



# Character Connex Romania Missions Trip Information Packet

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Dear Children's Leader,

We are very excited to give you an official invitation to be a part of our Romania trip. We have handpicked a group of fifteen children's leaders from across America who we feel will help us make an incredible difference in the lives of the children in Romania.

This will be a history making trip. We will be introducing Character Connex to our third country worldwide. This will be our second trip with children's leaders. Last year we took 26 children's leaders to the Philippines and worked with Family Circus. It was an amazing trip. We presented in over 36 schools and saw 36,000 students reached in four days of outreach. We also left six complete Character Connex kits that Family Circus is using today in those 36 schools.

The focus of these trips is to provide training for local teams so that they can continue reaching their schools after we leave. We will also help train and equip leaders who reach children in Romania. Our friends in Romania really feel like Character Connex will make a great difference in the public schools of their nation. We will be assisting Rick and Jan Cunningham and partnering with them to help in children's ministry training and outreach. Jan resources over 400 children's ministry leaders in Romania.

As always, please know that our office is here to serve you. Please be in prayer as we begin this journey together. Pray that God will supply all of the finances for each team member, that He will open doors like never before for ministry in Romania, and that He will continue to bless Rick and Jan. Please also be in prayer that God will help us to find the best deals available on travel so that we can free up the greatest amount of money in order to reach children in Romania and supply them with Character Connex.

God Bless,

Jason Noble  
Trip Coordinator

## **Contact Information:**

Email: [JNoble@characterconnex.org](mailto:JNoble@characterconnex.org)

Office phone: 1-417-863-1527



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After Hours: 1-417-862-1447 ext. 4088

Cell Phone: 1-417-860-1769

## A. Purpose

As we work alongside missionaries Rick and Jan Cunningham, our purpose will be four-fold:

1. To launch Character Connex within the country by training local leaders to present the program.
2. To present Character Connex school assemblies in public schools in Romania alongside local teams.
3. To be involved with and assist Rick and Jan with outreaches and with their day-to-day ministry.
4. To conduct children's ministry training for the nationals.

## B. Where

- Bucharest, Romania, and neighboring villages and cities.

## C. Dates

- March 9-18, 2008

## D. Trip Logistics Coordinator:

- **Jimmy Hicks**
  - Email contact: [jhicks@brightmoorcc.com](mailto:jhicks@brightmoorcc.com)
  - Church phone number: 1-248-668-7000
  - Cell Phone number: 1-248-912-8521

## E. Financial Information

### 1. Cost: \$3250

- This includes airfare from an East coast gateway city (ex. New York, Detroit, Minneapolis, Boston), lodging, transportation, meals, and other expenses.
- You will be responsible for your airfare from your home city to our gateway city. You can receive World Missions credit for the airfare costs from your home city to our gateway city by filling out the "Team Expense Report Form" included in this packet. Once you have filled out this form, please send it back to our office.



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- Included in the travel expense are funds to help supply Romania with 3 full Character Connex kits and other supplies. There is also a portion for administration of the trip, and the national Character Connex office.

## 2. BGMC Credit

- You will receive full BGMC credit for the entire \$3250 trip cost.
- To receive BGMC credit for monies given to this project, please use the attached Target Form whenever you send in a check for the project.
- ***If the form is not enclosed with each check that you send in, we cannot guarantee that funds will be put in the right account.***

## 3. Online payments and contributions

- Trip payments and contributions can be made by credit card online at [www.characterconnex.org](http://www.characterconnex.org). The target form is not needed if contributions are made online. All online contributions will receive BGMC giving credit.
- Team members can direct people who wish to contribute to their trip to our website. These donations may be made by credit card. For tracking purposes, it is vital that people who contribute make note of the team member whom they are contributing to.

## 4. Extra offerings

- If your church would like to take offerings above and beyond the \$3250 for this project, they may. These offerings will also receive BGMC giving credit and can be designated for either Character Connex or Romania Children's Ministry.

## 5. Financial Timeline

- Meeting these deadlines is very important. We will not purchase airfare for any team member unless the deadlines have been met and there are funds in the team member's account. If we don't meet our deadlines, we could miss out.  
**November 1, 2007:** \$300 (non-refundable deposit due from each team member)  
**January 15, 2008:** \$1500 due  
**February 15, 2008:** \$1450 due
- Please limit the number of checks that you send in to our office to 2 checks a month. This will help us in efficiently processing your checks and will ensure that we get your contributions properly credited to you account.



