prongs) into the European plug (round prongs). *An adapter will NOT convert the voltage from 110V (American system) to 220V (European system).* If your electronic is only a 100V system then you will need a converter. Plugging a 110V system without a converter will destroy your electronic item and possibly cause damage to the electrical system at the location you are staying.
- **Converter:** A converter simply converts the electricity down from the European system of 220V to the American system to 100V to allow your electronic device to be used. (e.g. hairdryers, straighteners, irons etc.) NOTE: some electronic devices specifically designated as "travel" items (e.g. some hairdryers) may have a built in converter where you need to only adjust the setting.

*Know your system prior to your arrival. Do not rely on the missionary or hotel where staying to provide adapters or converters. They are also difficult to find here and there will not be time to go shop for one.

Still confused? Here is a link to a blog site with detailed explanation and pictures:

<https://www.thither.com/travel-adapter-converter-difference-voltage-converter-adapter>

VACCINATIONS

There are no required vaccinations for entry into Romania. As a precaution and for your peace of mind you may want to check out www.cdc.gov (Center for Disease Control and prevention) and speak to your doctor for any recommendations.

COVID Tests/Vaccines are not required for entry into Romania (there are no COVID restrictions here). Be sure to check airlines for their requirements (some may require masks, including a specific type of mask). If testing is still required for return to the U.S. or where you are traveling to from here, we can arrange testing in the time frame that is required before you leave.

MEALS/DRINKS

You will receive three meals each day. The times of each meal will vary depending on events and travel time. It is best to have a snack on hand in case we go a long time in between meals. In some cases Kidz Romania will provide some travel snacks for the vehicle when we have a significant distance to travel.

- **Allergies:** Please inform the missionary prior to arrival of any severe allergies (NOT food dislikes or preferences). If you have severe allergies it may be best to bring some items from the States.
- **Special requests:** Please note that we cannot personalize individual meals based on preferences or dislikes. Many restaurants will not make substitutions or changes to menu items. While we will make every attempt to accommodate for special needs (vegetarian etc.) please understand that it is very difficult to accommodate every personal need of team members.
- **Restaurants:** While eating at restaurants one of two options will occur:
 - Kidz Romania will have ordered the meal in advance and will be served family style. This will allow team members multiple options to choose from.
 - In some cases individuals will have option to choose from the menu. The missionary will let the team know their budget.
 - Take out is also available at restaurants. Please take care to not leave take out in the vehicles and if you eventually do not eat it please throw it away so that leftover food is not left to rot in the missionary's home.
- **Host homes/churches:** If you are eating at a host home/church please do eat the majority of the food served to you (or sit by a friend who can assist you). Romanians are extremely hospitable and proud to serve you their country's traditional food. Not eating or making faces of dislike would be hurtful to the host. Even the poorest of homes/churches will offer you their best.
- **Drinks:**
 - Water: Water bottles will be provided to each team member. Please put your name on the bottle and refill the bottle with either filtered water or from the larger bottled water provided. To purchase individual bottles multiple times per day every day for each person will be extremely costly. We will provide water to refill your bottles.

- At restaurants free water refills are NOT provided. During meal time one bottle of water is provided in your budget. Please be mindful to not personally order water or other drinks outside the one. If every team member orders multiple drinks the drink bill will be larger than the food bill. We can purchase water at a grocery store at a fraction of the cost.
- DO DRINK WATER: Please do drink plenty of water. Most sicknesses, headaches and fatigue can typically be traced to dehydration. It is recommended to drink only filtered water or bottled water. While well water out in the villages is good, you are not accustomed to it and it may cause stomach issues. Be sure to have your bottled water with you at all times.
- Soda/Cola: At restaurants team members will typically be provided water and one cola item per your budget. Specialty drinks like lemonade, lattes, mocha etc. will be on a case by case basis depending on the price and budget. In some places a glass of lemonade (for example) could be 3-4 times the cost of a cola. The missionary will let you know in advance what is allowed.
- Personal drinks: Team members are welcome to purchase specialty drinks from their own funds. Please let the missionary know if you plan to do this since they will be the ones paying the bill in the end. Restaurants typically will not do "separate bills".

