



Hand of **HELP**



Dumitru Duduman
Founder

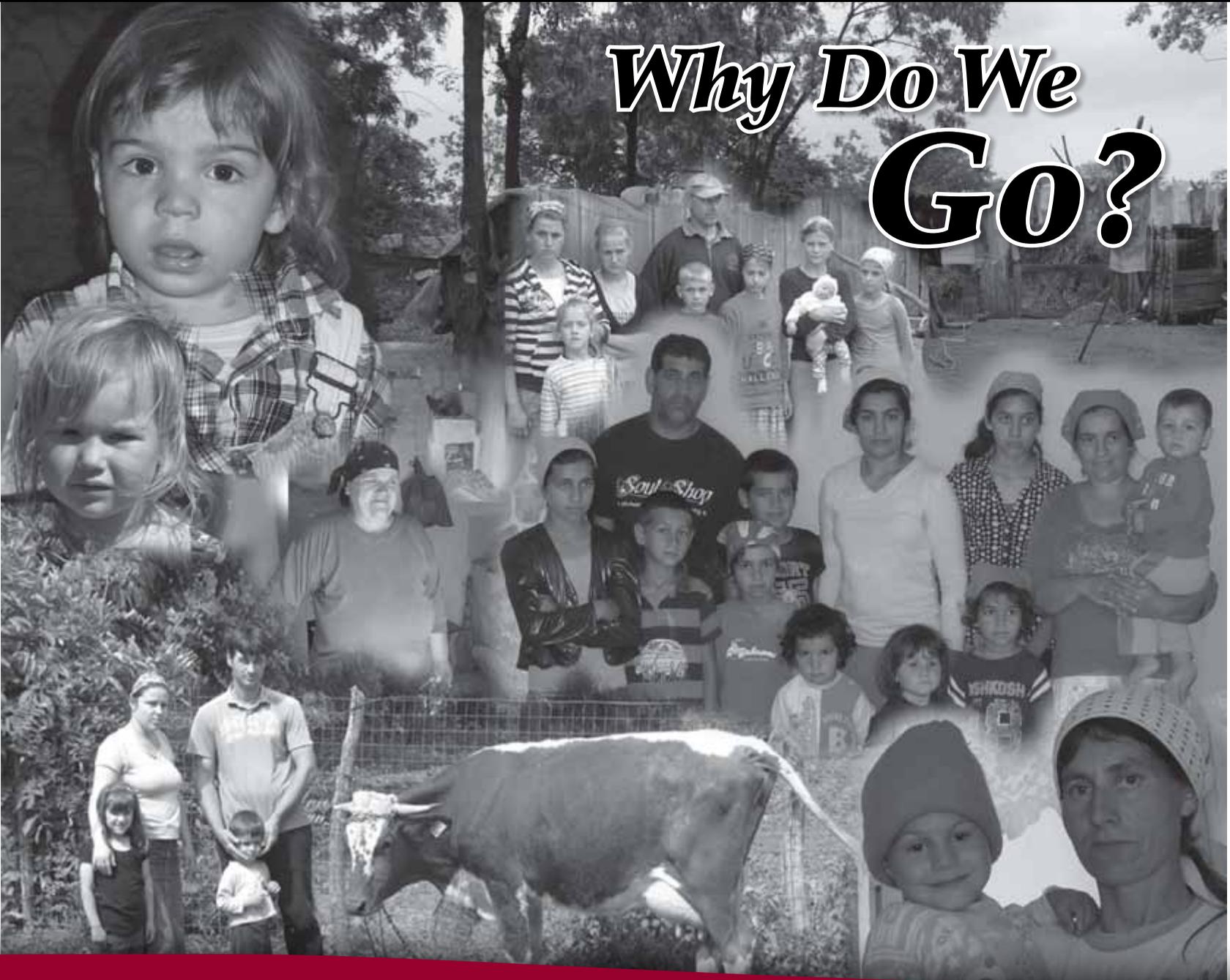
The Truth for Today

HAND OF HELP
PO Box 496719 • Garland, TX 75049
accounting@handofhelp.com

HAND OF HELP OFFICE
1012 South Third Street • Watertown, WI 53094
handofhelpoffice@aol.com

