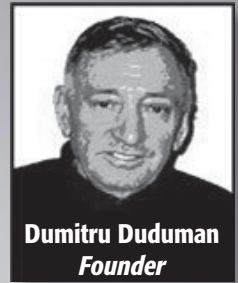


Hand of **HELP**



July–August 2019

BEAUTY FROM ASHES



HAND OF HELP

PO Box 496719 • Garland, TX 75049

HAND OF HELP OFFICE

1012 South Third Street • Watertown, WI 53094

 handofhelp.com/facebook

Toll Free: 866-371-7636 Ph: 920-206-9910
www.handofhelp.com info@handofhelp.com

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The Convertible of Her Dreams

I believe we all remember our first car. Whether or not it was a dream come true is a different story. For me, it was a forest green Mercury Tracer that had seen better days, but that I was able to purchase for only \$600. After putting 40,000 miles of my own on the vehicle, commuting to and from school, I sold it for \$450. I am pretty sure that no one has ever dreamt of owning a Mercury Tracer, but it sure did serve its purpose.

The convertible that is the center of this article is unlike any convertible anyone has ever seen.

My father shared his findings from a home visit to the Elena Ionda family in Vorniceni, at the request of brother Ghiocel, the local pastor.

When they first arrived with the food package that we commonly deliver to each family in need, they noticed that Elena, the mother of 7 children, was doing laundry in a top-loading washing machine without a lid. One can only imagine how dangerous it is to have seven little ones roaming around during an unprotected spin cycle of a washing machine.

My father asked Elena, "Is this the only washing machine you have?" "Oh," Elena responded, "I wish it were mine!"



The Convertible of Her Dreams

I can only dream of having one of my own someday." Further conversation revealed that Elena and one of her daughters pick up the convertible washing machine from Elena's sister, haul it to their home, do their family laundry and then haul it back to the rightful owner.

We did not hesitate and at once purchased a washing machine for this family. Though the washing machine won't fix all of the family's problems, it is what was most urgently needed, what she was praying for but never knew she would have.

Please join us in praying for the Iondas and their needs.

We want to finish the interior of a second room that they are not currently using, to provide a proper environment for the children to grow and develop in.

Thank you for your continued support of our work!

Daniel Boldea



Beauty from Ashes

There is a profound difference of perception between seeing a candle flicker in the midday sun and seeing one in the dead of night. The wick is still lit, the flame is still burning at the same intensity, yet the contrast between the light and the darkness makes it, so one is undeniably more impactful than the other.

In the darkness, the light becomes all the more precious. It acts as a beacon, a point of reference, and something toward which those seeking light can journey.

Whether it's in a land of freedom and plenty, or one of subjugation and need, whenever a sinner repents there is joy in heaven. This is what Jesus tells us in the Word. Their geographical location holds no bearing on whether heaven rejoices as long as the sinner repents, but just like the candle in the dead of night, our perception is different due to the contrasts.



Amid war, death, famine, uncertainty, and chaos, there has been a great move afoot in Ukraine. It is a move that is inspiring, and



heartwarming, one that stands out and must be highlighted due to the contrasts it creates.

We serve a God who is not limited by national borders, or the machinations of men. We serve a God who will answer when called, whether

by the wealthiest of men or by the most impoverished of souls. He judges without partiality, and whenever sought, He is found. Whenever He hears the knock, He opens the door, because His love is beyond what we can perceive with our limited understanding.

With shelled out buildings, bomb craters, devastation, and destruction serving as the background, a revival is beginning to take shape in Ukraine. Brave and undeterred pastors whom God has called to this region are preaching the message of the cross, and the saving power of Christ and the people of Ukraine are responding to the good news of the gospel.



...Continued on page 4

Beauty from Ashes



New converts and baptisms are now a regular occurrence, and heaven is doing much rejoicing over what is taking place in Ukraine. Yes, the situation is still dire, destruction is still commonplace, hope is still in short supply, but the gospel is being preached, and souls are being saved.

As long as His servants are obedient, as long as those He sends are willing to step out in faith, God will find a way to extract beauty from ashes. He will find a way to bring hope even in the most inhospitable and hope deprived places on this earth, comforting the hurting, and bequeathing the greatest of treasures to those who have nothing in the way of physical possessions.



