

## Steve and Rosie Kennedy

Location: **Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA**

Mission: **Outreach and teams ministry**



*'You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.'* Leviticus 19:34

Much of the period towards the end of February has been spent with the Ukrainian community that gathers in the building at Tóköz.

Rosie has invested a lot of her time with both these groups - being present and building friendships in the Baby and Mom Club on a Monday and Wednesday, teaching English within the After-Schools Project which runs on Tuesday and Thursday.

A primary emphasis of support for Ukrainian refugees is on what is called Survivor and Community Led Response (SCLR). This means that the humanitarian aid sector puts priority on initiatives and projects that come from the community of survivors themselves, rather than on what outside agencies or groups might perceive as their needs.

The Baby and Mum Club expressed a desire to mark the anniversary of the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. With the assistance of a Ukrainian photographer, Hanna Pavlova, we were able to support the group in producing a photographic exhibition that is now displayed in a local cinema in the city. The exhibition, entitled "Children are our Future", displays 34 images of Ukrainian refugee families and their children.



**GLOBAL DISCIPLES**  
*Go Deep Go Wide*

## MARCH 2023

Below each set of photos is a brief pen-portrait in which the family describes something of their experiences of leaving Ukraine, arriving in Cluj-Napoca, establishing and joining community in a new place, and seeking to provide a future and a hope for their children. The stories are simultaneously harrowing, moving, resilient, courageous and hopeful. At the launch event on the anniversary of the beginning of the conflict, Friday 24th February, the community gathered in the exhibition space to share stories, to sing Ukrainian songs (both adults and children) and to be together on this important date. Rosie gave a speech in which she praised the resilience, resourcefulness and hopefulness of the community. The exhibition will run for 10 days, until 6th March, and it is our prayer that many from the city of Cluj-Napoca will visit, pause, reflect and pray for these families.



### Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the opportunity to be part of the on-going support of the Ukrainian community, and for the privilege we have to journey with them
- Give thanks for the exhibition, as an expression of the community's experience, and pray that many will visit and be impacted by the stories
- Give thanks for the resilience, resourcefulness and hopefulness of this community
- Pray that as we continue to journey with these families, that we may have opportunities to show and share the love of Jesus Christ, our ultimate hope.