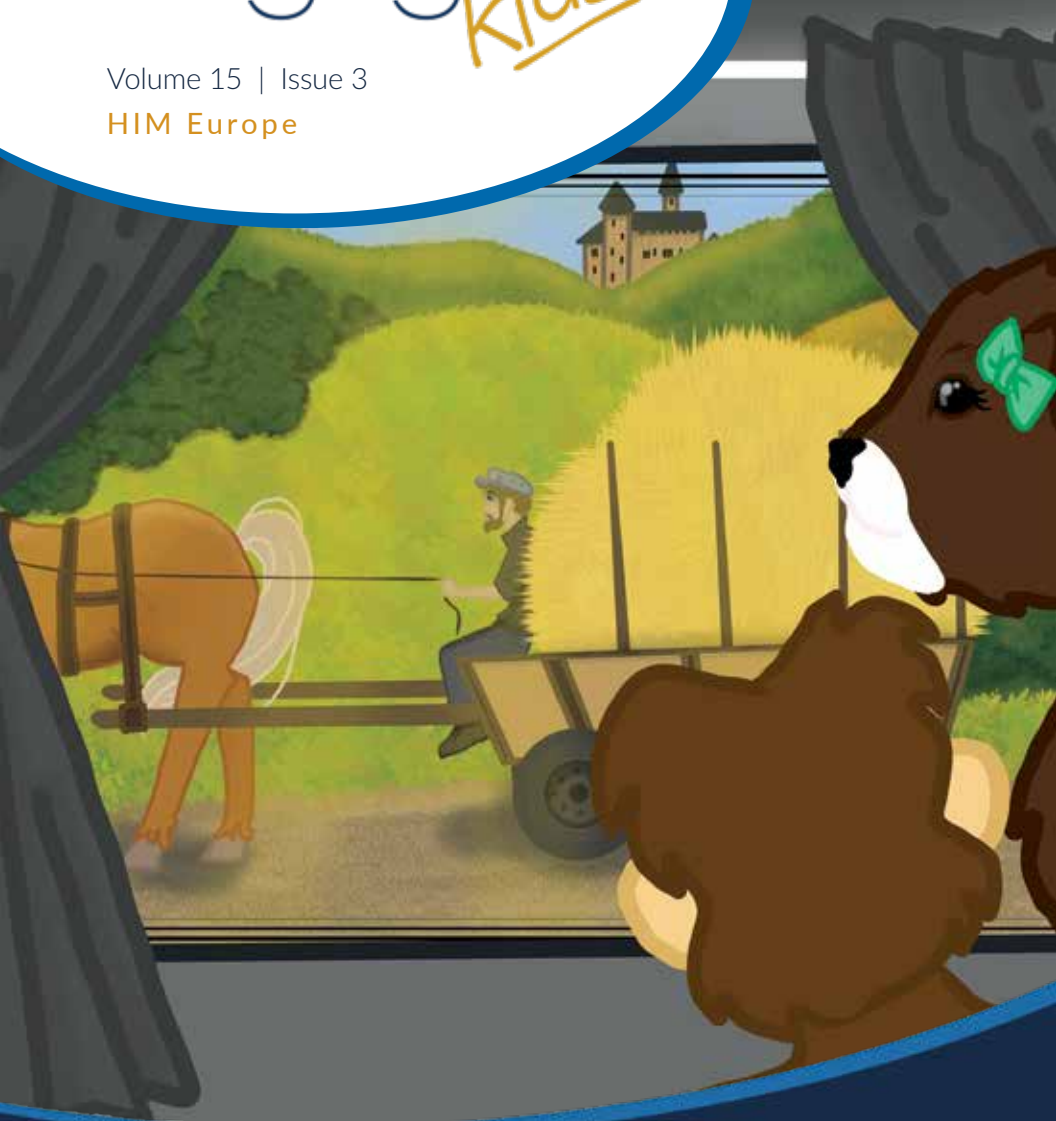


engage
Kids

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HIM Europe



ROAMING ROMANIA

CASTLES, CARTS, AND CABBAGES

“Oof!” Louie’s view out the window fascinated him so much, he forgot to brace himself as the van rounded a corner. Margot giggled, and Louie smiled. He wouldn’t let a little bump on the head stop him from enjoying the sights or asking questions.