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

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Why Do We

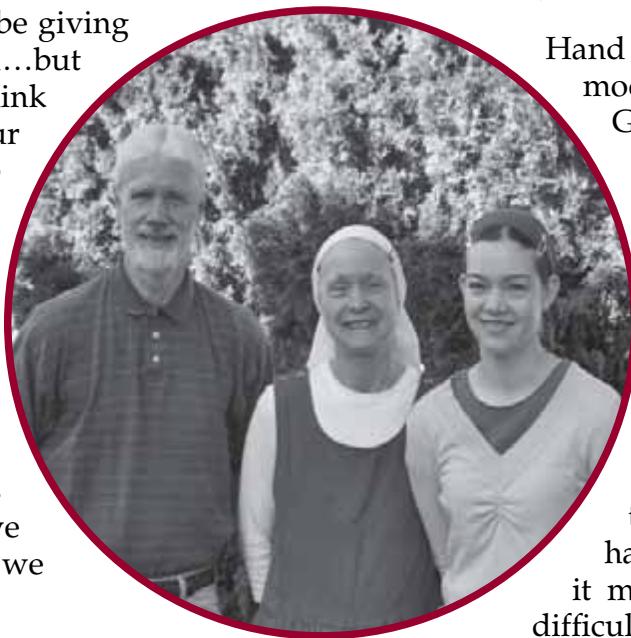
Go?

When we first started getting the Hand of Help newsletter in 2002, I was asking the Lord how I should respond to the needs mentioned in it. I was thinking He would be giving me a monetary figure to send...but He clearly told me to GO. I think He likes to remove us from our comfort zones causing us to step out in faith.

Now after 18 trips, 15 of those with my wife and daughter, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God loves and cares for the orphans, the widows, and the poor. He fills our hearts with His love for them and we know that we are doing what we were created to do.

When we first started going to Romania materials were inexpensive enough to take on projects such as building churches and homes. Now, in order to touch more families, the ministry

has shifted to smaller projects which include buying cows, drilling wells, buying firewood for the cold winters, and various other needs.



Hand of Help is in a constant giving mode including: giving love and Godly instruction, food and clothing to 80 orphans, visiting and giving to the elderly, the sick, the handicapped and the poor, and giving to the needs of those that come to the orphanage gates on a daily basis.

It is a blessing to us to be a part of what God is doing through Hand of Help. It is hard to put into words what it means to those going through difficult times to receive visits and answers to their prayers for provision from God.

Thank you for your support and prayers for this ministry that is so dear to God's heart.

Dave, Cheryl and Hosanna Edman

Kalispell, Montana





Our

Experience

This letter is our stodgy attempt to share our very own experience as sponsors. My wife and I are two young people currently residing in New Jersey, who have recently found out about the opportunity to sponsor a child. We both grew up in modest families that didn't spare a single effort in offering us the best education they could. Our families continually supported us through college and it was during that time that we realized science, and in particular research, was the road we wanted to follow in our careers. After finishing college and our doctoral studies we traveled to the US where the thought of helping children, by whatever means possible, started to grow deeper in our hearts. We realized that our material gifts would be poor in comparison to the needs of the children, but we still wanted to help them as much as we could, especially in providing moral support.

The idea of sponsoring a child, of getting to know him or her, of providing advice whenever necessary, of inspiring them to discover their passion and study harder, determined us to browse the internet in search of the best opportunity for us to sponsor a child, all the while taking into account the fact that we are far away from home.

This is how we got in touch with Hand of Help and with their assistance we started writing back and forth with two little girls, Alina and Edera. We have only been writing them for six months. Throughout this period, thanks to the girls' enthusiasm and being helped each time by Hand of Help, we have managed to build a close relationship with the girls. They have shared with us their daily routine, their activities in school and outside school, as well as

their passions and dreams. Likewise, we have shared our own life experiences, hoping to be a role model for them. Each time we look forward to reading their colorful letters and getting to know what new things have happened in their lives. All these letters made us decide to visit them during the Easter holiday.

Before our arrival at the Hand of Help orphanage we were so nervous, but once we stepped into the building's yard and were greeted by all the children who immediately invited us to play with them, all our shyness and nervousness disappeared.

We really enjoyed seeing the children so eager to play.

We couldn't leave the place until every child showed us how they like to play, and actually played with us. Although they were pros at every game, they would let us win from time to time. We had the privilege of playing ping pong with Ana

Maria who is an Olympic and has won different medals and prizes. Although exhausted by so many games, the children still found

different ways to spend time with us. We were actually relieved to take a break from all the playing and have dinner with the children.

We are so happy that although we could only spend a few days with the children at the orphanage, we were able to get to know them and their daily activities: we had meals together with them, we attended the Easter service (we were amazed of the children's musical talent when the church orchestra played), we saw the children's rooms where they shared different photos taken during summer camps. We were proud to see their school achievements, we listened to them playing various instruments, learned about their favorite subjects in school and





about what they would like to become when they grow up.

My wife and I were truly impressed by the environment that has been created for the children and also by the commitment of each member of the staff towards each child's situation, growth and education. Having talked to Alina and Edera's teachers, Dana, Diana and Tudor, not only during our visit but also after our arrival back home to the US, we have realized that all Hand of Help members are doing more for these children than their normal job tasks require. This is a comfort for us knowing that the children are in really good hands.

