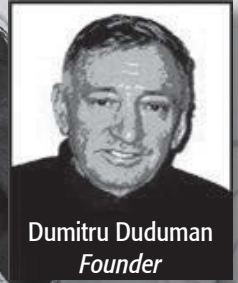


Hand of **HELP**



Dumitru Duduman
Founder

The Truth for Today

*Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

JANUARY - FEBRUARY
MARCH - 2016



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A Special Need for God's Children

While visiting some friends in Florida recently, I found myself standing in line at the deli counter of a local supermarket, and as I shuffled my feet a little at a time waiting for my number to be called, I couldn't help but overhear a conversation two elderly gentlemen were having.

While one was telling the other how he'd had to have a hip replaced, the second gentleman felt he needed to up the ante and began to inform his friend that he'd just had both knees replaced.

The truth of the matter is that everything breaks down sooner or later. People break down, cars break down, and even buildings break down, no matter how well maintained they might be or how well they were cared for.

Time has a way of corroding both the things we see and the things we cannot see, and eventually the reality that something must be done becomes an overwhelming imperative.

We began construction on the Hand of Help orphanage in 1993. It was only three years after the revolution in Romania, and although we used the best materials that were available to us at the time, the best really wasn't all that great.

I believe it is because we did not skimp on materials that the building has withstood both time and the elements for these many years, but we're coming up on twenty years since the building's completion and opening, and there are certain things that we must deal with sooner rather than later.

There are two main issues we must deal with before they become problems, the first being the electrical wiring,

the second being the plumbing. Because the norms did not require it and no company practiced it, the wiring in the orphanage does not run through tubing, and the quality of the wires themselves leaves much to be desired compared to what is currently available on the market. Twenty three years ago it was all they had, and there was nowhere to get anything better, but things have changed, and new regulations are pushing us toward the inevitability of rewiring the entire orphanage and tubing all the wires.

The plumbing is also an issue because the pipes we used during the initial construction are beginning to corrode, and we've had more and more issues with burst water pipes and other such unpleasantness of late.

With God's help and enough belt tightening to take one's breath away, we've been able to put aside enough finances and finish the rewiring and the plumbing for the fourth floor of the orphanage, which leaves us with four additional floors to go.

Some of the floors are bigger than others, but all averaged out it would cost us around \$11,000 per floor to rewire, and redo the plumbing. All told, to rewire the entire orphanage, tube the wires, and replace

the plumbing where necessary it will cost us in the neighborhood of \$44,000.

I realize this sounds like a big sum, but we serve a big God, so I would ask that you lift up this need in your daily prayers that God would make a way for us to finance this project and see it through to the end.

Wisdom dictates that it is a far better thing to begin a labor before you are forced to do so, and as such, be able to go at your own pace rather than have to hurry through it because some new law came into effect and the completion of the task is required in two weeks or less.

Although as yet no law has been passed requiring us to rewire the orphanage, the writing is on the wall, especially since a horrendous fire took the lives of over sixty people in the capital city of Bucharest this past October, and the focus has shifted to safety codes and what can be done to prevent such a tragedy from repeating.

All we can do is present the need, and ask for your prayers. The rest is in the hands of God our Father and Provider, and since He has never once failed, we trust that He will make a way.

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.



Picking up The Pieces

It is inevitable that the first reaction after a tragedy is relief and gratitude that no lives were lost. Things are things. Possessions are possessions. They can be replaced. Lives on the other hand cannot be replaced, and although the Motoc family lost all of their earthly possession, due to the fact that the fire took place during the day, thankfully no lives were lost.

Although the previous sentiment is true, it is easier to say things can be replaced than it is to actually replace them, especially when the means by which to reacquire what was lost are nonexistent.

The Motoc family is comprised of four children. There is Camelia who is 6, Madalina who is 4, Delia who is 3, and Bogdan who is eighteen months old. Mirela the mother is also expecting her fifth child within the next three months.

Up until recently the Motoc family lived in the village of Cristesti in Botosani County, in a small country home that they took care of lovingly. The home they lived in was old, passed down from one generation to another. The home was covered with asbestos, and on top of the asbestos laid a layer of shingles that had become dry



and brittle with age. A brisk wind, an open fire pit, and a rogue spark were enough to ignite the brittle shingles, and the entire home became consumed by the flames.

