

Hand of **HELP**



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The Eye Teeth

Cuspids, canines (the teeth, not the barking animal kind), or eye teeth, regardless of what you call them, have a very important anatomical feature that deems them resilient in time, and as such, are often the last teeth “standing” in the mouth of an individual who is losing their dentition.

No, it is not only the actual structure of these teeth that grants them their resilience, but rather their roots. Quite simply, the eye tooth has the longest root.

When we first met this woman in Ukraine, my mind immediately went to Colossians 2:7. Oh, how wondrous it would be if my mind always defaulted to the truths of Scripture!



Colossians 2:6-7, “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Without being Bereans, without accumulating the wealth of knowledge of God’s Word, we are susceptible to being “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.”

Galatians 1:8, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

Without the truth we will never distinguish the counterfeit! How does one know if someone is a false teacher, a counterfeit? It’s really not that hard. You hold everything they say against the plumb line that is the Word of God.

Matthew 24:23-25, “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.”

Our passivity is no excuse. Our ignorance will be no excuse. “See, I have told you beforehand.” We have been warned.

Without our roots firmly established in the Word of God, and relying on the Holy Spirit, we are a mere pine teetering on the edge of a cliff, when the Lord would have us be “like a tree planted by the rivers of water” (Psalm 1), continually delighting in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

If my only take away from six years of Dental School is the importance of this truth, of being firmly rooted, then it was all worth it.

In Him,
Daniel Boldea

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage stands on a rocky shore. Its roots are exposed and spread out over the rocks, extending towards the water. The water is a deep blue-green color with small waves. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some wispy white clouds. The sun is visible in the sky, creating a lens flare effect.

Firmly
rooted?

Individual

If you offer someone who is parched and dying of thirst salted meats, gracious and generous as your gift might be, it does nothing to satisfy their thirst or meet their immediate need. The same goes for someone who is cold being offered an umbrella or someone who is naked being offered a wristwatch. It's not that what they're being offered isn't of use; it's just that in their current circumstance, at that particular moment, they'd rather have the thing they're desperate for.



There's no broad brushing individual needs. One size does not fit all when it comes to those we help, for while some need firewood, others need food, while others still need clothing or goats, cows, chickens, or a bit of money to buy the materials necessary to put a roof on their home.

Needs vary in size and scope; they have ever since we started the work in Romania, and it is very much the case in our outreaches to Ukraine and now Ethiopia. While some needs are readily met with a food package or a cord of wood, others require more time and investment



on our part. The way you know a need is to ask the individual what their need is, and in order to ask the individual what their need is, you must be boots on the ground, out in the field, seeking out those whom God would have us reach out to.

Sometimes they find us, or we are informed of a situation by a pastor, or a concerned friend or neighbor, but some of the most desperate situations we come across are too far gone for those going through them to be able to come into the city and ask for help, or reach out in any form or fashion.



In the beginning, it used to be that we wondered if God led our paths as it seemed He was, but nowadays, there is no shadow of doubt that He is. We're going on almost thirty-five years of faithful ministry in Romania, and before we could return in person, for a handful of years, we would send food parcels via freight.

Every day is a new opportunity and a new adventure. We never know where God will lead us, but we know He will, and those He brings across our path have wide-ranging needs that, in His goodness, God allows us to meet. It's a humbling endeavor to be sure, knowing that God is using you to be the means by which a prayer, a plea, or a cry in the night is answered.

It's not as though those we minister to can just apply for another credit card or get a reverse mortgage. It's not as though they have other avenues they can pursue to get the firewood they need not to freeze during winter or the clothes they need for their children so they can send them to school. God is their only hope, their only refuge, the only one they can run to in their hour of need.

One day, when we are all gathered together, perhaps you will know the true number of lives you helped save, the prayers you helped answer, and the needs you helped meet. One day, when He returns, reward in hand, to give to every one according to their work, perhaps you will understand how God sees the acts of kindness you perform for those half a world away whom you will likely never meet on this earth. One day, we will all receive our reward, but until that day comes, we continue to labor and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making it possible.