PHOTOGRAPHS

We highly recommend you take pictures throughout your trip. During the outreaches you can take pictures of the children. They love to see pictures of themselves so if at all possible be sure to show it to them. You will be told in advance if pictures of children are not allowed (e.g. public school outreaches, government buildings, etc.) Please be sensitive if taking pictures while in a private home. Ask before you take a picture.

At the end of the trip we ask that you share your pictures with us and we would love to share ours with you! Sometimes we get different angles or different opportunities to take pictures and would love to be able to use them.

INTERNET AND PHONE SERVICE

Internet access will be available on occasion. Typically the missionary home and/or hotel and possibly restaurants will have internet access (but not guaranteed). Access will be available during nights/mornings when you are at the home/hotel or at the restaurant. Majority of the time you will be traveling to the villages and Internet access will most likely not be available.

It is recommended to confirm that you have turned off data roaming on your phone to avoid huge charges. Confirm this with your service provider prior to arrival.

It is recommended that you communicate with your service provider as to what plans are available, if any, to you while you are in Romania. We recommend Skype, Facetime Facebook Messenger, or WhatsApp which run on Wi-Fi as a means to do video calls.

MONEY

Your team leader will give you further details on money, cost of your trip, what is covered, etc. For personal money, we recommend you bring cash and we will have a chance to exchange money so that you can purchase souvenirs, extra drinks/snacks etc.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You may encounter many situations that you do not understand or feel as though you would handle differently in the US. Please trust the missionaries you are working with and follow their instructions. What may work in America or other countries you may have served in, may not necessarily work in Romania. We know you are coming here with a huge desire to serve and give. We ask that you also come with a desire to learn. You are here to share Jesus, not change culture.

Here are a few hints to help you adjust to these cultural differences during your short time here:

- **Be FLUID:**
 - Things WILL change several times while you are here. Please go with the flow and do not become upset or frustrated when they do. This is not because the missionaries are not prepared or organized. In fact we spend many months preparing for your arrival. This is the nature of how things work here and as much preparation we have done, change is common.
- **Try new things:**
 - The food may look different, smell different, be prepared differently or even different parts of the animal are prepared which you normally would not eat. Please give it a try, you just may discover a favorite food.
- **Be cautious of conversations:**
 - Avoid topics of politics: This is a good rule of thumb anywhere.
 - Don't compare America with Romania. There are things we like about both countries but they are different and can't compare. Also be careful to avoid talking about how "we do things in America". Also be cautious to not put America down in an attempt to build up Romania (especially in the area of politics). We can be proud of being American and can love Romania without putting either culture down.
 - Please be careful when speaking around Romanians, especially while traveling in vehicles with Romanian translators/drivers. Please do not discuss finances. The amount you paid for all your souvenirs may be equivalent to half-month salary. Talking about your second vehicle problems when many Romanians would love to even have one vehicle. Be aware and sensitive of topics discussing in their presence.
 - Please do not make promises. If asked whether you will return please do not say yes. While you may have a desire, you can't guarantee. Please do not promise or even suggest bringing a Romanian to visit you.