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## 6. Cancellation Policy

- *We ask that you prayerfully consider this trip before you sign up. When you sign up and take a spot on the team, we will be counting on you to be a part of the team. Last-minute cancellations will severely hurt this missions trip. If there is any possibility that you would have to cancel, we ask that you let us know when you sign up so that we can make the appropriate pre-planning decisions. We do understand that last-minute emergencies come up. If a true last-minute emergency comes up, we have instituted the following cancellation policy.*
- The \$300.00 deposit is non-refundable.
- **After December 1:** We will refund the money that has been given to the project minus the cost of the airline ticket, the deposit, and an administrative fee of \$500.00 to cover other costs that have been incurred for the trip.
- **After January 1:** There will be no refunds. Any money left over due to cancellations will be used to cover the cost of airline tickets that have already been purchased and other travel costs that have been incurred.
- **Misconduct:** If a team member is sent home from this missions trip because of misconduct or any other reason, the team member will be responsible to make arrangements to get home. This includes paying change fees for airline ticket as well as any other costs incurred. No refunds will be given to team members who are dismissed because of misconduct.
- **If this trip is cancelled for reasons beyond our control:** We will give you a refund minus the cost of the airfare. You will be given your ticket so that you can use it on another trip.

## E. Itinerary

- We will be releasing an itinerary for this trip once we have purchased airline tickets and have a firm time and city that we will be flying out of.

## F. Required Paperwork

- **The following paperwork is required to register for this trip. Each item must be on file at our office.** *If you have any questions in regards to paperwork, please contact Jona Park-Williams in the national Children's Ministries Agency.*
  - a. Trip Application
  - b. Code of Conduct Form
  - c. Assumption of Risk Form
  - d. Beneficiary Form



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## G. Character Connex Experience

- **Training:** If you have not been through one of our Character Connex trainings, we highly recommend that you attend one if possible. For a listing of training events, please go to the web site at [www.characterconnex.org](http://www.characterconnex.org). There will be no charge for you to attend a training. *(If you are not able to attend a training event or be trained before we leave, you are still eligible to participate in this trip. Please let us know, though. We will work out a way to get you trained.)*
- **Experience:** We suggest that team members participate or lead at least one school assembly in their home town, if possible, before the trip. *(Once again, this is not a requirement, only a request.)*

## H. General Trip Information

### 1. Passport

- Each team member must have a valid and current passport.
- If you do not have a passport, please apply for one immediately. Passports can take more than 6-8 weeks to process.
- Please mail a copy of your passport along with your application for this trip.
- We also recommend bringing a copy of your passport on this trip.

### 2. Currency

- The official currency of Romania is Lei. We recommend that team members bring their personal money in USA dollars to exchange in Bucharest for the trip. To get the best exchange rate bring \$20, \$50, or \$100 dollar bills.

### 3. Security

- Romania is very safe. In twelve years of having teams come to Romania, our missionaries have never had any security issues. Team members are encouraged to always protect their personal effects and passports.

### 4. Medical

- No shots are required to enter the country. We do recommend that you get the advice of your doctor as far as the shots he or she may feel are necessary. While in Romania, there are good hospitals available that are very reasonable compared to the hospitals in the states. Please make sure your tetanus shot is up to date.



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## 5. Packing

- Please plan on packing light for this trip. We will be bringing foot lockers in addition to our luggage. These containers will be filled with Character Connex props, and also general children's ministry supplies. As the trip gets closer, we will fill you in on packing requirements.
- **Children's Ministry Supplies to Bring:** Our missionary would like to bring and give out markers and/or pencils to each child who attends the assemblies. They also need each team member to bring several bags of hard candy and suckers.
- **Airline Packing Requirements:** We will be forwarding this information to you once we have purchased the airline tickets for this trip.
- **At the airport:** Our team will arrive at the airport at least three hours before check-in. Do not bring meat or dairy products with you. We also recommend attaching a Character Connex Luggage tag to each of your bags (these are provided). This will help the team find all of our bags on the carousel. You will be responsible to retrieve your own bags at the airport. This will help avoid any problems with lost bags. When we arrive in Uruguay we will go through immigration, and customs. A key point to passing these areas smoothly is to declare everything in your bags as personal.

## 6. Insurance

- Special overseas insurance is included in the cost of your trip. The insurance is purchased for you and there is no cost to you. The insurance covers accidental death and dismemberment, sickness while on the trip, and accidents on the trip. More information will be emailed to you once you have registered for the trip.

## 7. Spending money

- We recommend that you bring at least \$100.00 in cash and a major credit card on this trip.

