

Meet FPCSB's MISSIONARY IN RESIDENCE

Dana M. Bates
Founder and Executive Director
New Horizons
Lupeni, Romania



New Horizons has grown the largest youth movement in Romania, with over 150 active youth service-learning clubs called "IMPACT." The youth model they have developed from the ground up in Romania is being replicated in other countries including Honduras, Republic of Moldova and the Appalachia here in the USA. Notably, World Vision is employing their model in Romania and discussions are underway for international replication! In IMPACT, young people learn to love their neighbor by solving local community problems, and through this learn valuable life and employability skills. This community problem-solving approach also opens youth to the Gospel in ways other approaches cannot, and is the true foundation of "sustainable development." As Dana likes to say: **The only real way to solve the problem of development is by developing more problem-solvers.** This multi-dimensional approach combines the Gospel (loving God through your neighbor) with the best in sustainable development. They are also exploring the IMPACT model as an alternative to traditional Sunday School programs and have several successful clubs in Iowa. Additionally, they run a summer adventure education camp called Viata that takes 500-700 youth through the week of their lives. New Horizons is a Validated Mission Giving Opportunity of the Santa Barbara Presbytery.

First Presbyterian Church is glad to welcome Dana to our office environment as he works on developing growing partnerships for New Horizons, while simultaneously working towards the completion of his PhD dissertation on Eastern Orthodoxy & Sustainable Development. Dana is presently a PhD Candidate at the University of Wales. He will be using a desk in our Membership Office.



Dana and his wife, Brandi, along with their two children Briana (6) and Gabriel (2) are on furlough for several months in the United States. For the time they are in Santa Barbara, they are staying with Erik and Kate Wiebe in their home.

We are pleased to welcome and support the Bates during their time with us.