

Hand of **HELP**

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DUMITRU DUDUMAN
FOUNDER



A Handful Among the Many



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A Handful Among the Many



Although the faces change, and the needs themselves vary from individual to individual, the basic element of any need is eerily similar: someone is lacking a basic necessity, one that they will either have a very difficult time living without, or for whom it will be impossible to survive without. That's it!

There are only so many ways to say someone has a need.



When you peel back the layers, and do away with the specific details, in a nutshell, it all comes down to lack, and the inability to provide certain essentials for oneself.

Yes, some of the needs we meet are basic, some might even say elementary, such as firewood in the winter, or a food package every couple of weeks, but they are necessities, and especially when it



comes to the firewood, it is a need without which someone actually has the potential of losing their life.

Because it can be overwhelming to be presented with need on a continual basis, we try to balance out the needs we present with the praise reports of those who have been blessed, whose lives have been bettered, and whose hope has been restored through this work. Because the needs are so plentiful, because those who come across our



path are overwhelming in sheer volume alone, it is oftentimes a struggle not to fill an entire newsletter with people in need and present their circumstances as they are.

In this issue we will present you with three needs which vary in size and scope, not because these families are more deserving than others, but because their needs are so typical

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of a vast number of requests we receive. They are just a handful among many, a snapshot of the sort of need we are confronted with on a daily basis. As is always the case, if the help for one particular family exceeds the need thereof, we go on to a family with similar need and help them as well.



Florin and Angela Burduja had ten children together before Angela unexpectedly passed two years ago. It was a time of unspeakable grief for Florin and the children, but together, leaning on each other, they weathered the storm of loss. This family is not new to us. We have helped them on numerous occasions with clothing, food,



finances, and in November we purchased a cow for them. With the help of Florin's father, the family built a small home as they were all living in a space that was literally 10 feet by 16 feet. Even if you were not prone to claustrophobia, when you walked into the Burduja family's living space you felt a bit constricted.

During our latest visit brother Florin showed us their modest new

home, and we were quick to notice a mattress lying on the cement floor, and a circular hole in the ceiling where the smoke flue for a stove ought to have gone.

We recognized the need even before asking Florin, and in a handful of words he confirmed what we had already surmised. It took every resource they had to put a roof on their home, and now they did not have the money for either a stove, or even a bed.

It would cost us roughly \$1,500 to purchase a wood burning stove, two beds, and put flooring in the Burduja family home.

This is a worthwhile project, and one that will bring a smile not



only to brother Florin's face, but to the faces of his ten children who have gone through an unspeakably difficult time.

When we got the call from Strugurel Lungu we already had a list of families we were planning to visit extending into the next two weeks. Something about the desperation in his voice and the manner in which he addressed us



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resounded so heavily, that after assessing that day's route, we made plans to extend what would already be a long and arduous journey and visit the Lungu family as well.

Strugurel Lungu is a young man. He is only 32 years old, but some years back he was diagnosed with diabetes, and as the disease progressed, he is now insulin dependent. Due to the nerve damage caused by the diabetes,

Strugurel now has open foot ulcers, rendering him unable to work, which in turn makes basic survival very difficult. Before he fell ill, Strugurel worked at an auto detailing company, washing cars, something he enjoyed and was very good at. Now the entire family subsists on the 600 lei (\$160) they receive in the form of social aid for the three children, Sidonica who is 11, Sebastian who is 9, and Valentin who is 6.

The family is currently living in an old home given to them by Strugurel's mother-in-law.

When we arrived they literally had nothing to eat. Every cupboard was bare, every jar empty, and every pot dry. It was then that we understood why the unctio to visit this family on that day rather than schedule them in two weeks

hence had been so strong. We left food, clothing, and some money for things they might need with the promise to return.

When asked what their biggest need was, Strugurel's answer surprised us when he said, 'water'. Strugurel went on to explain that there is a very old well on the property, and due to their age the well tubes have collapsed in on themselves. They now rely on the kindness of their neighbors, and the children carry buckets of water from the neighbor's well whenever water is needed. A new well would cost roughly \$1,000, and it would be a true and undeniable blessing for the Lungu family.

As is the case with every project we take on, the optimal goal is to bring the family we are helping to the point of self-sufficiency. Some



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may take longer than others to get there, while others never will due to their circumstances and geographical location, but what we've noticed is that those who

reach the point of self-sufficiency after being on the brink of desperation have the tendency to help others once they are able.

We have the opportunity to make the Curca family self-sufficient, and it is a goal toward which we have been working for some time.

Brother Nicolae, the patriarch of the family, has worked very hard to provide for his wife and six children, doing construction in the former Yugoslavia, Germany, and Italy. They have managed to build a small home, and harvest watermelon and cantaloupe on a piece of land they leased for this purpose. We provided the family



with a cow not long ago, which added to their already existing menagerie of ten goats.