Some would posit that it's easier to reach the lost in nations such as Ukraine, especially during times of need and hardship, but it isn't. The reason it is no easier, or harder for that matter, is because it is not the individual doing the reaching; it is God. Our duty extends to preaching the Word. What happens after we plant the seed is exclusively God territory. It is God who waters it, it is God who transforms men from their innermost beings, and it is God who fills them with hope anew.

Whether you live in a nation of excess or one of scarcity, your duty remains unchanged. Whether in the dead of night or the bright morning sun, a candle is still a candle. Be light, even if where you are currently is bright, because the night will come, as it always does, and that is when your light will be all the more glorious.

The message of the gospel in Ukraine is having an impact not because those delivering it are great orators, or famous names, or theologians



of great renown. The reason the message is having an impact is because those delivering it are servants, humble and faithful men, whose light shone long before the night came, and now that darkness and desperation are a constant, souls are being drawn to the light.

It is a lesson well worth learning for all of us, and one we should take to heart. Wherever you happen to be, know that the harvest field is plentiful. Be ready and willing to be a laborer, and God will provide the opportunity in due season.

Pastor Mircea Boldea, Sr.



CONTINUE TO PRAY

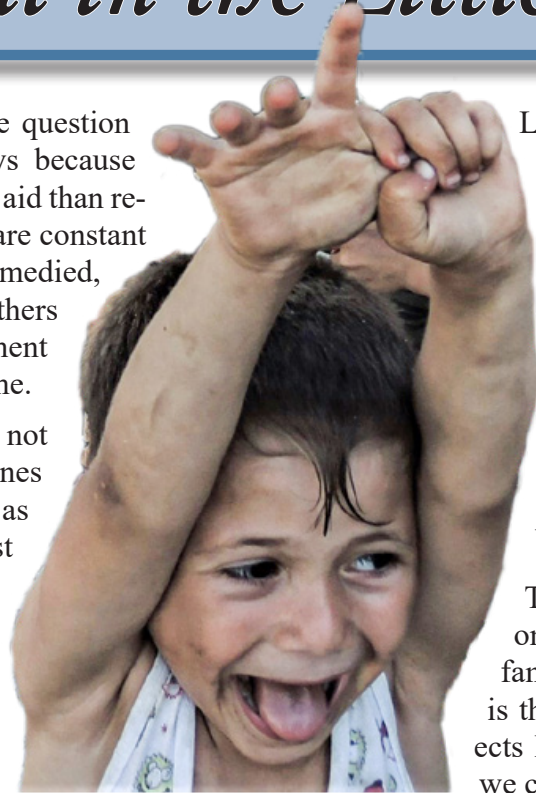
Please continue to pray for our work in Ukraine and if you would like to be a part, simply write "Ukraine" in the memo section of your gift.



Faithful in the Little Things

Who do we help? That is the question we wrestle with most days because there are always more requests for aid than resources. The requests we receive are constant and ongoing. From things easily remedied, like some clothing or food, to others that require more of an investment like a roof, a cow, or an entire home.

The requests we receive are not mailed in essays, likened to the ones you'd see in the Reader's Digest as to why someone's mother is most deserving of a free vacation or a weekend of pampering. They are real people, with real tears, with real desperation on their faces, standing before us, and we have to make hard choices daily. Sometimes the choices we make are heartbreaking, oftentimes we help as we can, but through it all, discernment has been the core of this ministry since its inception.



Life-threatening issues are always prioritized because they are not something that can wait or be put off. If a family has no firewood at the onset of winter, or if they have no food with which to feed their children, we do what we must to ensure their survival. From there, we proceed to the basic necessities, such as livestock, whether cows, goats, or chickens, freshwater wells, then on down the list in a diminishing urgency pattern.

There are families we help with one need, one project, one endeavor; then there are families we help with multiple projects. It is the families we help with multiple projects I would like to discuss today, and how we come to these decisions.

There is only one metric we use when it comes to helping one family with multiple needs, and that is if they've been faithful in the little things. If they are good stewards of

Faithful in the Little Things



cause they have the right mindset, and understand what the purpose of this ministry is.

Such is the case of Doru, Gabriela and their now nine children. When we visited them last, there were only eight children, but Marcu, the new addition to the family who is only two months old, makes it nine. All the children are well, healthy and vibrant, except for Nicolae who was diagnosed with autism.