Hand of Help Staff



Blessings



The Runner

We love all of the children the same – that goes without saying; but some certainly make it easier than others.



Alecu Ghidescu spent the majority of his life in our care and though apparently an extrovert, he was outspoken only when discussions were about trivial matters or issues, and never regarding personal subjects.

Whenever conversations gravitated towards matters of greater significance, just like a turtle, he would retreat to his shell, and at times, snap before doing so. Couple that with a never-before-seen stubbornness, and one indeed has a challenge on his or her hands.

I was hopeful that as he would grow in age, and hopefully wisdom, our relationship would change and he would be more teachable, but to no avail, until recently.



During my last trip to Romania, within hours of landing in the country, I was surprised to see Alecu calling me. I must confess that my first thought was, he probably

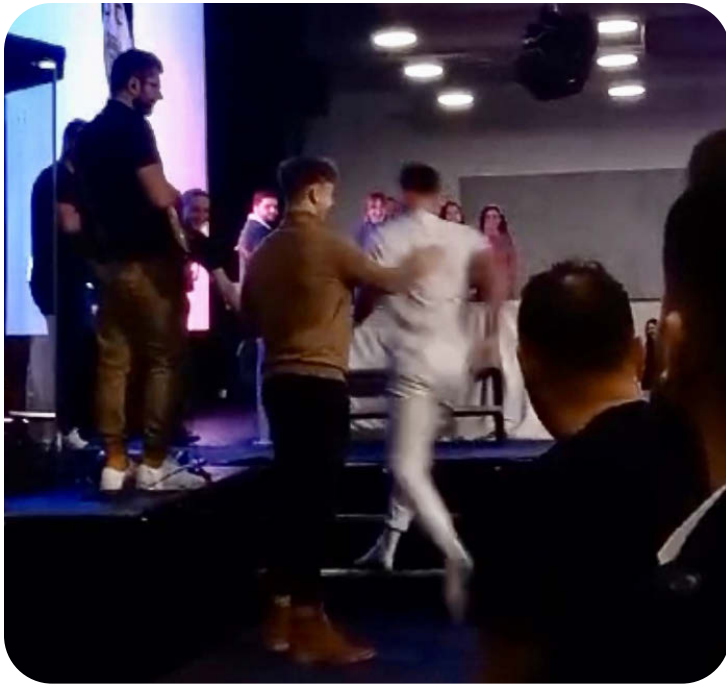
needs to borrow some money. But no, this was a changed person I was speaking to. This was not the four-year-old Alecu with his stubborn characteristics that I had seen grow over 16 years; this was a new man, with a regenerated heart.

Alecu was reaching out to catch up on what was new in his life, sharing of some mistakes he had made, seeking advice, but most importantly, telling me of the change the Lord had made in his life.



I was encouraged to see the fruit of the Spirit in his life, and prayed that he would come to the full realization of what the Lord had done for Him.

On a random Sunday morning when checking my messages, I came across a link from one of our staff members at the orphanage. I watched the short clip from a church service in tearful awe as Alecu ran to jump in the baptismal pool and could not wait another minute to make his confession of faith.



We continue to pray for Elvis, the youngest Ghidescu sibling, and all of the other children in our care. May they first and foremost repent and call upon the Lord for salvation. Please pray with us!

Daniel Boldea

Much of his bitterness stemmed from not understanding God's Sovereignty in taking Dumi, his older brother who died of cancer at age 21, a few years prior. Dumi's final days were spent sharing the Gospel with both his biological brothers and orphanage siblings. He spent his last moments praying that they would come to the Lord. The manner in which he trusted the Lord, accepting His will, spoke volumes then and continues to do so to this day.