“I know our next stop is a town called Talpos.” Louie pronounced “TAL-push” carefully, glancing at Margot to see if he got it right. She nodded. He asked, “When will we get there? What else will we see? I’ve seen pictures of Romania with gorgeous mountains, a beautiful river,



ancient castles, and even bears. But can you tell me more? Is it close to Russia?"

Margot tapped her chin. "Let's see...the trip from Budapest to Talpos takes about three hours. We'll pass fields, towns, and castles. Romania is roughly the size of Oregon and sits just below Ukraine. Hungary is to the west, and the Black Sea is to the east."

Ed Durham spoke from the driver's seat. "The river you're thinking of is the famous Danube—the same one we saw in Budapest. It forms Romania's southern border."

Heather Durham turned and smiled at Louie and Margot. "Because of all its marble, the government building in Bucharest, Romania, is the heaviest administration building in the world. It's the second largest, with eight levels underground. Only the Pentagon in the United States is bigger. Another interesting fact is the Romanian language is over 1,700 years old."

"Since we won't be in the mountains, we'll miss the brown bears, but I see some stork nests ahead. And keep an eye out for castles," said Margot.

Louie pressed his nose against his window and watched a white stork land and settle into a large nest atop a roadside pole. In the distance he spotted a castle.

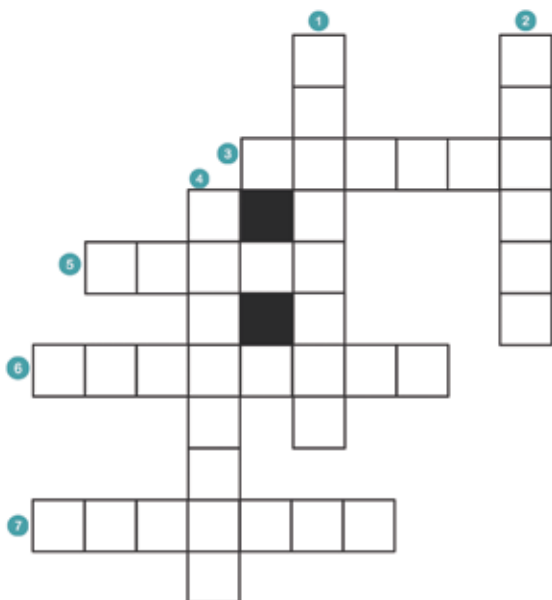
"Those nesting platforms keep the storks safe," Margot explained. "Romanian folk stories claim that storks bring good luck and prosperity. Look out my window, Louie. A drive through the Romanian countryside wouldn't be complete without seeing one of these."

"Oh, cool! A horse-drawn cart full of hay! That horse is smart," declared Louie. "He carries his breakfast, lunch, and dinner with him! Speaking of lunch...all this travel from country to country and across time zones does make a monkey hungry." Right on cue his tummy rumbled loudly.

Ed chuckled. "Our lunch stop is right ahead, Louie. Just wait until you get a tasty bite of cabbage rolls and polenta. DEE-licious!"

Louie wasn't sure if he liked cabbage...or polenta. But he was eager to find out!