The family lives on a very small plot of land, and their neighbor is willing to sell them 5000 square meters, for around \$1,000. With the acquisition of this land the family can grow more goats and sheep, and as such earn enough from the wool, milk, and meat of the animals they raise to be self-sufficient.

Please pray about this need, as well as the others we have presented in this article, and know that you're not just helping to dig a well, buy a stove, or a plot of land for someone, you are improving, enriching, and in many cases even saving their life.

The choice is not whether we help all or none. It is not a binary endeavor. The choice we have every day, whether in small or great measure is whether we help all, none, or some. We know we can't help all, but by the grace of God we will help as many as we are able because that is what we have been called to do as His children.

**In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff**



Ever Ready!



As a ministry who has been called to labor in one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe, we see a variety of needs. Some needs only require one intervention, like the purchase of a cow, or the purchase of washing machine, while others require our long term and constant investment of both time and resources.

Some things in life are not easy fixes, and if you've been alive



There are certain things in life that you should do once, if that. From getting married, to jumping out of a perfectly good airplane, to getting talked into sticking a fork in an electrical socket when you were eight, there are many things that should top out at one occurrence as far as having experienced them, if you can at all help it.

By the same token there are also things in life that must be done with constancy and consistency if you hope to succeed, or achieve a given goal. You can skip one meal in your life and it won't make much of a difference, but if you consistently skip one meal for a prolonged period of time, you will begin to see results.

longer than a millisecond you know how true those words really are. Whenever we take on a new project or try to meet a new need, we never inquire as to how long it will take, or how many subsequent visits we might have to make to a home, a family, or an institution. The only thing of relevance, the only question we need answered before we commit to something is whether or not the need is real.

If the need is real, if desperate people find themselves in desperate situations with no one to turn to for help, then whether it takes a one-time effort, or a protracted and continual commitment, we will step up to the challenge as often as circumstances allow us to. In all honesty, most of the time circumstances do not allow us to



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take on a new project, and we still do so by faith, because we know that if we step out in faith, and stand in the gap for those who are hurting, God will be faithful to provide wherever there is need.

Because some of the needs we meet are continual, you are apt to see

we have families we visit quarterly, but we also have families we visit monthly, because their need is constant, and no one can survive without food for three months.

There is no cookie cutter approach to ministry, at least not to effective ministry. If one's desire is

committed to this calling and this work, then the only acceptable outcome is that we help real people, in real need, and if that requires repeated visits, or a monthly delivery of a food package until they get back on their feet, so be it.

There is also the harsh reality



similar faces in our newsletter once in a while. The reason they seem similar, is because they've appeared in one of our issues before. These are the ongoing projects. These are those among the countless souls we help who need more assistance than just a single visit replete with photo opportunities.

We have families we visit yearly,

simply to seem like they are doing something noble and good and selfless then all it takes is one day, a camera, and a needy community somewhere. If, however, one's desire is to actually do something, it's a bit more time consuming, difficult, and exhausting.

We never want to seem like we are doing something. If we have

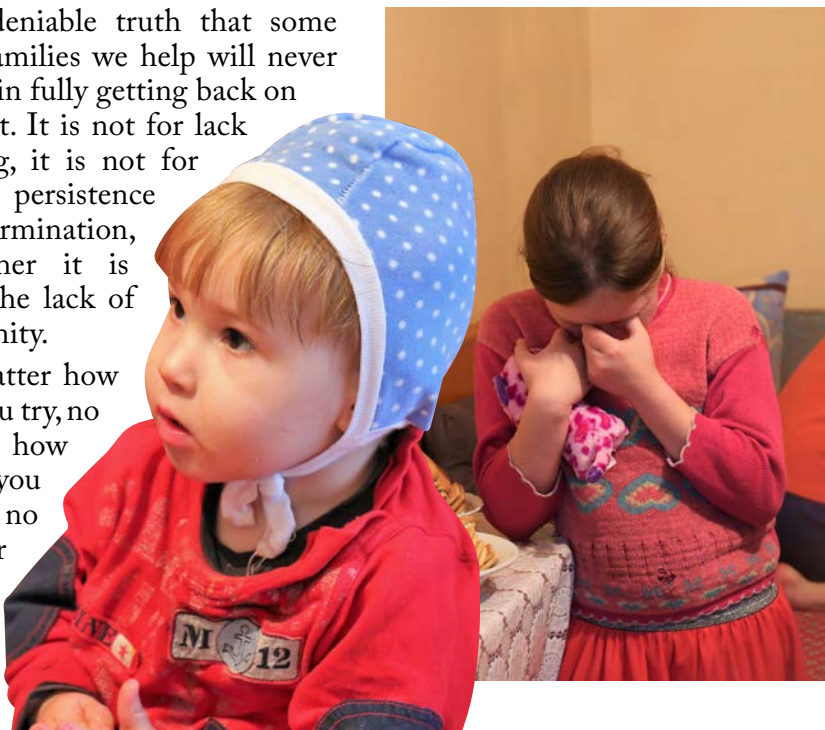


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and undeniable truth that some of the families we help will never succeed in fully getting back on their feet. It is not for lack of trying, it is not for lack of persistence or determination, but rather it is due to the lack of opportunity.