Currently the Motoc family is living with Mirela's parents who have twelve children themselves who range from nine months to twenty years of age, all living under the same roof. Needless to say it is a tight fit, but family is family, and they make it work somehow.

Now that the shock of the event has worn off, the Motoc family is faced with the daunting task of rebuilding their lives, finding a new place to live, and starting over. We would like to help them as we are able, and wherever our aid is required.

It is for situations such as these and many others like them that God has placed us here, and afforded us the opportunity to be an immediate help, and a vehicle by which He could answer the prayers of His people.

It is not easy picking up the pieces of one's life, especially after a loss such as this, but the Motoc family is neither beaten nor defeated. On the contrary, there is joy in their countenance, there is thankfulness in their words, and there is gratitude to God that though they lost everything in regards to the material, not a hair on any of their heads was harmed.

Please keep the Motoc family in your prayers, and if the Lord leads you to help in any way, your reward will not be insignificant.

In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff

The Wisdom of the Elderly



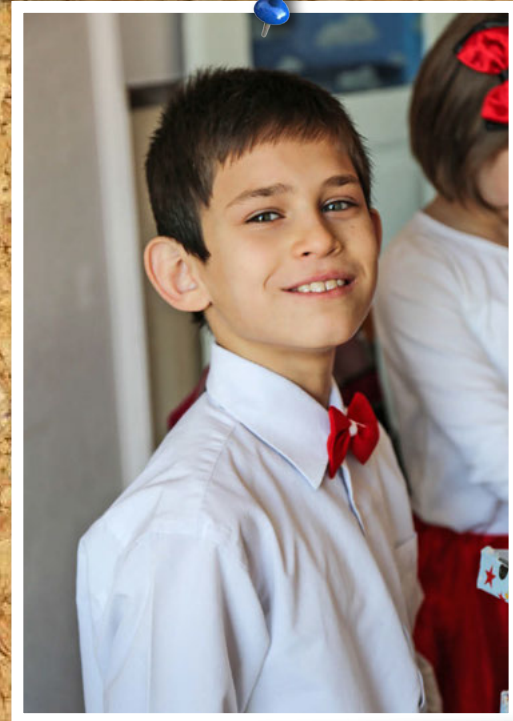
"Pastor Mike, you asked me to share with you the one thing that God did for me that I will never forget. But how could I chose just one? All of His mighty works in my life, I will remember forever! They are all equally important to me!"

"All of His mighty works in my life, I will remember forever!"



"I have sat many months alone in my room, waiting for somebody to come visit me. In fact, it has been exactly four years, six months to the day. I remember it vividly because the last visit I got was four days after an acquaintance died. And as days went by and pain came over me, clenching my body in continual suffering, I thanked God because I knew He was still thinking about me, testing me and putting me through fire so that I may be found pure and maybe so that I can finally go 'home' to heaven. However, whenever the pain went away and I was comfortably well, my first thought was: Have you forgotten about me, Lord? If you are not testing me in any way, it feels like your eyes are turned away from me..."

A Special Need for God's Children



Blessings in Stand-by

One of the most common questions we encounter is, "how can I help?"

It is that time of year again, when our warehouse is full to the brim and we are praying for the ability to send the relief to Romania.

Times have changed and we are no longer able to send a container for just over \$3,000. In fact, for getting a 40 foot container over to Romania from Wisconsin, with fumigation requirements and all other administrative costs, the total cost is now around \$8,400.

While \$8,400 is a very large sum, so was \$3,000 twenty years ago. With having sent over 30 containers, we've learned not to be swayed by numbers, because if God has provided the goods, He will also provide the means to getting to their destination, to our orphans and the families of the desperate and desolate of Romania.

Along with what we have in storage in the US, the Lord has also started building a bridge between Hand of Help and a charity in the United Kingdom, His Church. His Church runs the logistics of receiving high-quality, new clothing, food and household goods, and distributing them to ministries around the world.

We were fortunate enough to send a container from His Church in the fall of 2015 that included not only new clothing, but things that we are unable to send from the US, due to strict customs regulations, like food, household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items.

It took approximately two months to distribute the goods, and we were blessed to hear the voices of many cry out and thank our Father for provision even through a drought.

Their operation is very large and their resources are much greater than we could ever accommodate. However, there are expenses incurred for the transportation and logistics of putting together the loads, and that runs just over \$7,000 per 40 foot container. As the Lord provides to cover costs, we can continue to be blessed through this organization for many shipments to come.

Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Unless we step out in faith, and believe God to do great things, we shouldn't expect Him to move. He has moved mountains in the past and is able to continue to do so!

Please join with us in prayer, agreeing in the provision for sending one 40 foot container from Wisconsin and at least two 40 foot containers from the UK during this year.

Believing Him for even greater things,

Daniel Boldea

Human Haste, Unsettling Impressions...

We could write about how we are always accommodating in taking the time to hear the life stories of those we help. I could pen a soliloquy about how with great patience we are able to evaluate and plan the resolution of most all of the situations we are confronted with as we minister to the impoverished in the villages, but that would merely be scratching the surface, and might even come off as pretentious.

The truth is that visiting the brethren in their season of greatest need, seeing the tremor of the elderly in front of a fire started with the last of the cobs they were able to gather, hungry children surviving on whatever little their parents could stew, not knowing where their next meal would come from, families deprived of some of the most basic necessities, take a toll on one's heart and lead to exhaustion. The exhaustion I speak is not just physical, although there is plenty of that, but also mental and spiritual. Every day we are spent, every day we return from an outing exhausted, knowing that the sunrise will bring about another day of doing the selfsame thing.

With much of our outreach in remote villages, the roads for the most part either look like they have been bombed or were never really roads to begin with; just a mud alleyway that someone once christened a road as a cruel joke. As brutal as some of our journeys are, oddly enough, getting there is the easiest part. The emotional roller coaster that is to follow is what drains you.

The list of families is often long, especially when my father puts it together. He is the most patient man I know and my prayer is that one day I am able to be as compassionate as he is in listening to each of the people I come in contact with and find that place of never tiring in the work.

Although we never have the luxury of spending too much time in one place, we always take the time to pray with

everyone. It is during those times, when we humble ourselves, ignoring what the physical eye can see, and open our hearts and ears to grasp what the Holy Spirit would have us do, that our mission becomes clear.

The family that I am presenting to you might look familiar. The Maicarus were in our last newsletter as part of Pastor Ken's article. It is not by error that they are in this edition as well.

After our brief visit in November, all of those present in our team knew right away that we were to bless them immediately with the money needed to put a roof on their home. While the brother started measuring and figuring out how much it would cost, we were already pooling together our finances from every pocket and were overjoyed to see that we could cover the \$450 needed.

The feeling of fulfillment with which I left this family swiftly changed to a heaviness that I would carry until we returned. God wanted us to do more for this family, at least more than cover the cost of their roof that obviously would not have lasted through the first rain had it not been replaced. Haste and tiredness had caused me to address only one of many problems and I would not find respite until I understood the bigger picture of what God would have us do.

After sharing my heaviness with my father, we immediately planned a return trip to the village of Tudor Vladimirescu, this time starting the day at the Suraj and Claudia Maicaru family and being sensi-



...Continued on page 10

tive to their entire struggle and the list of urgent needs surrounding them.

We promptly noticed that the roof was only 3/4 completed, and the kitchen remained covered by the old asbestos, since brother Suraj under-budgeted the roofing project. When we walked in we noticed the moisture on the wall that would soon lead to the forming of mold, and I'm sure we can all understand the severity of mold in the midst of 10 children.

Since we had made the time, we were able to walk behind their home and understand what was at the root of the moisture. The external wall hadn't been insulated and the moisture was just seeping in.

Our heart's desire is to dramatically improve the quality of life for these children. We would like to insulate the external wall, finish the roof over the kitchen, change the rain-damaged flooring and as soon as the walls dry, apply a fresh coat of paint.

When the project is completed, we would like to provide furniture so that the children are not confined to sleeping on the same bed with their parent and siblings. A total of 12 individuals on one bed!

I am humbled and continue to be overwhelmed by the compassion, love and direction the Holy Spirit gives, if we only stop and listen. May we all grow increasingly sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and may we obediently and swiftly follow His leading.

Psalm 143:8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Daniel Boldea



February's Child of the Month



Alecu's situation has seen a tremendous progress. He is a hard-working student, loves to play the violin in our orchestra, recently started playing the keyboard too and spends his free time drawing. He has attended a lot of contests and workshops as people realized very fast that he is a very talented young man. Currently he is in the 7th grade and next year he will start high school. His desire is to study Economics and be able to build a future for himself, knowing that with God's grace, he can overcome any obstacle.

