



RICH SMITH going with IMPACT

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Who shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8

Rich Smith will be representing Orchard Community Church this summer with IMPACT.

Rich will join the team to Turkey and then travel on his own to Romania. His trip will be from June 26th - July 11th and will include cross-cultural training and team building.

This is only possible with the spiritual and financial support of the entire church family. Rich is not just going, but being sent by Orchard, and will be carrying your love and care bodily to Turkey and Romania. IMPACT's credo is to send participants as "learners, servants, and storytellers" so we can expect he will be learning and serving as your representatives. Likewise, we know that when we send people, they return to help all of us mature and grow in our faith through their testimonies of what God has done! The storytelling does not just happen abroad, but will continue here.

Please read Rich's testimony of how God has called him, and consider how you can support his being sent.

If you are not able to give financially, please let Rich know you are committing to pray for him, which is also an invaluable support. In either case, please arrange to receive his emails so you can keep informed regarding the progress of his trip.

Thank you!

- The Orchard Global Missions Team

Dear Friends in Christ,

Life is full of surprises! This year I believed God was calling me to lead an IMPACT team to Romania, but unfortunately a team did not come together. Instead, agreed to lead a team to Uganda, with a follow-up visit to Romania. Then Ebola rendered that unfeasible and I've joined the IMPACT team ministering in Turkey June 26-July 11.

What? The team will be serving with Ramazan Arkan and Antalya Evangelical Church. Ministry opportunities include encouraging Turkish believers through Bible studies and fellowship, outreach events to children and adults and conversational English language lessons. Karen Rittenburg and I participated with an IMPACT team to Turkey in 2022 and visited and shared in homes, organized and conducted a "Date Night", did prayer walks through the city, and shared in church. Tom Stephen and Anell Labarge are leaders of the Turkey Team for a total (now) of 6 participants. It will be exciting to see how the church has changed, renew old friendships, and work with these amazing people. Following the team's departure from Turkey, I will travel on to Romania to visit and encourage Brandi Bates and Dana Bates, other IMPACT ministry partners.

Why? Antalya Evangelical church continues to grow rapidly in this 99% Muslim country. According to its newsletter it now has 3 campuses and a ministry development center, as well as an outreach in eastern Turkey following a major earthquake in 2023. Our presence encourages these relatively new believers and helps them grow in their faith. In Romania, Brandi has started a Children's Family Reading program in libraries. Dana runs an outdoor education camp and youth development clubs (also called Impact clubs!). I will participate in these and other ministries, as well as encouraging Brandi and Dana.

Will you help send the team? Thanks to your exceeding generosity I have passed my fundraising goal of \$4600, and have 35 people supporting me in prayer that have registered (through donations or personal communications). Unfortunately, not all team members have such supportive congregations and further donations will help the team. I am praying for a team of 40 supporters willing to pray and make a \$100 donation. By supporting me you participate in sharing God's love and the gospel in Turkey and Romania. When I greet partner groups on short-term mission trips, I bring blessings from my church and my supporters. It is more than just me traveling. See my "Welcome Page" post on how important this is at 2026-impact-trips.raiselysite.com/richard-smith. You can support me from that page or send checks to IMPACT, 2060 D Avenida De Los Arboles Suite 343, Thousand Oaks, Ca 91362. Make the check to IMPACT with "Rich Smith" on the memo line. Your donation needs to be received by May 31st and is tax deductible.

Thank you,
Rich Smith