- Please be cautious that people around you may actually know English. If speaking in English be mindful that Romanians may understand more than you realize. It is best to not assume that they don't understand.
- Avoid sarcasm - this is not understood and could be misinterpreted.
- Jokes do not translate well so be cautious.
- **Listen to the missionary:**
 - Please do follow instructions of the missionary. While you may have another idea as to how something should be done, and we are open to listen to ideas, please understand if your idea is not used. While it may be a great idea from the culture you came from, it may not work here.
 - There may be situations where we need to you move quickly and without explanation. Please follow instructions without question. We may not have time, due to urgency, to explain everything at that moment but eventually we will have time to debrief and explain.
- **Set aside your agenda:**
 - While you may have a dream or desire of doing a certain activity or ministry please keep in mind you are here to serve the existing ministry. Please understand that the schedule has been set and churches are awaiting your arrival for an outreach that has been announced ahead of time. We ask that if you have "special requests" to visit other ministries or friends you may have in the country, please communicate this to your missionary at least two months in advance. Please understand that making a request is NOT a promise it will happen. More than likely we cannot make those special requests but we will make an attempt to look into it. Please understand if we are unable to accommodate your special requests. Requests made once you arrive cannot take place as the schedule has been set.
- **Think Long Term:**
 - We so greatly appreciate your time and energy during your time in Romania. Please remember while you are here for a week, two weeks, month or several months, eventually you will return home and the ministry of Kidz Romania in collaboration with the local churches will continue on. Please keep in mind that what you do can have a great impact on the ministry here but at the same time certain actions can also close the door of ministry in some communities and have a negative long term impact on Kidz Romania. Thank you for your sensitivity to this.
- **Try to learn a few Romanian expressions:**
 - Don't worry if you pronounce them wrong, you will be respected for trying. Americans have a negative reputation around the world for assuming everyone should know English. Here is a link to learn some expressions and words: <http://romaniatourism.com/romanian-language.html>

- **Take time to build relationships with others you do not know:**
 - When in a situation outside of our comfort zone it is common for people to gravitate to their comfort zone – people they are familiar with. This is a great time to get to know new people you would normally not have a chance to interact with (missionaries, Kidz Romania staff, Pastors/wives and even other team members etc.) For some of you this may be out of your comfort zone. We would encourage you to spend time getting to know others you don't know. When you are in the home/hotel for evenings, restaurants, time in cars etc. are great times to talk and ask about their stories and share your story. Try to avoid always sitting by the same people in vehicles or at meals.
- **Be enthusiastic**
 - Whatever your assignment may be for the day, be enthusiastic. Even when setting up for an event or tearing down, people are watching your every move, expression and reaction. They may not understand what you say but your nonverbal can communicate so much more. If you are up front doing songs, games, puppets etc. (Especially with children) be excited about it. If you are excited, the kids will be excited, no matter how silly you may feel.
- **Turn down the volume:**
 - While it is great to have fun and laugh, be cautious of your surroundings and not draw too much attention to yourselves. This is especially crucial if you are in a public place where normally Romanians are quieter. (Americans tend to be loud!)
- **PDA (public display of affection)/interaction between guys/gals:**
 - If you are here on a team with a boy/girl friend or fiancé please be sensitive, especially out in the village or during summer camps. PDA between couples, not married, is not appropriate in the church culture. Our churches are very conservative and traditional. Please be aware that fun, playful interaction between guys and gals (wrestling, touching, innocent flirting, sitting very close together etc.), even if they are just friends, may be taken the wrong way by the Romanians. This goes as well with interaction between the team and Romanians when communicating with opposite sex.
- **Praying in public/Altar calls**
 - With the exception of our summer camps, typically during a children's outreach we do not do a public altar call for people to come forward to the front. We will, of course, pray for the kids at the event. During our ladies tea events we will have a time to pray one on one but how that will be structured will depend on the location and space available. The missionary will give instruction. A few things to note about prayer:
 - Women should pray with women. You can lay your hands on their shoulder or arm but please do not lay your hand on their head. Laying hands on head for prayer is considered an act of anointing and in this culture this is allowed only by male pastors.
 - Women could pray with men if another man is not available but do not lay hands on him.