## 8. Clothing

- It will be very cold in Romania during the time that we are there. It may also be muddy in the villages. Even if it's not extremely cold outside, the buildings can be very cold inside. It's best to plan on dressing in layers. Some buildings that do have heat may be very hot. Warm socks, gloves, hats, and a winter coat are highly recommended. We also recommend bringing warm pajamas. More than likely there will be snow on the ground.



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- We recommend keeping your clothing and jewelry attire simple. You will also need two Character Connex Ringer T-shirts (we supply these for you). For Character Connex assemblies, our official dress will be the Character Connex polo or ringer, and khakis.

## 9. Culture and Ministry Information

### A. Culture

- Romania is an Orthodox country. However, there are areas near the Black Sea with large Turkish Muslim communities. We will be going to one city in this area. The other towns we will visit will be Romanian and/or Gypsy near the Serbian border. These cities will be about eight hours from Bucharest (the city of Arad and surrounding villages).
- Romanians love Americans. They are very helpful. Many of the young people speak English, but the children do not. All of our ministry will be in Romanian.
- Romania was a Communist country. They had a dictator who did much to destroy both the country and its culture. We will be visiting a palace built by the dictator in Bucharest. It is the world's second largest building. It now houses the Romanian parliament. Romania is now a very safe and stable democracy which just joined the European Union last January. We will be doing sightseeing in Bucharest and the surrounding areas.
- Because the church was not allowed to teach children about God during Communism years, the church has not done very much in terms of child evangelism. Many churches did not believe that children under 16 could be saved. Some churches did not encourage families with younger children to bring their children to church.
- Large families with six to ten children are still very common. Smaller churches often do not have room for the children. As a result, there is very little training, resources, or outreach to children that takes place in Romania.

### B. Ministry

- Our team will be doing assemblies in the Bucharest area. We will be ministering in International Schools, Reformatory schools, and public Romanian schools. We will also be training Save Romania's Children volunteers to do Character Connex after we leave.
- We will then be going to a city near the Black Sea to do a school-wide assembly. The children will be a mix of Romanian children, Gypsy children, and Turkish children (Orthodox and Muslim backgrounds).
- The third area of ministry will be in Arad. Arad is an eight- to nine-hour drive from Bucharest. In Arad we will be dividing up and visiting both city and village schools. On Sunday we will be ministering in churches. We also hope to do evening outreaches in several places.



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- We will be breaking up into teams with team leaders. Each team will be given a topic to prepare for. We will be using what the team prepares in outreaches that our missionary has put together. Our missionary is asking us to come prepared with illusions, Bible stories, and memory verse activities. We will also be learning drama skits and puppet skits once we get to Romania.
- In the outreaches, we will be building upon what we have taught in the school assemblies during the day.

## **C. Information about who we will be working with**

- The group will be working with the Save Romania's Children team. The team will be lead by Jan Cunningham and Tony and Pam Bolyard (children's pastors in Florida for nine years prior to coming to Romania).
- Save Romania's Children exists to train and mentor young Romanians and churches to work with children. SRC helps train anyone involved in any kind of children's ministry—church workers, school teachers, orphanage workers, camp staffs. SRC also provides materials, training seminars, outreaches, camps, and school assemblies. Presently, SRC sends out lessons and materials to over 400 children's workers in Romania every month via the Internet. You can find out more information about SRC at [www.saveromaniachildren.com](http://www.saveromaniachildren.com).

## **10. Sightseeing Opportunities**

- Our travel will take us through some of the country's most beautiful mountain areas. Some of the areas will be in the Transylvanian Alps.
- Romania has beautiful glass, china, and pottery work. We will take some time off to sightsee and shop. The food is great.
- Be ready to work hard, but have a good time also.





## Character Connex Romania Trip Application

March 9-18, 2008

<b>Contact Information:</b>			
Contact Name <i>(Legal Name on your passport)</i>			
Church			
Address	Street:		
	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone Number	Church:	Home:	Cell:
Fax Number			
Email Address			

<b>Senior Pastor Approval:</b>		
You must fill out and sign this portion.		
<p>I do hereby certify that the above named applicant has been pre-screened and we have documentation on file with the church I currently pastor.</p>		
Printed Name:	Signed Name:	Date:

### **Application Stipulations**

- **Sign-Up Deadline**
  - *Please note: there are only 15 spots on this trip.*
  - *Sign-ups must be received in our office no later than November 1, 2007.*
  - *A \$250.00 late fee will be applied to all applications received after that point.*
- **Cancellation Policy**
  - *We ask that you prayerfully consider this trip before you sign-up. When you sign-up and take a spot on the team, we will be counting on you to be a part of the team. Last-minute cancellations will hurt this missions trip a great deal. If there is any possibility that you*

would have to cancel, we ask that you let us know when you sign-up so that we can make the appropriate pre-planning decisions. We do understand that last-minute emergencies come up. If a true last-minute emergency comes up, we have instituted the following cancellation policy:

1. The \$300.00 deposit is non-refundable and is due by October 1, 2007.
2. **After December 1:** We will refund the money that has been given to the project minus the cost of the airline ticket, the refundable deposit, and a administrative fee of no less than \$500.00 to cover other costs that have been incurred for the trip.
3. **After January 1:** There will be no refunds. Any money left over due to cancellations will be used to cover the cost of airline tickets that have already been purchased, and other travel costs that have been incurred.
4. **Misconduct:** If a team member is sent home from this trip because of misconduct or any other reason, the team member will be responsible to make arrangements to get home. This includes paying change fees for airline ticket and any other costs incurred. There will be no refunds given to team members.
5. **If this trip is cancelled for reasons beyond our control:** We will give you a refund minus the cost of the airfare. You will be given your ticket so that you can use it on another trip.

- **Payment policy**

- *Meeting the below deadlines are very important. We will not purchase airfare for any team member unless the deadlines have been met and there are funds in the team member's account. If we don't meet our deadlines, we could miss out good airfare.*
  - ▶ **November 1, 2007**  
\$300.00 (non-refundable deposit due from team members.)
  - ▶ **January 15, 2008**  
\$1500.00 due
  - ▶ **February 15, 2008**  
\$1450.00 due
- *All funds sent in to our office must be accompanied by the BGMC Target Form for this trip. Funds can also be paid by credit card online at [www.characterconnex.org](http://www.characterconnex.org).*
- *All funds given will receive BGMC credit.*
- ***Payments: Please limit the amount of multiple payments. Ex: Instead of sending in every check someone gives you for this trip, see if you can run this through your church accounts and write one check every other week or one check per month. This helps us greatly on the accounting end and helps us to apply payments to your account in a timely manner.***

- **Airfare**

- *Please note: the airfare that is included in the price of this trip is from our gateway city. You will be responsible for the airfare from your city to our gateway city. Currently, we are planning to announce the gateway city by June 1. More than likely it will be Detroit, Minneapolis, JFK in New York City, or Boston. We will confirm with all trip participants the exact city by the first of June.*
- *You can receive World Missions credit for the airfare that you purchase to our gateway city. Please use the form attached to this application.*

- **Insurance**

- *Special overseas insurance is included in the cost of your trip. The insurance is purchased for you and there is no cost to you. The insurance covers accidental death and dismemberment, sickness while on the trip, and accidents on the trip. More information will be emailed to you once you have registered for the trip.*

- **Passport**

- *You must have an up-to-date passport for this trip. If you don't have a passport, or your passport is expired, we encourage you to get that updated right away. Don't put this process off to the last minute*

**Please Date and Sign**

*We have read and understand all of the terms and conditions for this trip. We agree to follow these policies and meet the deadlines mentioned above and in the Trip Information packet that is attached to this application. I also agree to submit to the leadership of the trip leader and agree to follow all direction and requests of the tour leader in the spirit of Christian cooperation.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Your Signature**

**Date** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Your Senior Pastor's Signature**

**Date** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Please Fax form to and send a \$300.00 non-refundable deposit to:**

Character Connex Romania Missions Trip  
Attention: Patti Chapman  
1445 N. Boonville Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802

Fax: 417-862-2650  
Phone: 417-862-2781, ext. 4089  
E-mail: [pchapman@aq.org](mailto:pchapman@aq.org)



**Character Connex**  
 1445 N. Boonville Ave  
 Springfield, MO 65802  
 PH: 417-863-1527  
 Fax: 417-862-2650  
 www.characterconnex.org

# Romania Trip

# Contribution Form

Check	
M.O.	
Cur.	
Cr. C.	
<i>office use only</i>	

### DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Account Number (7 digit) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Phone Number (w/ area code) \_\_\_\_\_

### PARTICIPANT AND CHURCH TO CREDIT INFORMATION

Church to Credit Account # (7 digit) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Participant to Credit \_\_\_\_\_

Church Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: **001-01-193-4204-326**

**Set up payment:**

<b>One time gift</b>	<b>Annual Gift</b> for    years	<b>Monthly Gift</b> for    months
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### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Credit Card Account # _____	Visa
Expiration Date _____	MasterCard
Signature _____	Discover

**Office Notes:** Please make a copy of this form and the check and forward to Jason Noble/Character Connex.