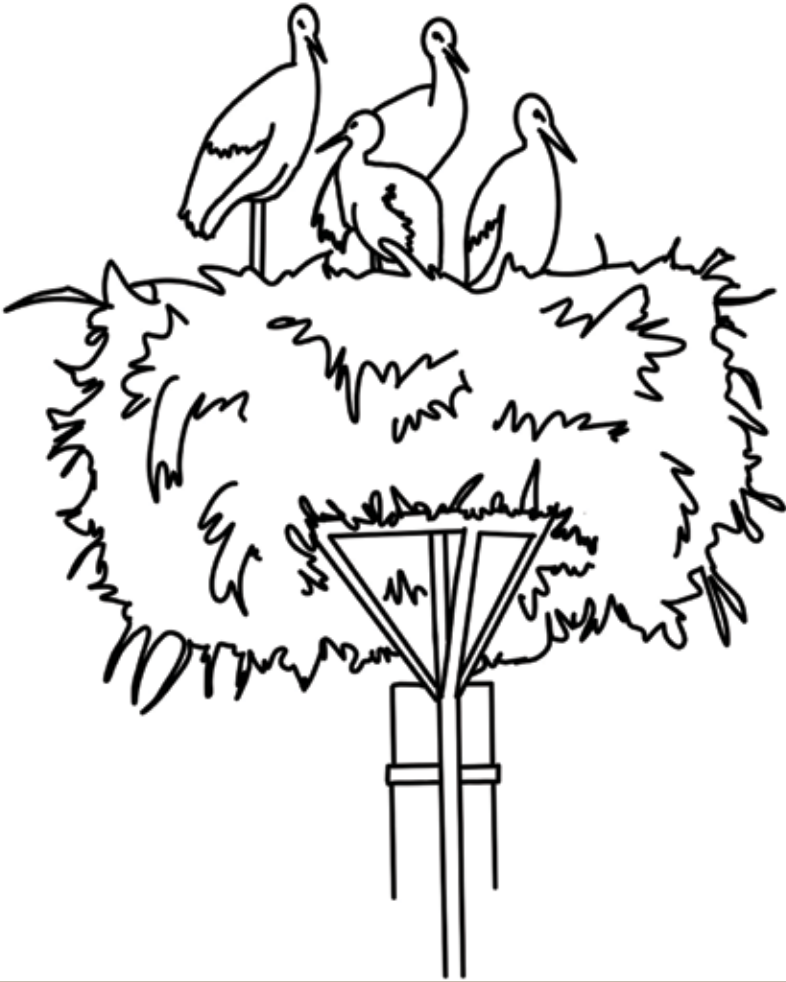
ROMANIA FUN FACTS



- 1 What body of water is to the east of Romania?
- 2 Romania is roughly the size of what state?
- 3 What river forms Romania's southern border?
- 4 What language is over 1,700 years old?
- 5 What bird has large nests atop roadside poles?
- 6 What is the capital of Romania?
- 7 Romania is south of what country?

Black Sea Romanian Stork Danube
Budapest Ukraine Oregon

1. Black Sea; 2. Oregon; 3. Danube; 4. Romanian;
5. Stork; 6. Budapest; 7. Ukraine



MEMORY VERSE

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 NIV

SEEING THE NEED

“I’ve never had a European waitress be as chatty as ours was today.” Ed held the café door open for his wife. “We learned a lot, didn’t we?”

Louie helped Margot into the van, then climbed in himself. “We did! I learned that I love cabbage rolls and soup served in a bread bowl.”

Heather chuckled and buckled her seatbelt. “Do you think of anything besides your stomach, Louie?”

“Of course! But right now I can’t quite figure out what that might be...” He grinned, then frowned.

“These lovely country folks dress in bright colors and live on peaceful farms near old castles. The waitress said they all get free internet, plus they have the freedom to worship and lots of elaborate church buildings. So...why do they need missionaries?”

“Mr. Durham, can you answer that one?” Margot asked softly.

Ed pulled the van onto the road before he spoke.



“You’re right, Louie. Romania is special. Soon we will meet Sally and Tim Iovan (Ee-o-vahn). If you ask them, they will tell you that the devil is at work here, too. The free internet has brought bad stuff into the country along with the good.”

“Romanians are free to worship, but many churches are formal, and few people attend,” Heather added. “Lots of Romanians still need to hear about Jesus.”

Margot looked at Louie. “Sally first came to Romania to share Jesus with some children living in an orphanage. They all love her. Tim, the pastor’s son, served as her translator for a while. He fell in love with her, too, and they were married a few years ago.”

“Ew...that’s so...gushy.” Louie wrinkled his nose and winked at Margot.

Margot playfully shoved Louie’s arm. “But they are so nice, and they do so much to help people. You’ll like them.”

“If they’re THAT nice, we should stop at that flower stand right there and grab some flowers for Sally,” declared Louie. “I’d like to get lots of colors.”

Heather agreed. “Wonderful idea! Romanians love to give and receive flowers.”

They selected a beautiful bouquet and returned to the car. “Before we arrive, I need to know something...do the Iovans live in a castle?”

Margot laughed out loud this time. “No, they don’t. But they do have a lovely home and are looking forward to meeting you.”

Stay tuned as Margot and Louie visit Sally and Tim!



Louie's Treehouse Lain



WHERE ARE LOUIE AND MARGOT?

Louie and Margot are traveling from Hungary to Romania. That is about the same as driving from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Columbus, Ohio, in the United States.



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