No matter how much you try, no matter how much you want it, no matter how tireless you are



in knocking on doors, if nobody is hiring in your community, then nobody is hiring, and there is nothing you can do about it.

To move to the city would be an expense most families we help would not dare incur, and so the only choice afforded them is to pray, and wait patiently on the Lord. We know that the day is fast approaching when the just will live by faith; some have started living that reality earlier than others.

And so, we stand on the battlements, ever ready to do the work to which we have been called, to carry out the duties which we have been given, and to go where we are needed, as often as we

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are needed, for as long as we are needed.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel every time we are able to be an answer to someone's prayer, and see what God can do on behalf of those who can do nothing for themselves. For as long

as we are needed we will be here, and for as long as this remains our calling we will do it with utmost diligence and earnestness. Thank you for making this possible.

**In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff**



Child of the Month

Georgiana O. was born in January, 2005. Both Georgiana and her sister Iulia have been with Hand of Help since 2009. Their parents, suffering from mental disorders, often times left the children abandoned and neglected for days. The community where the family belonged asked for our help and consequently, Georgiana has become a part of our family.

Unfortunately, given their medical conditions, the parents do not keep in touch with Georgiana. Moreover, her little sister is also suffering from a neurological condition; she currently attends the classes of a special needs school for arts and crafts in a nearby city, but spends most of her weekends and all her holidays at the Hand of Help orphanage, a time when the sisters can be together.



Georgiana is in the sixth grade and does very well in school. She is actively involved around the orphanage (she helps with the cleaning, washing the dishes, ironing, etc.), she loves drawing and takes extracurricular classes at the Children's Arts School in Botosani.

In 2017, Georgiana experienced the joy of seeing her younger brother. He is currently under the care of a foster family and after this surprise meeting, Georgiana has started visiting the family and spending more time with her brother.

Please join us in praying for Georgiana and her siblings. May our God bless them with complete healing, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically, and may He fill the void in their little hearts.

For more information regarding sponsoring the Hand of Help Orphanage, please check out our website at www.handofhelp.com or email us at info@handofhelp.com.

Fool Me Once

If you are reading these words then we are still here, and the end has not come. It was supposed to, you see, the end was certain to occur sometime during the latter end of April, and though the selfsame individuals predicted the end every year for five years

prior, this time it was a lock.

If I had to count on both hands how many times the end was to have come, how many times the rapture was to have occurred, and how many times Armageddon ought to have been unleashed, I'd run out of fingers before I ran out

of failed predictions. Some within Christendom are so zealous in their desire to offer something new, unique, or heretofore unheard of that they are willing to compromise themselves. The newest trend is an amalgam of eschatology, numerology, and even astrology,

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that get blended together, shaken and stirred, in order to reach extra biblical conclusions regarding the last days.

We have become stargazers and amateur astronomers looking for answers in the heavens to questions only the Bible has answers for.

I write these lines preemptively, as I have already started receiving correspondence regarding this newest prediction of the end of the world. Honest, well meaning, sincere individuals somehow manage the cognitive dissonance of simultaneously believing the words of Jesus when He said no man knows the day or the hour, and the men who insist that the world will not see another summer season.

The plain honest truth is that both can't be right. One of these two is wrong, and demonstrably so. There is an old saying that former president Bush famously botched that goes: fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. How many times must the household of faith be deceived into believing something that has no Biblical basis before they are complicit in the deception?

Last year it was supposed to be the eclipse that heralded the return of Christ. A few years before that it was the Mayan calendar that foreshadowed the end of the world. Before that it was Y2K, and before that it was 1988, and before that it was something else, because there's always something attempting to distract the children of God from simply living out their faith, and daily working out their salvation in

fear and trembling.

Biblically speaking, there is a sequence of events that are supposed to occur before the return of Christ. Like it or not, that is what the Bible says. When we disregard what the Bible says for such flimsy theories as planetary alignments or solar eclipses, we have no one to blame but ourselves for the hurt and disappointment we will subsequently experience when they turn out to have been baseless and unfounded.