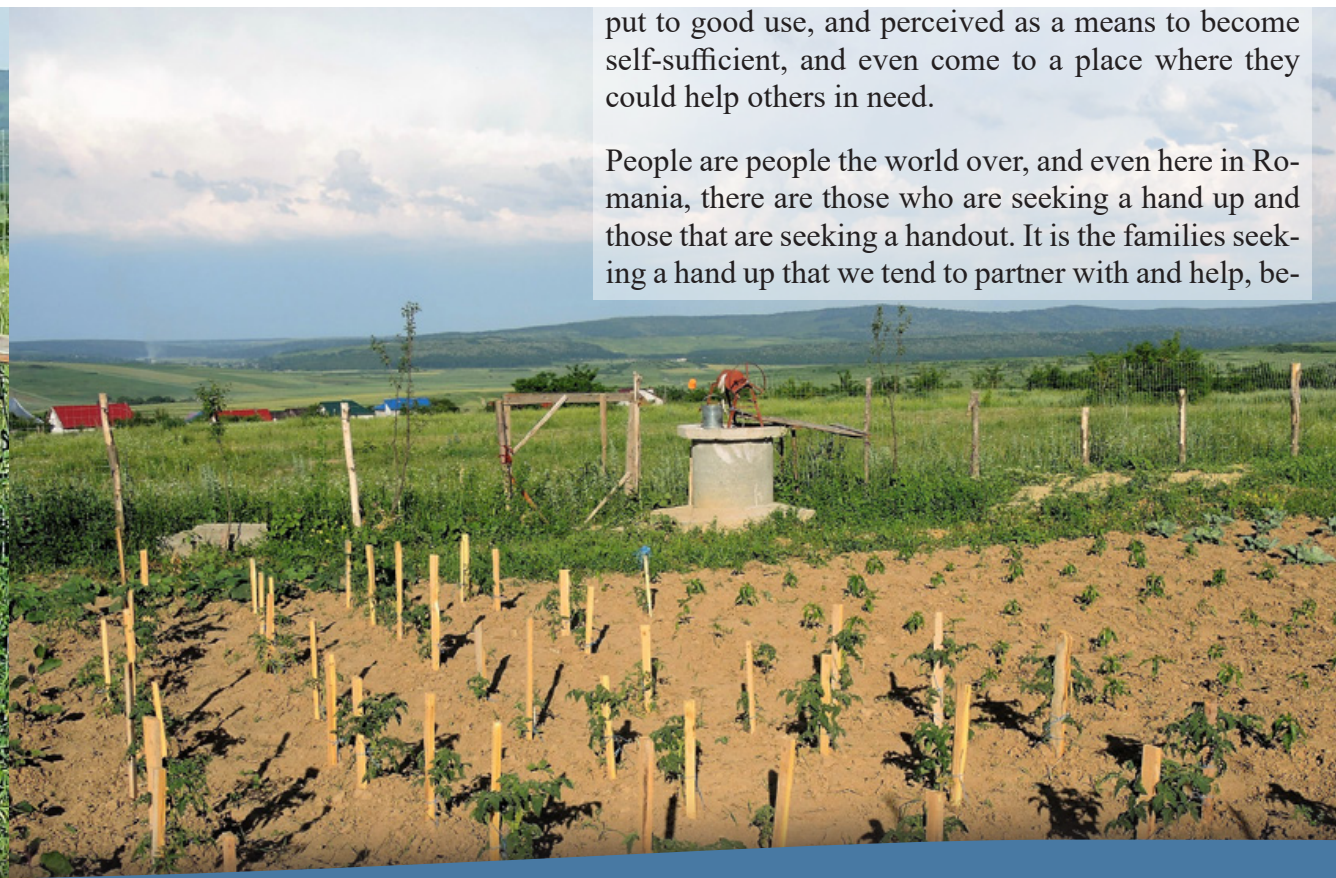
Last year we built a well for the family. During that time, we promised them that if the Lord provided, we would likewise bless them with a cow, and recently we were able to make good on that promise. It was a welcome surprise for the family, who has been busy over the last few months, building a home with which the local church has been helping.

Because they now have access to an abundant source of water, Doru and Gabriela have also planted an impressive garden in their backyard, which has become the envy of all the neighbors. They are diligent and are being faithful in the little things, and if the Lord leads, we would like to come alongside this new project and help them finish building their home.

what they've been given. It has nothing to do with how much gratitude they've shown, or how animated they were when we delivered their cow, or dug their well, or fixed their roof. It does, however, have everything to do with whether or not what was done for them was put to good use, and perceived as a means to become self-sufficient, and even come to a place where they could help others in need.

