

Cristian and Vanessa Martinez

Joellen and Ethan

Romania

martinezinromania@gmail.com

Cristian and Vanessa Martinez serve in Braşov, a major city in central Romania. Braşov is a top travel destination and home to one of Romania's main universities, making it a strategic location for ministry among both young professionals and students.



Ministry Approach

Their ministry is built on both public outreach and relational evangelism.

They:

- Meet primarily in homes for worship, fellowship, and discipleship.
- Engage in evangelistic outreach in public spaces during summer months.
- Focus on hospitality and deeper connections during winter.
- Equip believers to love their neighbors, practice hospitality, and share the gospel as a way of life.
- Host regular Bible studies for those interested in learning more about Jesus.

Goals

- Make the gospel available to all people and trust God for the results.
- Display the gospel through holiness, unity, and love in the church.
- Preach the gospel faithfully and clearly to every person they encounter.
- Plant churches and send missionaries to unreached people groups south of Romania.

The People They Serve

The Martinez family serves two distinct communities:

- City Ministry – Educated Romanian professionals and college students.
- Village Ministry – Gypsy families with many children.

Their ministry connects the two by:

- Encouraging city church members to serve in the villages.
- Engaging college students in one-on-one tutoring to help village children with reading and writing.

Challenges

- Many Romanians lack basic biblical knowledge and are indifferent to Christianity.
- People often do not see their need for salvation.
- There is a long process from hearing the gospel to repentance and faith.
- Evangelism is often lacking in the local church culture, with few outreach efforts beyond church walls.

Spiritual Landscape of Braşov

- Population: ~300,000
- Biblically Sound Churches: Fewer than 10
- Evangelical Population: Only 2% of the city's residents
- Most new believers are young people raised in Christian homes, with very few conversions from outside the church.

Religious Context

- 87% of Romanians identify as Orthodox, and being Romanian is often equated with being Orthodox.
- Orthodox opposition to Evangelicals can be strong and sometimes even violent, particularly in rural areas.
- Evangelicals make up 5.4% of the national population, but far fewer in Braşov.

Prayer Requests

- That God would soften hearts and open minds to the gospel.
- That church members would be bold in evangelism.
- That their home gatherings and outreach efforts would lead to transformed lives.
- That they would successfully plant churches and send missionaries to unreached areas.