I am trying to restrain myself and to keep the dialogue civil, but real people are being hurt by these false predictions, and nothing gets my blood boiling faster than seeing the look of disillusionment in someone's eyes after they've gone through the rollercoaster of expectation and disappointment.

Perhaps we could make better use of our time on our knees than gazing at the stars. Perhaps we could make better use of our time calling men to repentance than insisting that the end of all things will occur by April's end. Perhaps we could make better use of our time getting back to the basics of Christianity than flirting with paganism just to prove our misguided point.

How many times must these men cry wolf before we learn to ignore them? How many times must they predict something on a given day that does not come to pass before we refuse to give them heed and reject them at the outset?

We know that one of the signs of the last days will be a glut of false prophets, false teachers, and false

Christs. If this was the only metric we would use to gauge whether or not we are in the last days, then we truly are smack dab in the middle of them.

There are, however, other things that must come to pass before the end, and in His loving desire to keep us from wondering or guessing, Jesus laid out the roadmap of the last days with such detail and specificity that only one who is willfully ignorant will fail to see it.

It is paramount that in times such as these we employ discernment, and not believe every voice we hear. The battle has just begun, and the deception will grow to be so intricate and well-tailored, as to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

If we establish the guidelines now and stick to them, if we determine that anything that is not in harmony with Scripture is summarily rejected no matter who said it, then we will remain on the foundation of truth, and will not be counted among those who have gone the way of deception.

**With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.**



Dear Brethren,

2 Thessalonians 3:3, “*But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.*”

If you’ve been feeling like the whole world is tap-dancing on a razor’s edge lately, allow me to assure you that you are not alone. It’s not you. It’s not your jangled nerves, or your overactive imagination. The world is, in point of fact, on a collision course with destiny, and is barreling toward it at breakneck speed.

When you have more lit matches than powder kegs, eventually something will spark. As I write these lines, watching the snow accumulating outside my window on a frigid mid-April day, the newest spark and powder keg scenario seems to be Syria. As of now there has been one sortie with heavy bombing, with blustering and threats on the two powerhouse nations using Syria as a proxy of sorts.

I speak of course of Russia, and the United States, and the escalating back and forth that can lead to nowhere good. If I were to start speculating now, I would simply be one voice among many who puts forth personal opinion rather than revelatory unctio, and I respect you too much to go down that particular rabbit trail.

We know conflict is inevitable. We know that one of the key players in the coming conflict will be Russia. Will this be what sets it all off? I do not know, but my gut tells me that it is not.

The reason for this letter to you was not to delve into the geopolitical minutiae because there are enough people doing just that. The purpose of this writing

is to lovingly remind you that the difference between a novice and a seasoned individual is most obvious at the moment of friction, conflict, hardship, or when something unexpected is thrown into the mix.

During fair weather the difference between the seasoned seaman and the neophyte is barely discernable. When the storm comes, when the wind starts howling and the waves start crashing, that is when you will see the calm, the focus, the determination, and the purposefulness of the seasoned sailor, and the abject horror and desperation of the beginner.

As we watch the storm approaching, as we see the dark clouds forming on the horizon and know with unwavering certainty that the storm is headed our way, do we go about our lives calm, focused, collected and determined, or are we fearful of what is to come?

One thing is certain: Your fear will not stop the storm from coming. Your trepidation, anxiety, even horror or desperation of what is to come will not slow down the storm, cause it to alter course, or in its ferocity. Knowing this, the logical conclusion is that fear is a useless emotion, one that serves no purpose for the believer other than to hobble him, and keep him from trusting fully in God the Father.

There is still time not only for an honest self-assessment to see whether or not we are seasoned, but to become as such if we somehow discover that we are still novices, fearful of things that we cannot control. If the foundation of our existence is the knowledge that our Redeemer lives and that we have been made one with Him,

then come what may, there is no fear or trepidation.

We are not alone. We are not adrift on the sea of life, rudderless and directionless. We are not given to the whims of chance or circumstance, for He who spoke the universe into being is so concerned with you as an individual that He keeps track of the number of hairs on your head.

How is it then that we so easily allow doubt to creep into our hearts? How is it then that we so readily begin to wonder what we will do if such and such a thing occurs? Have we not seen what our God can do? Have men not testified throughout the ages as to His faithfulness?

There is no sin in knowing what is going on in the world, in being informed, and being aware, but when we allow fear to dictate our actions, we have entered into sin territory with both feet. Because the enemy knows how detrimental fear is for the spiritual man, it is fear that he tries to foment and stoke. By now we ought to know the plans of the enemy, and be well guarded against them. We ought to be able to discern the moment the enemy tries to overwhelm us with fear, and rebuke him for the liar that he is.

Psalm 46:6-7, “The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.”

Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

**With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.**