Alecu's heart and mind were opened to realize that God's greatest love was His Son dying in our stead, and that our response should not be contingent on anything else, however noble, as the healing of a young adult.

We rejoice with heaven for Alecu and will continue to support him until he is financially independent, as is our custom to do with every child; and now that he is actually listening, provide him with godly counsel.



REMINDER:

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



Child of the Month

Since 2018, we have been blessed to see Denisa C. grow up alongside her younger siblings, Delia and Ianis.

When their mother left the country searching for work, Denisa had to take care of her younger siblings, oftentimes missing school while desperately trying to keep them well taken care of. She surrounded them with the affection of an older sister, but the loneliness that the three children felt was a constant in their life. 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.

We thank God that when their mother asked for help in raising her children, we were able to answer her plea and welcome the three children into our family.

Over the years, the siblings have grown very close in their relationship with each other.

Denisa attends the Pedagogical High School in town and is able to acquire important practical work experience during her internship programs at the school.

She sings in the high school choir and has already participated in national competitions. She loves studying and her grades show her passion for learning. Being the oldest sister, she is very responsible and we are grateful to see the relationship she has with her siblings and also the other children in our care.

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



Thank you for your love and dedication. Stories like Denisa's would not be possible without your faithful prayers and immense sacrifice. May God who sees everything amply reward you for all that you do in His Name!

Dear Brethren,

The closer you are to something, the more likely you are to see the details you would have otherwise missed. What seemed blurry and out of focus at a hundred paces seems crystal clear at five, and if you get loupes and microscopes involved, it opens up a whole new world of wonder.


We are so close now that even the godless are starting to see the details. What's troubling is that they seem capable of putting the pieces together far easier than much of the church, and I think that's because they don't have preconceived notions of events that must take place before we see the times the Bible speaks of unfolding.

Whether they reason to themselves that these cannot be those days because we've not yet seen the return of the Lord or that they aren't supposed to be here for those times and, therefore, we cannot be seeing those times, the church is still in a stupor, gazing at its navel, twiddling its thumbs and overall indifferent as to what is happening in the world around us, and a lot is happening.

Individuals with their noses touching the events of the last days cannot see them for what they are because of something they believe, not because reality isn't staring them in the face. They choose not to believe their lying eyes because they took a series of fictitious books as gospel truth. That they are still in the fiction section of their favorite bookstore should have been a clue, but alas, it went over their heads.

Only the Gospel contains the gospel truth, and the things the Gospel says will come upon the earth during the last days are beginning to manifest. Our choice is to believe what we are seeing, recognize that it has been foretold in the Bible, and act accordingly, or insist that it cannot be and shut our eyes and plug our ears.

With wars and rumors of war abounding, with earthquakes in various places hitherto unheard of, with a new pestilence getting ready to be rolled out shortly, whether natural or manmade, with false prophets and false christs increasing in number and fervor, the one thing we're still waiting for is the persecution of the godly, and that is soon to arrive.



Through it all, we are at peace knowing that the One who foretold all these things coming upon the earth has prepared a refuge for those who belong to Him. Yes, we will be hated for His name's sake, for He said we would; yes, we will be persecuted, for He said we would, but we will not suffer the judgment of the ungodly because we are His, and He is ours, and He will shelter us from the storm that will reshape this world.

Many fail to differentiate between the judgment of God upon the godless and the persecution of the saints at the hands of the godless. As wise servants, we must know the difference and prepare for the one while not fearing the other. Yes, hard times are coming upon the earth, but we do not look upon them with dread but rather with hope, for we know it will be a time when the power of the God we serve will be made manifest in the lives of those who know Him.

We hope in His abiding love. We rest in His omnipotent arms. We trust in His flawless guidance, for we know that He is leading us to a good place, a place with green pastures and still waters. The world will war and rage while the children of God will be at peace. The storm comes, and those who have built their houses upon the rock have nothing to fear from it.

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea, Jr.