

# Francisco & Martita Berrios

2022 WILL BE A YEAR TO  
REMEMBER AND TO BE  
THANKFUL



## We will celebrate Christmas being more aware that Christ is coming soon!

Yes! Christ is coming back soon! Maranatha! The world is getting worse as the Bible says “beginning of sorrows” and we have heard of all the calamities of this year 2022. But for Christians, this news is reason for hope in the One who promised to return for us. Yes, the One who was born in a manger and whom we will celebrate this Christmas. He who grew up, was crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day - yes! We wait for Jesus and it gives us hope to know that each day his coming is drawing near.



## We started 2022 with a war.

Well, from Feb 24 when the Russian invasion of Ukraine started, to the first days of November when I'm writing to you, almost 10 months have passed very traumatically for many Ukrainians especially. The uncertainty for millions of Europeans who see the consequences of this war are impacting us at all levels: the cost of living, energy poverty, and generalized stress. In the midst of this uncertainty, the church is playing a relevant role in humanitarian, emotional, and spiritual assistance. It is comforting to see the mobilization of many individual believers and churches to be part of the solution and relief for different types of suffering that this war is bringing to people, especially here in Europe.



## COVID-19 restrictions lifted in Europe.

Yes, today the pandemic seems to be a malaise that does not worry the population that much. Of course, the threats are greater these days for other reasons. Even so, after two and a half years of restrictions, people have sequels that are beginning to be seen. Sociologists are beginning to point out the problems resulting from

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To give by check made payable to World Reach, mail to the address below with a note indicating your preference for supporting "Berrios ministry":

World Reach  
P.O. Box 26155  
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**Let's celebrate together this Jesus child and King!**  
**At the same time, I encourage you to pray for this ministry in Brasov, Romania in 2023:**

- For being part of the consolation of God to the hearts with whom we are in contact in the ministry of the church as well as in counseling sessions.
- For Hope Baptist Church, its pastor Claudio Preda, and the team that assists him in leadership.
- For physical, emotional, and spiritual health for Martita and this servant.

the pandemic such as isolation, disconnection, loss of children's emotional skills to relate to each other; we have become more antisocial they tell us. Even with all this, the church is a haven of fellowship that shows itself in unusual growth. We give thanks for this blessing.

### **We are entering winter with the biggest energy crisis I have ever known.**

Europe is preparing to suffer from cold temperatures this winter. Schools and universities will go online because they cannot afford gas heating costs this winter; the same is happening with spa hotels and other businesses. The public institutions are saying that they will only give 19 degrees Celsius in the buildings. The churches received compensation in gas prices like the schools last year but it will not be like that this winter. We will have to pay at market price. The war in Ukraine has had this collateral damage and in the church we are rationing heating like everyone else. On a positive note, when the building fills up on Sunday, we all warm up! Yes, just like the buffaloes in the Siberian cold, all of us together protects us from the cold.



### **The church has grown almost 50% this year!**

It is wonderful!! While other churches have shrunk, ours has grown a lot. I don't know exactly what to attribute it to but one cause is sure: God has intervened and given us grace in many hearts that have decided to make Hope Baptist their local church. This photo is from the last Sunday of October 2022. We have had to create a strategy of more small groups to absorb the brothers in a more familiar environment; this was unthinkable a few years ago but now it is a necessity. Here is a photograph of the leading couples of small groups that we presented to the church in mid-October.



A hug and may God richly bless you more than what you want and expect.

Psalm 37:4

***Francisco & Martita Berrios***