We are so happy we were able to make this visit to the orphanage. It was a very pleasant experience for us. We were able to consolidate our relationship with Alina and Edera, we got closer to other children from the orphanage and we have decided to return on our next work holiday to spend our free days with these wonderful children. We have been in contact with Alina and Edera since then, we keep finding out so much more about their daily routine and we try to respond to their needs and desire to find out more and increase their knowledge.

We are grateful for the ministry's help and we would like to thank them for all their support and for everything they do for the children. They have offered us so many opportunities to grow a relationship with these amazing children and we are thankful for that.

We would like to end our letter by sharing with you that it's impossible to express the joy we have in our hearts because of the wonderful bond that has now been created between Alina, Edera and us.....

Dr. Lucian and Aurelia Pascut



Obedience

I do not take the work to which this ministry has been called lightly. I realize the great responsibility with which we have been tasked in caring for these children, as well as in distributing the food, money, and clothing we distribute on a weekly basis to those who would have no one else to turn to for help.

By the same token I know that neither I, my family, nor this ministry are indispensable, and even if we were no longer active, God would find a way to provide for the souls who cry out to Him for help, and in faith believe that He will answer.

The work of God is not a chore, it is a privilege. Obedience is not a burden, it is a joy. We see the hand of God so often and in so many ways, as well as the outcome of being obedient and humbly following after the One who promised to lead us, that we can never for an instant doubt His intentions or His ability to keep and provide.

During the last few weeks the Lord has been teaching me about the results of individual obedience. Although we would like to see the result of our obedience instantaneously, oftentimes it takes weeks, months, and even years to see how one act of obedience lead to a truly wondrous thing.

Within the span of a month I had the privilege of baptizing two of the children who once resided within the Hand of Help orphanage, as well as officiate the wedding ceremony of another. Throughout it all I couldn't help but think back on the initial act of obedience which had led up to

that moment, namely answering the call of God as a ministry when He spoke to us concerning the building of an orphanage here in Romania.

Never in a million years could I have said twenty-six years ago that in 2013 I would see some of the first children whose presence graced our halls come to be baptized, get married, and have families of their own.



Although obedience is a *now* proposition, the joy of our obedience can stretch out for many years after we chose to obey the voice of God.

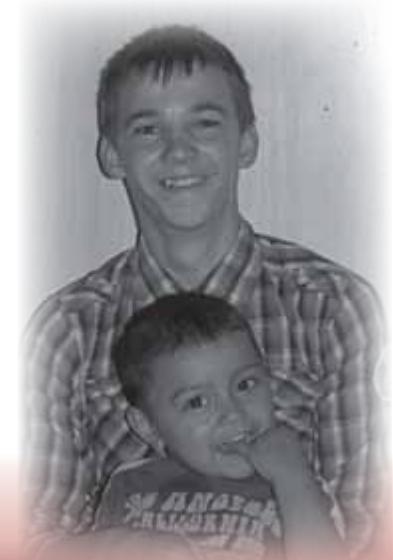
Everything this ministry is able to accomplish is a byproduct of obedience. Our family obeyed the voice of God and began to build an orphanage when finishing it seemed improbable at best. You as well have obeyed the urging of God to continue supporting this work to the point that we are able to sustain the orphanage, surrounding communities and other ministries when the need arises.

All I can do is thank you for your obedience, and pray that the joy of said obedience is manifest in your daily life in ways as yet imperceptible to you. The work goes on, we continue to obey, and in our obedience the abundance of joy and fulfillment continues to grow day by day.

I would ask that you keep this work and those who labor on behalf of it in your prayers, and if the Lord leads you to help in any way, obey.

In Christ,

Pastor Michael Boldea Jr.



Exceeding *Expectations*

"I was expecting something else...Everything is different from what I have always known about orphans or experienced in orphans' asylums or other children's institutions. Your children are actually smiling, they are connecting with us, they look happy, they play together, they are dressed just like mine..."

These are the thoughts of a recent Hand of Help visitor, cherished thoughts that are kept deep inside our hearts and encourage us each and every moment. It was the Thursday before Easter and as the children were decorating our building and garden with colorful flowers and warm welcoming signs, I stopped to embrace the vivid image in front of me. I am used to being greeted by children the very moment I step onto our premises...children riding bicycles, roller skating, sitting in a shaded corner drawing angels and flowers, writing letters or talking to their teachers. I am used to seeing Marian, the happiest little boy on Earth, as one might think after being welcomed by his angelic smile, coming to say hello and take me by the hand, eager to tell me more about his golden fish that he so passionately draws...I am used to Miruna, riding her bicycle and coming to give me a hug from the height of her saddle. But accompanying our visitors and answering their questions made me see Hand of Help's work through a different perspective, that of a first time visitor.