People are people the world over, and even here in Romania, there are those who are seeking a hand up and those that are seeking a handout. It is the families seeking a hand up that we tend to partner with and help, be-

In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff



Hills and Valleys

Nothing in life is constant. There are moments of joy followed by moments of sadness, followed by moments of joy anew. There are hills and valleys, there are smooth paths and rough roads, and the only thing we can do is keep trekking toward our destination.

If we stop, if we give up, whether we do so in the valley or on the mountaintop, we are stalling in our journey, which means that we will reach our destination later than we would have. Granted, it is more tempting to make camp on the mountaintop than it is in the valley, but the purpose isn't to make camp, it is to press ever onward toward the prize.

The Ulise Stefan family has had its share of hills and valleys of late. Ulise, his wife Elena, along with their ten children were recently blessed with a cow, an answer to

prayer for such an ample family, and things seemed to be going smoothly.

Even though finances were still tight, the busy season was just around the corner for Ulise, and he knew that if he could work the summer months in construction, as he does every year, they would manage.

Then, one morning, tragedy struck. Ulise was trying to untangle two horses from his cart which had gotten their harnesses stuck together, when one of the horses bucked, Ulise fell backward, and broke his arm. With his arm in a cast, Ulise will be unable to work for at least six weeks, a devastating setback for the entire family.

The family subsists off their child allotment, which adds up to \$200 per month, and the produce from their gar-



Hills and Valleys

den, which Elena and the children tend to. One of their boys is married to Iulica, a young lady who grew up at our orphanage. They have a child of their own and live with the Stefans.

This valley is not one the Stefan family planned for, but then again few if any of us ever plan for the valleys of life. It is an obstacle to be sure, but not one that cannot be overcome. We want to offer the Stefan family some temporary relief until Ulise can go back to work, and we would ask that you keep this family in your prayers.

We've all been there. We've all had moments when life turns on a dime and all our well-laid plans crumble before our eyes, so we can sympathize with what the Stefans are going through. We've also known the kindness of friends, family, brothers in Christ, and even strangers when we found ourselves in such circumstances, and know that God uses people to bless people. Thank you for being a blessing.

In His Grace,

Hand of Help Staff



Flesh of My Flesh

One of the most difficult things in life is to see one's life mate suffer, and not be able to do anything to help. The only thing worse is to see one's child suffering and feel impotent, unable to ease their suffering, but both are pains that scar the heart, and make the sweetest of things seem bitter.

To say it's hard is an understatement. It is crushing, and you would do anything if only you could take away your spouse's pain, even if it meant taking their pain on yourself.

Giani Tuia had a normal life up until recently, at least what passes for normal in an impoverished country like

Romania. He spent his summers in countries like Spain or Germany, picking strawberries, asparagus, or whatever happened to be in season, and after harvest, he would return to his family, able to budget his earnings for the rest of the year. It was not ideal, but his family was provided for, and that's all that mattered to him.

Two years ago, his wife Dorina was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, but after a short season of difficulty, she seemed to get better. She was well enough wherein the initial episodes that led up to her diagnosis seemed like a bad memory until she gave birth to their son, Ionatan. Shortly after his birth, all her symptoms returned, and two months later, she hasn't gotten any better.

Flesh of My Flesh



It has gotten to the point that Dorina needs constant, round the clock supervision, and this is keeping Giani from going to work. He cannot be away for an extended period, because Dorina's depression has gotten to the point that she is rarely lucid.

We know we serve a God who can do what man cannot, and Dorina has been in our prayers. We know that He can restore, we know that He can comfort, we know that He can heal. We saw her improvements the first time she went through this torment, and we know that God can once more intervene.

Because Giani can no longer work, they need financial support, a cow would be an unexpected blessing, and we

would ask that you keep Dorina, Giani, and their family in your prayers. If the Lord leads you to help in this regard, it would be a welcome blessing.

Our priority at this juncture is that Dorina gets well so that she can be a mother to her children, and a wife to her husband. Please keep her health in your prayers.