- Men can pray with both women and men but be cautious about laying hands on women. Only male pastors are allowed to anoint with oil if this option is available.
- We will attempt to translate the prayer request for you but if that is not possible go ahead and pray in English. Because there will not be enough of us to translate all the individual prayers go ahead and pray in English and we trust the Holy Spirit to minister to them. We explain to the group before we begin prayer time how this will work.
- **Open Heart**
 - While you are here to serve and make a difference in the lives of people here in Romania please be aware that many times the Holy Spirit will also work in your life and the change you see may actually be in you. Many missionaries have been called from short-term missions trips. Please talk to any of the missionaries if you feel the Holy Spirit speaking to you about missions.
- **Be prepared**
 - The missionaries will let you know what you will need to prepare in advance but typically teams are always asked to prepare the following:
 - Devotions: Team devotional time is left to the discretion of the team leader. We do not put into the schedule a time for the team to meet for devotions and prayer. We have found that every team is different in their preference as to when they would like to meet. The schedule is different every day and there may be some times you may choose to meet in the morning, evening or even in the vehicle while traveling.
 - Testimonies: Each team member should come prepared to share their testimony in 5-7 minutes. Please see the section on testimony for more details how to prepare.
 - Songs: (If possible) Be prepared with 2-3 songs whether sung by one or more persons. There may not be a sound system available so prepare to sing without music. If a sound system is available then music can be used but it is best not to depend on it.
 - Longer message/testimony: (20 minutes). During church service on Sunday if a man is on the team he will be expected to share last and a longer message (20-30 minutes). If there is not a man on the team a woman can prepare a longer "testimony". Every church is different what they will allow so come prepared but understand if things change and although someone prepared they may not speak.
 - Other misc.: The missionary will let the team leader know in advance what other things may need to be prepared (skit, games, Sunday school lesson for kids etc.)

MEN & WOMEN

While things are changing within Romanian culture there are some cultural differences when it comes to roles of men and women especially in the churches. While we may have different opinions about the following please understand we are guests in their culture. Trying to force or demand otherwise may close the door for Kidz Romania to continue work in this church. In a few cases the female Kidz Romania leaders have built relationships and earned the right to step outside these cultural norms, but that is only with a few pastors and where they have given the female leaders direct permission. As guests, we ask teams to respect these and not push personal agendas or beliefs.

- In some churches you will observe that the men sit on one side and women on the other. When you come into a church we will be given instruction as to where to sit.
- Only married men can be ordained pastors. In most churches only pastors (men only) are able to anoint with oil.
- When praying, women should not lay hands on head to indicate an anointing. Women can lay hands on shoulders, arms, hold hands etc. and pray with anointing.
- Only men are able to "preach". Women can give testimonies. While testimonies can contain scripture verses, share your message as a testimony. Female pastors from other countries should not mention they are pastors in their churches or mention they are "preaching". The same message can be delivered whether you say you are "preaching" or sharing a "testimony"
- Women should stand to the side of a pulpit while men are permitted behind the pulpit.
- You will observe that Christian women in the churches will have their head covered. We ask that teams working with Kidz Romania NOT cover their heads. This is an area that we do not conform to and most pastors do not have an issue with us as foreigners not covering our heads. Our outreaches are evangelistic and we want those far from the church to attend. We want those who come to feel welcome and not the only ones who do not have their heads covered. Women from outside the church will not have their heads covered and if we all cover our heads they may feel awkward.

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE

In most cases we will have an opportunity to minister in a church on a Sunday morning.

Please note the following:

- Women wear skirts (to knees or longer)
- Women do NOT wear head coverings please. The women in the churches will more likely be wearing head coverings but we prefer the team not do so.
- Men wear business attire (tie is not required)
- In some cases women will sit on one side and men on the other. We will instruct you when we arrive. The church leaders will direct us where to sit.