We are praying for Alecu's situation as the family tries to make proper steps into recreating their family. Alecu's last attempt to spend the holidays with his brothers and parents was cut short due to their father severely abusing alcohol. We know that nothing is impossible for our God; He is the only One able to break the chains that hold Alecu's father and we will continue to keep their family in prayer. Thank you for joining us in doing the same!

Alecu Ghidescu was born on August 12th, 2002. We first met him in 2006, when he stepped into our center together with his brothers Dumitru and Elvis Ionel. From an early age they saw the damage alcohol and violence can bring into one's family. Their mother decided to leave them and find shelter with her relatives realizing that her abusive husband could not be stopped and leaving her sons in harm's way.

It was only after she found out that the children were sent to our orphanage at the request of the community and local authorities that she started to contact them. Even after finding a work place abroad, she tried to rekindle their relationship every time she was back on vacation in Romania, making efforts to bring the family together.

The Light Of Truth Broadcast



Proclaiming the Truth

We are happy to announce that Michael Boldea has recently started a radio broadcast named "The Light of Truth". The program airs every Thursday, 6:00 CST. During the one hour broadcast, Michael takes on a multitude of topics of major importance to Christianity today, with a focus on current events through the perspective of Biblical teachings, Bible prophecies, doctrines of the Church, etc. Michael also answers questions sent to Hand of Help and tries to bring clarification on actual disputes.

In order to listen to the show, please send us a message to the following email address: lightoftruth@handofhelp.com. You will then be signed up to receive weekly email notifications containing the links to the broadcasts.

You can also call (347) 989-0136 and listen to the show via telephone.

We believe Michael's radio show will be an encouragement to all of us and we thank you for being a part of it.

The Hand of Help staff

Dear Brethren,

Isaiah 55:6-7, “Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

It is said the one thing you are never supposed to do under any circumstance, if you are ever caught in quicksand, is struggle. Even though on a logical level we know that the more one struggles the faster they sink, given the chance, most of us would likely struggle because this is our default reaction when we feel ourselves getting stuck.

When you feel your feet slipping and find yourself falling, you will grasp at anything including straws, hoping to find purchase and stop the fall. I look around today and I see a lot of people grasping at straws. More and more individuals are beginning to feel the slip and intuit the subsequent fall and it is their default reaction to try and find purchase, to try and find stability, to return to that safe space wherein the sun was shining, the birds were chirping, and tomorrow promised to be a brighter day than yesterday.

Concern has given way to all out fear and many a soul is looking for a safe place, a shelter from the storm, something to make them feel secure and give them reassurance. The only problem is that most men, even many within the household of faith, are looking for that sense of safety and reassurance somewhere other than in Christ Jesus. They are searching high and low trying to find that blessed hope that can only be found at the foot of the cross, and because the number of those searching has multiplied exponentially, so have the wolves that see an opportunity to cash in on the fear and uncertainty.

No matter where you turn nowadays someone is hocking something that promises to make you and your family safer, more secure, and more likely to weather the storm. Whether fifteen years' worth of dried food, or

self-cleaning undergarments, high tech bomb shelters or scent-be-gone in case you get chased by dogs, a cottage industry has developed and is thriving all based on uncertainty and fear for tomorrow.

Throughout all of this hubbub, throughout all of this clamoring to get the last of the flashlights or kerosene lamps or self-lighting briquettes, Jesus seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle, and the one thing we are all supposed to be doing, namely seeking the Lord while He may be found, is something fewer and fewer individuals seem to want to do.

What many fail to grasp is that seeking the Lord and calling upon Him are not elective endeavors. They are not something we can choose not to do because we were busy doing other things, nor are they something that the Word insinuates as being optional. As believers, our first resort must be the Lord, and in Him we will find both peace and safety, joy and comfort, provision and protection. To seek these things anywhere else other than in Jesus, is to waste the precious little time we have left, the precious little time in which He may be found and in which He is near.

Dark days are upon us. Of this there is no doubt. Another certainty many are beginning to acknowledge is that before it's all over they will be much darker still.

As children of God we have the blessed assurance that He is with us. The God of all creation, He who spoke the universe into being, is with us. What have we to fear? What can we do in and of our own strength that He cannot do? Be at peace beloved, God is with you.

Luke 21:28, “Now when you see these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.

