

# *Hand of* **HELP**



*October - November 2023*

**HAND OF HELP**

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# Fresh Eyes, New Heart

After some time, even the most compelling tableau can become unremarkable or even mundane. We've all known people who live on the beach and no longer appreciate it, or up in the mountains, no longer awed by the grandeur of creation. We have been serving the poor in Romania for so long and have seen so much poverty and heartache that very few things shock us as they did in the beginning.



It seems as though such is the case with spiritual matters as well. When we get caught up in frivolous or mechanical orthodoxy, our eyes drift away from the Lord and His Word, and our love tends to diminish and grow cold. Oh, how we need to hear what the Spirit spoke to the Ephesian Church noted in Revelation 2: "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works." That very same Spirit beckons us today to return to our first love!



After traveling for two weeks throughout Romania and Ukraine with Christopher, a gifted photographer, and brother in the Lord, my passion for this work was reignited, and my love for the Lord set ablaze!

It was Christopher's first trip outside the United States and his first time volunteering for missions. The purpose for his trip to Romania, very simply put, was to share his photographic giftedness with us through the many pictures you will see in this edition of the newsletter and the few following, but most importantly, to share the Gospel that has changed his life completely and praise God who has given him a new heart, just two short years ago.



There is no ambiguity regarding Christopher's regeneration, and as a close brother in the Lord, it is incredibly encouraging to see the fruit of the Spirit in his life and the fulfillment of God's promises. Ezekiel 36:26-27 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."





It was a new heart that was on display for all those to see and hear the Gospel that brought it about. The transforming Good News was proclaimed whether in the bombed villages of the Mykolaiv Region of Ukraine, impoverished Poroskovo in western Ukraine, or with groups of children at our orphanage.



As we witness the passionate “first love” in others, our response should be praising God and examining our own condition.



Are we loving and pursuing God with increasing fervor, or are we content with disciplined service often devoid of the once-experienced intense love for Christ?

Has God lost His rightful, central place in our hearts and lives? Have idols crept in, distracting us from our Creator and why we were created?

Are we still in awe of the cross and Christ’s love for us daily, or are we foregoing the opportunity to dwell and bask in such amazing grace by only casually thinking upon it occasionally?

Are you slowing down and settling in for “early retirement” after walking with and serving the Lord for twenty or so years?

Are you exhausted by making strides in your own strength only to realize we can’t even crawl on our own?

If so, I pray that the Holy Spirit would remind you swiftly of “from where you have fallen” and draw you unto Himself!

*Continued on Page 4*

# *Fresh Eyes, New Heart (cont.)*



repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-unless you repent.”

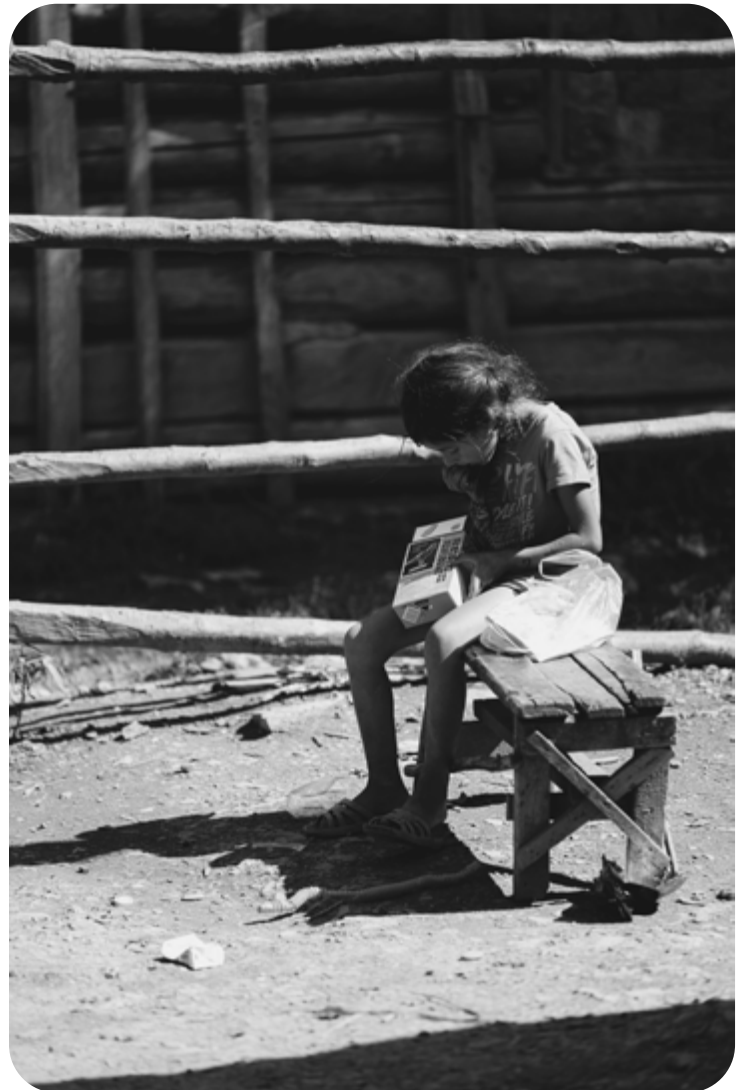
Praying for our return to our “first love”,