- Remember the part about being FLUID? When we arrive to a church service, even the Kidz Romania staff will not always know what to expect or what will happen. The pastor will tell us upon arrival (which many times is after the service has already started) what we will do. We will be prepared as best as we can and go with the flow with the rest. In many cases the entire service is turned over to us but again, we won't know until we arrive.
- Everyone should be prepared with a 5-7 minute testimony (with translation this will be longer). (See separate section for how to do a testimony)
- If you are a woman sharing a testimony please stand beside the pulpit and not behind it.
- Team should have prepared 2-3 songs either sang by one or more people from the team. Please note that access to system for music may not be possible so be prepared to sing without music. Before singing one person on the team should explain what the song means. Even though it is in English they will have an idea of the sense of the song. In some cases they may know the song and may sing along in their language.
- One or two of the men (if available) should be prepared with about a 20 minute message. If no men are available one of the women should be prepared to share a longer "testimony". Please be sensitive to not mention you are a pastor (even though you may be at your home church) or mention you have a "message" for them. Be prepared but we won't know until we arrive whether you will be able to share this long. We will let you know.
- If there is an opportunity for some in the team to teach children's Sunday school class (if they have one) the missionary will let you know in advance to prepare a lesson.
- Typical Romanian service lasts about 2-3 hours minimum, sometimes more. 3 hours is the average. Translation may not be possible in English so please be patient.

TYPICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Many teams ask in advance what the ministry schedule will be and what they will be doing. There is no "typical" ministry schedule with Kidz Romania. Every team we custom tailor the schedule depending on where we are traveling to, to whom we are ministering to and what we are doing. Kidz Romania is here to serve the local church and we follow their lead to meet their needs as they serve in their community day after day. We are a resource and support to them. You, the team, are here to serve with Kidz Romania for the week (or however long you plan to stay). Any changes to the schedule upon your arrival will be as a result of a change request by the national church leaders in those respective communities we are serving with.

This is about as close to "typical" as we can get to give you a very rough idea what a week looks like here:

Day 1:

Team arrives in Bucharest. What a team does this day depends on the time of their arrival. If there is time we will organize ministry supplies, begin orientation, rehearse for program etc.

Day 2:

Depending how much preparation was done on day 1 the team will finish any organization of ministry supplies, rehearsal for programs and orientation. We load the vehicle and will have an outreach typically in afternoon or evening.

Rest of the week

Travel to villages/cities for outreaches. Depending on the location and travel distance we can do anywhere up to 1-2 outreaches in a single day. The type of outreach you do will be discussed with team leader in advance and may include one or more of the following:

- Children's evangelistic outreaches (clowns, puppets, skits, games etc.)
- Women's ladies tea (games, puppets, skit, serve food/drinks, give testimonies, sing song and pray)
- Sunday morning church service (testimonies, message (men), sing songs and possibly assist with children's Sunday school program)
- Maintenance/repair projects. There may be opportunity to do some light maintenance, construction/repair projects around ministry center or a village church depending on needs and skill set of team members.
- Kids Camp: If you are coming during the summer your time will be spent in one location to assist with kids camps.
- Serving Refugees: There may be an opportunity to serve with an organization that is directly helping Ukrainian refugees (could be anything from cooking a meal, cleaning housing, kid's program, etc.)
- Free time: There will be one day (or split up two half days) to do sight seeing and souvenir shopping
- Other: The list above is not all inclusive, there may be some other ministry opportunities not mentioned above. (prayer walks, hospital visits, public school program etc.)
- Night prior to departure the team will have a debrief with the Kidz Romania staff and time to pack

Last Day

- Flight home
- Someone from the Kidz Romania staff will be with you at the airport until after you pass through security.
- In the event someone accidentally puts something in their carry on which is not permissible have the security hand it to us and we'll hold on to it for you. Otherwise they will throw it away.
- We also stay in the event there is a severe delay in flight due to weather (we have had one team be delayed several days due to snow storm)

PREPARING & SHARING A TESTIMONY

When preparing your testimony to share either at church, ladies teas, children's outreaches or other venue, we recommend that you write out your testimony prior to arrival and practice it ahead of time. It would be a good idea to also practice with pauses as though you were with a translator. While we certainly want to allow room for the Holy Spirit to move during the service and to be free to change what you had planned to say, we have found that it is best to be prepared in advance to help keep you focused on your one point you want to share and not go off on rabbit trails. Because your time to share is short and you want the greatest impact within this short time, a few pointers as to how to write your testimony are as follows:

- **What was the condition of your life/what happened (2-3 minutes)** Focus on one event, situation or problem in your life. This may have been prior to when you surrendered your life to Christ or even after (we all know that problems occur even though we have a relationship with Christ)
 - What was that one problem, emotion, attitude, situation?
 - What were your actions?
 - How did you try to satisfy your inner needs? With drugs, drinking, depression, withdrawal etc.. (example of inner needs: loneliness, fear, insecurity, anger, unforgiveness etc..)
 - Or you can discuss a problem with a family member or friend.
 - NOTE:
 - Focus on a problem or situation that people of all cultures can identify with. (ex. Sickness, death of a loved one, broken relationship, depression, addiction, abuse)
 - Avoid the following topics:
 - Anything related to finances (what may have been a financial miracle to you may be unfathomable to them) God providing the funds for you to come on this trip is a blessing and miracle but for them the idea of even leaving their village is unheard of.
 - All the travel or trips you have been on. Many have never left their village.
- **What did God do? (2-3 minutes)**
 - How did God help you through this problem?
 - He may have taken the problem away
 - He may have helped you through the problem.
 - He may still be working in your life and you are currently in the problem
- **Now what? (2-3 minutes)**
 - How has your life in Christ made a difference?
 - How has his forgiveness impacted you?
 - How have your thoughts, attitudes and emotions changed?
 - Share how Christ is currently meeting your needs and what a relationship with him means to you now.

NOTES TO HELP WRITE OUT TESTIMONY:

- ❑ Keep it **SIMPLE**
 - This was my problem (e.g. loss of a loved one. I was sad, depressed)
 - This was how God helped me (gave me strength and peace)
 - This is how I have changed as a result of what God did (now I can help others who have lost loved)
- ❑ Do not be “preachy” or use “Christianese” phrases.
- ❑ Leave them knowing that God is with us in the midst of our problems and he helps us (sometimes his help is in the form of taking the problem away or sometimes it is in the form of changing our hearts or giving us strength/peace in the midst of the problem). He is with us all the time and cares about our lives, our feelings and our families.
- ❑ Do not share the lessons you learned through the situation you went through. The missionary will conclude by bringing together all the testimonies and give final conclusion and call to action and response.
- ❑ Write out your testimony and practice using the above structure. We have witnessed the difference between those who have prepared and those who have not. Those who have not have a tendency to go off on rabbit trails and jump back and forth. This makes it very difficult to follow and to understand.
- ❑ Practice and pray

USING A TRANSLATOR

Your translator has a very important job - to communicate your spoken words in a way that the people will understand what it is you intended to say to them. This is not an easy task. Here are a few tips to help your translator.

- If an opportunity arises (i.e. while traveling) share with your translator what your testimony or message will be about. It is easier if they have an idea ahead of time the context.
- Speak slowly and clearly, pronouncing each word precisely.
- If you have a tendency to speak fast (when nervous), make a note to "slow down". Also if you have a strong accent it helps to speak slowly.
- Do not turn your back to the translator, it may be difficult for them to hear.
- Do not speak to the translator or look at the translator while you are speaking. You are speaking to the people so make eye contact with them. The message is intended for them.
- Be sure to stop for the translator. When you practice at home, practice with pauses and make note when would be the best place to pause ahead of time. Some notes about when and how to stop for the translator:
 - Do not stop mid-sentence or mid-thought. The translator needs to have an idea of the context and thought of what you are saying. Translators do not translate word to word. They translate ideas within the context. It is not just about knowing the words they must know the idea within context.
 - You can say one or two sentences maximum.
 - Romanian grammar is different than English grammar and many times what is needed to begin a sentence is located at the end of the English sentence.
 - Americans have a tendency to start an idea and then quickly change ("oh wait a second, I forgot to mention....") Finish the complete thought or idea and then move on. Do not switch back and forth with ideas. It is very difficult to translate and the people will simply not understand what you are talking about.
 - If the translator does not understand what you said, do not repeat exactly what you just said. Repeat the idea using different words. It may be that you used an expression/slang that is not understood here. The missionary will be nearby to assist the translator if needed.
 - Avoid slang or expressions that are specific to American culture. They are too difficult to translate or have no meaning here. (eg instead of saying "She was angry and gave me the **cold shoulder**" say instead "She was angry and ignored me") The translator may have heard some of the expressions but many they may not know. Writing out your testimony will help you with this. Be mindful as you write out your message to think through each sentence if it is slang.
 - Avoid jokes - they do NOT translate. What we may consider funny could be offensive to others.
 - Give your translator the Bible references you will be using ahead of time if at all possible.

PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS & TIPS

Most airlines allow one free check-in piece of luggage weighing 50 lbs maximum. Verify with your airline to confirm. In some cases airlines allow for a "humanitarian" ticket and extra free luggage. Check with your airline in advance to ask if they offer humanitarian tickets for extra luggage. We recommend you pack as light as you can and leave extra space to allow for souvenirs and gifts.

CLOTHING

We work with traditional churches and clothing must be conservative and modest:

- Modest
- Loose fitting
- No shorts (during summer camps long shorts are okay)
- Leggings are only okay under a skirt or dress (not to be worn as pants with a shirt)
- Mid-section should be covered at all times and keep in mind as well when you raise your hands (to do signs/games with kids)
- Pants high enough at waist to not reveal anything backside especially when leaning over
- Wear layers, temperature may change drastically and it is easier to put on or take off layers.
- Sunday attire: women must wear skirt or dress (to knee at least), men can wear business attire (tie not required)
- Ladies Tea/Children's outreach attire: business casual and nice. Nice jeans or capris are good.
- Free day - comfortable clothes. Conservative shorts are acceptable during the free day.
- Summer kids camps: if swimming is available a one piece swimming suit covered by a dark colored t-shirt
- Comfortable shoes - you will walk a lot

TATTOOS & PIERCINGS

- As mentioned in several sections we work with many very traditional churches. During outreaches please cover up or take out all piercings for men and for women any piercings other than earrings. You can use caps, band-aids or if possible remove.
- Tattoos should also be covered up during outreaches for both men and women. Thank you for your understanding.

OTHER PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIPS

- Travel Kleenex (for use at outhouses if needed)
- Hand sanitizer
- Medications (stomachache, diarrhea, headache, tums etc.)
- Bible/notebook
- Camera
- Passport (original and copy which should be kept separate and remain where you are staying in case purse is stolen you have a copy to get a replacement)

- We also recommend leaving a copy of your passport with someone at home.
- Photocopy other important items (debit/credit cards, drivers license etc.)
- Coordinate with other team members to share items like hairdryers, straighteners etc. This will save you space in luggage and not everyone can use these appliances at the same time anyways or it will blow the fuse of home.
- Converters/Adaptors (many things just need an adapter but certain things will require a converter - see the previous section on electricity)
- Personal snacks
- It is best to leave expensive jewelry at home
- Try to coordinate your clothing to avoid bringing so many shoes. Also mix and match to wear the same clothing multiple times but by mixing and matching you can wear different 'outfits'.
- The missionary will let you know if you need to bring any linen. When staying in a hotel washcloths are not provided (this is not a European item), while staying in the missionary home one will be provided. (*if you take missionary's washcloths or other items to hotel please be extra careful to return it. Many have been lost this way.)
- Cash (newer, clean, no writing or tears)
- If you are sensitive to smells we suggest a little bit of Vics Menthol rub to put under nose.
- Water Bottle (we can refill with larger jugs of water or with filtered water at the ministry center)