In His Grace,

Hand of Help Staff

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

Child of the Month

We welcomed Ianis (born in November 2013) and his sisters, Denisa and Delia to our growing family in September, 2018. Ever since their mother left the country in search of work, the three siblings have been alone. Despite all the gifts that their mother used to send them in order to compensate for her absence, the children were heartbroken and one could see the suffering in their eyes.

The immense void in their hearts has however made the siblings grow very close in their relationship with each other. This is the reason why we decided to have them share an apartment within our orphanage. They have found a family environment at Hand of Help and a home for the foreseeable future. For the first time in a long while, they have started to smile and make new memories together.

Although Ianis was only in kindergarten when he first came to our center, we immedi-



ately noticed how organized and disciplined he was in all activities. He enjoys making buildings and other objects from Lego bricks, doing puzzles and loves memorizing poems, just like his older sister Denisa. He brings a smile to everyone's face and we are so grateful for being given the opportunity to sow God's Word into this tiny heart!

When outside, he takes his scooter around the grounds of our orphanage and plays with his friends.

His mother keeps in touch with the children via phone calls and promises them they will be together again when she returns to Romania. His grandmother has also started to visit them in person.

Please keep Ianis and his sisters in your prayers. May God protect them, guide them and bless them as they grow up and may they always look to our Lord as their Father, Protector and Comforter! May He bring healing to their hearts and help their family reunite in His time and according to His will.

We are happy to announce that Michael Boldea will be preaching in California in October.

We would love for you to join us for either services, which are open to all, on October 13th at 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM at Full Gospel Church 9611 Alondra Blvd, Bellflower, CA 90706.

Michael will also be a speaker at the Hear the Watchmen Conference being held at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport, 18800 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, California 92612, October 11-13.



I will be speaking at Disclosure on the Coast Prophecy Unveiled, Orange County, CA



REGISTER at: HearTheWatchmen.com
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Dear Brethren,

Mark 16:15, And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

You can tell a lot about the spiritual wellbeing of a church or congregation by reading their mission statement. For the uninitiated, a mission statement is a formal summary of the aims and values of a particular ministry or church, their core goals, and aspirations.

Some churches still have the preaching of the Gospel in their mission statement, but many have replaced it with flowery, less biblical pabulum such as community outreach, self-improvement, self-realization, and self-esteem.

I’m not saying there shouldn’t be more than one thing in a mission statement, whether it be for a church or a ministry, but the principal thing should be identical across the board, unchanged from congregation to congregation, because, without this one thing, we are of no benefit to the kingdom of God.

It is because we have abandoned this principal thing that so many congregations are floundering about like fish on dry sand, without direction, purpose or vision, other than adding an annex to the gymnasium or getting new pews with fluffier cushions.

When Jesus sent the twelve out two by two, although He gave them power over unclean spirits, although it was within their authority to anoint the sick and watch them be healed, their mission statement had a singular purpose: to preach that people should repent!

That’s it! That was the charter, that was the mission statement, that was the vision and the aim, to tell people that they should repent. What the people did with the message, how they responded to the call, was entirely on them.

Their mission was not to push a certain denomination; their mission was not to showcase their abilities or compel people with their well-rehearsed testimonies; it was to call men to repentance.

Everything else flowed out of the principal thing, the principal task they were commanded to carry out. If they had cast out demons and healed the sick without calling men to repentance, though noble on the surface, in reality, they would have failed in their mission.

Nowadays, men glory in the irrelevant and altogether ignore the essential.

You can watch countless hours of evangelists and preachers, heads of international ministries and pastors of star-like fame drone on about their jets, their pets, their homes, and their jewelry, yet none dares bring up the subject of repentance.

You can hear leaders of some of the largest churches in the world tell you to look in the mirror and lie to yourself until you believe the lie. They insist that God’s only desire is to make you happy and that soon and very soon the wealth of the wicked will be transferred to the righteous, but of repentance not a peep.

When it comes to calling men to repentance, they are silent!

We have inverted the message of Christ to such a degree, wherein we focus on the things He deemed irrelevant and not worth pursuing, and disregarding the one thing He commands all of His apostles to preach unashamedly and unabashedly.

It’s not a mystery why church attendance is down, or why more churches than ever are shuttering their doors. It’s not a mystery why more people than ever are disillusioned with their spiritual growth and just throw in the towel. Repentance was never preached to them as the principal thing, and they’ve just grown weary pursuing other avenues to the destination that only repentance can lead us to.

2 Timothy 4:1-4, “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.