Daniel Boldea



No words of men are more loving than those that take us to the foot of the cross of our Lord Jesus and urge our dependency on Him.

Revelation 2:2-5 says, “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen;



# *Rejoice with Us!*



On October 23rd, 2023, Lorena, who has been with us since the tender age of four, proclaimed that she has repented and is placing her faith in our Lord Jesus for salvation. We join the glorious heavenly celebration and welcome Lorena into the Body of Christ.



## *The Light of Truth*

Michael Boldea's weekly radio show is archived and can be found on Rumble using the following link:

<https://rumble.com/user/handofhelp>

# More Blessings



The Balinga Family



The Stoean Family



The Surugiu Family



The Baclean Family



The Sirghi Family



The Hanza Family



The Bustean Family



The Parnea Family



# Urgent

Ecclesiastes teaches us that “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” While builders everywhere prefer a mild season to build, circumstances out of our control make specific projects unpostponable.

The following two projects are of such nature; we would like to see them completed before the freezing temperature settles in.

The Marian and Ramona Ciulei family from Madirjac have tried everything to stabilize their crumbling home. Due to the inclination of the land they inherited and the lack of a proper foundation and drainage around the house, their home, the size of a shack, was no longer safe to live in.



Marian shared how he and Ramona went abroad to work, leaving their three children in the care of a relative, hoping they could muster up enough money to purchase the materials needed to build a concrete landing in front of the home, in hopes it would be enough. They ended up not making as much money as they were promised for their seasonal work, and what they did earn, they ended up using for childcare.



During our September visit, we decided this project couldn't be put off further. The plan is to demolish the shack and start pouring the concrete for the foundation needed for the two-room home we would like to build for this family of five.

The total cost of the projects was \$25,000, but since individuals in Romania have donated various needed materials and money towards the project, the required amount is now \$10,000.

We pray that we can see this project to completion and move the Ciuleis into their home soon.



The following need came to us just before our publication deadline, and we decided to include this emergent situation in the current edition.

On October 20th, the Daniel and Mariana Vieru family were awoken at 1:00 AM to a raging fire from the annex where their wood-burning heater was.



They are incredibly grateful for God's protection as the situation could have been much worse if it had spread to just one room over where they were storing wood for the coming winter.

Daniel is a hardworking young man who has never asked for help, always working two shifts to provide for his family of seven.

This significant expense caught them entirely off guard and was much higher than they could afford.

The lumber needed for this project has been donated; the remaining money required to complete this project, which would cover a new heater, large gas tank, installation kits, and insulation, is budgeted at around \$4,800.

Please add these two projects to your prayer list.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

The Hand of Help Staff





# F.I.R.E.

The falling leaves have put us on notice, once again, that winter is coming. Low temperatures have a certain appeal as our minds wander to cozy fireplaces, fuzzy socks, and some extra reading time.

Unfortunately, for the elderly in Romania, winter is a dreaded thought. While some are concerned simply by the strain on an already stretched budget, others wonder how they can survive another winter without heating their home.

The Firewood Initiative for Romania's Elderly is a project you have undoubtedly seen come up numerous times throughout the years. If the Lord tarries and winter will once again make its appearance, you will probably see it again.

