

Update from Rich & Cheri Strahm!

Rich & Cheri Strahm
World Venture Extended Staff



September 13, 2014

Last week a couple of dozen pastors and evangelists from the Transylvania region of Romania attended our three-day retreat. While I was teaching the pastors about the necessity of doing both local and worldwide evangelism, Cheri was teaching their wives about juggling the ministry and family.

As in Ukraine, the legacy of communism has limited the church's worldview. But I am delighted that many of the pastors understood that evangelism and world missions are a part of a healthy church's life. Several made commitments to become active in outreach. On the Sunday following the conference, a leading pastor challenged his church members to get involved in spreading the gospel beyond Romania's borders.



Now it's back to work in our part of the world. Cheri leaves for the country of Georgia on September 23rd to conduct a women's leadership conference. Then, she and I are team-teaching a conference in Armenia about biblical marriage.

Meanwhile back at Kiev Theological Seminary, I praise the Lord that classes are in full swing and that eight freshmen entered our world missions department. Keep praying for us.

Sincerely,

Rich (and Cheri)

P.S. I posted some pictures on FaceBook in an album called "Teaching in Hateeg, Romania". You can see them at: <https://www.facebook.com/rich.strahm>



After the first day of my visit it seemed to me the *WCE3* would do fine without me. But then Todd made clear how eager he was for my help. David Barrett is now with the Lord. The *WCE3* is a huge, demanding, complicated task. The other researchers on Todd's team don't have my experience of working on the *WCE2* and of working with Dr. Barrett for so many years.

So I came home from that trip, talked with Dawna, prayed, talked with WorldVenture, and sought counsel. This was a big decision. In the end we felt led by the Lord to say yes to this invitation. So the *WCE3* will be a big part of my ministry over the next several years.

I find myself thinking about convergence, about how the Lord has prepared us in many ways through the years, for the tasks ahead. We'll pray, commit our work to the Lord, and see what he does. Please pray with us.

On September 2nd I'll fly to Chicago for a day of planning and discussion on the *North American Mission Handbook*. Then on the 3rd I'll fly on to Boston for several days of meetings there. Other CSGC team members will fly in from Australia and Richmond. It will be an important time of initial planning for the *WCE3* project. Though most of the *WCE3* team is in Boston, some of us will work from a distance. We (Michael & Dawna) will remain in Springfield, Oregon and work from here.

Anyhow, colleagues in Boston have been preparing for our time together. They sent some documents ahead for us to look at, that show their thinking so far. As I scanned through them I became more and more excited about this significant ministry and what the Lord might do through us.

Please pray:

- * For the Lord to bless the planning session coming up in Boston early September. Pray we will know God's vision for the *WCE3* and not rely on our own understanding. Pray for team unity, and for this huge project to get off to a good start.
- * That the *WCE3* will be completed on time, that it will be accurate and excellent, and that the Lord will use it in wonderful ways to advance the gospel.
- * For the planning session in Chicago on the *North American Mission Handbook* – again for God's direction, and for good ideas for the research, design, and distribution of this ministry tool.

Your Brother and Sister,
Michael & Dawna

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ENDING STUFF

[Michael and Dawna Jaffarian are missionaries with WorldVenture, an Evangelical mission organization with about 500 missionaries serving in about 70 countries.](#) We have been missionaries for 31 years and have lived and served in India, Singapore, Virginia and England. We are now based in Oregon and working from here.

Michael serves the global mission movement through research, writing, speaking and consulting. Many mission journals have published his articles and reviews, and he has contributed to several significant mission books. In recent years he and Dawna helped with the book *Operation World*, which is a guide on how to pray for every country in the world. Now his largest project is helping with the third edition of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*. This is a big reference book with detailed statistics and information on the status of religion, Christianity, and evangelization in every nation. It is a key resource for the global mission movement. Both of us are also active in local church ministry.