Some projects can be postponed or scheduled for a later date, but this one cannot.

I was shocked to hear of the plight of over 100 widows in the Darabani area, 50 of whom could not heat their homes at all last winter.

Providentially, a donor contacted us privately inquiring about the F.I.R.E. project, and an initial batch of wood was ordered for this community. The massive order of wood will be delivered to the local church, where it will be split by the youth group, divided into equal piles, and delivered to the widows.

We praise God for this timely answer to prayer and look forward to seeing His handiwork as we desire to bless as many as He would provide for with the gift of warmth.

Thank you for keeping this and our many other projects in your prayers!

Hand of Help Staff



# Child of the Month

We welcomed Ianis (born in November 2013) and his sisters, Denisa and Delia, to our growing family in September 2018.

The three siblings had been alone since their mother left the country searching for work. Despite all the gifts their mother used to send them 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 why we decided to have them live together in one of the homes in our orphanage. We love to see them make new memories together.

Although Ianis was only in kindergarten when he first came to our center, we immediately noticed how organized and disciplined he was in all activities. These traits only deepened over time; he remains very structured and responsible. For example, if medical treatment is needed, he is careful always to take his pills and not miss a dose. He is very involved in activities around his home, and his smile is contagious. We cannot believe he is already in the third grade!



He enjoys making buildings and other objects from Lego bricks, doing puzzles, and loves memorizing poems, just like his older sister Denisa. He also plays the flute in our orchestra.

He brings a smile to everyone's face, and we are so grateful to have been given the opportunity to sow God's Word into this tiny heart!

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

His mother is still abroad and can only keep in touch with the children via phone calls. However, their grandmother was able to visit the siblings at our center. Their father has a new family and does not keep in contact with his children.

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, the only One who can bring complete healing to their hearts and the overwhelming peace that surpasses all understanding.

# Dear Brethren,


The world is changing. Not only that, but the speed with which it is changing is increasing and escalating. Like tumblers on a lock, the pieces are falling into place, and what we knew was coming is taking shape before our eyes. By any objective metric, things aren't looking good no matter where you look, nor do they telegraph that they'll be getting better.

Other than praying, there isn't much we can do to affect change or course correct. The situation isn't like a sled, where if you lean heavily to one side, you can make it go in a different direction. It's more like a train on a track, barreling toward an inevitable destination many have not prepared for.

Given what we know of what the Bible says and the warnings that have been delivered over the past few decades, the best we can hope for is that it slows down. As far as altering course or stopping it altogether, it's obvious the world has reached terminal velocity, and we've gone past the point of no return. Eventually, every nation will be compelled to pick a side, everyone drawn into the irresistible vortex that is the end times.

We know what these last days will be like; the Word has told us as much. We know there will be times of upheaval and war, rumors of war, and various natural disasters that will blanket the earth. Pestilences will make a comeback, far worse than the preview we got a couple of years back, and peace will be snatched from the earth altogether. God's intent in revealing these things to His children was not to scare or terrify us but to prepare us for what was coming and give us the time necessary to draw closer to Him. It's the only thing we can do. It's the one thing we must do.

My youngest is scared of thunderstorms. I don't know why thunderstorms scare her, but every time she hears the rumbling of thunder, she finds me wherever I am, jumps in my lap, and nestles into me as though I were a shield. She says I make her feel safe, and even though the storm itself has not lessened and the thunder is still rattling the windows, my presence gives her peace and takes away her fear.



The world will spiral as it was foretold. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken, yet the children of God will always have a refuge, a shelter from the storm, and an unshakeable assurance that God will be a present help in times of trouble.

Very few can tell the difference between the foundations upon which homes are built until the storm begins to surge and the winds begin to howl. At that point, it's obvious even to the most obtuse among us, but by then, it's too late to do anything about it.

More important than where you are, what you have, or how you've prepared physically is the knowledge that God is with you, you are His, and He is yours. Everything else pales in importance to this singular all-important truth. God can protect you, keep you, shelter you, and provide for you wherever you are if you are His. It is the knowledge of His presence and the reality of His Omnipotence that give peace while others tremble.

Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea, Jr.