It is not common to see orphan children who have endured sufferings, beatings, who have spent nights crying alone, while their tiny bodies were embraced by the hard planks they called a bed, who have vainly called for help while their parents were on the floor, drunk and unable to move, *smiling!* Yes, these children are smiling now, they are able to look you in the eyes and ask you if you want to play with them. It is without doubt that the memories of their

lives before coming to the orphanage still haunt them sometimes. You can see it at night when they are fighting their nightmares, at dinner time when they are frantically looking for their siblings, afraid that something might have happened to them that prevented them from coming to enjoy their meal together. But they are changed. . .They are loved now; they have a permanent family they can run to. They embrace their teachers and social workers knowing they will respond, they ask questions knowing that they will be answered. They no longer have to go to bed with an empty stomach; they no longer skip school just because their parents don't feel like they should do so that day.



It brings an immense joy to my heart to see the amazing work God has done so far at Hand of Help. The constant smiles on every child's face are the proof that what we have been called to do is not in vain. The lives of these children are positively impacted because Hand of Help exists, and because people have devoted their lives to making certain that they are loved, cared, and provided for.

Sometimes many obstacles must be struggled through before the next glimpse of hope and comfort appears but we have to be determined to spare no exertions to do what He has asked us to do. It is beyond doubt that success in work supposes endeavor. People who have chosen to listen to God's voice have worked wonders through Him thus far.

We are grateful for each and every one that has helped us do this work so far. Our children are not orphans anymore. They have found a Home and, moreover, they have found a Father...

In Him,
Alexandra Boldea



“...Your children are actually smiling, they are connecting with us, they look happy, they play together, they are dressed just like mine...”



A Journey of

Discovery

Not every child will grow up to be a doctor, a lawyer, or an intellectual gargantuan whose every word will be worthy of printing on a t-shirt. Yes, some have the requisite gray matter to pursue medicine or law, but others feel more comfortable with pursuing less intellectually demanding yet equally noble careers in more manually oriented areas.

One of the most difficult tasks we have to contend with as overseers of the children with which God has entrusted us is to find that spark, that one thing that brings light to their eyes, and interests them to the point of desiring to pursue it.

Since the old adage that 'if you don't teach your child a trade they will surely become a thief,' is truer more often than we would like to believe, our striving to find something each child will be able to pursue as a career and earn a living by is constant and intense.

For us, it would be deemed the greatest of failures if all we did was help children survive until the age of eighteen, then release them into the world without any means of providing for themselves, or earning a living.

Our desire is to raise human beings. Our desire is to raise young men and young women who know the value of hard work, who are respectful, and who can become productive members of society once they leave our orphanage.

Truthfully, it is easier with some children than with others. Having had almost two decades of experience now, we know how to identify a child's strengths and weaknesses, and discover their gift in whatever area it may be.

Yes, we have had children who have gone on to medical school, we have had children who've become lawyers and business owners, but we've also had children who've gone on to be plumbers, wood carvers and short order cooks.

Each child is a challenge, and each challenge must be met head on, because time is a fleeting thing, and sometimes all we have to mold a character, find a career, and inspire in the ways of the Lord is a handful of years.



Some children come to us as little more than infants, and those are the easiest to work with and nurture because they are with us the longest. Other children come to us in their teenage years, and they are harder to mold because what we ask of them is more demanding than what anyone else has asked of them thus far, and it takes them a while to understand that it's for their own good.

Seeing as we are always looking for new ways to get our older children interested in a career path, when we were asked to send some of our children to a local artisan workshop we were more than willing to make it available to all our teenagers.

What was to be a couple people volunteering their time and teaching the children sculpting, pottery making, and the principles of drawing, turned into some of the most renowned professional artisans in our area coming together and giving of themselves to inspire the children and get them excited about everything from cabinetry to carpentry, to sculpting, to art, to ceramics, to weaving.

Given the high praise from some of the teachers it would seem a few of our children discovered a hidden talent, and perhaps a new passion which they may pursue as they grow older.

One never knows where the spark will come from, where the fire of passion will be ignited, but we are more than willing to pursue every opportunity and do our utmost to make certain that all your sacrifice and labors are not for naught, and the lasting change this ministry makes in the lives of these children will carry them through their entire lives.

*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*



Like A *Child*

Few things are able to take my mind off the ugliness of today's world like seeing children at play. I could be concerned, worried, upset, or dumfounded about a dozen different things taking shape around me but the instant I see the innocence of youth in all its comforting simplicity, all the negative feelings seem to vanish, if only momentarily.

All children know is that they're chasing a ball around a field. A child doesn't know of global turmoil, of terror threats, of economic uncertainty or of shrinking budgets. They know they have to try to kick a ball past another child, and if they are successful, their teammates will cheer. Simple, uncomplicated, joyful.

It's getting hard. I respect you too much to try to sugarcoat a truth you are seeing with your own eyes and feeling in your own marrow, so this is me pouring my heart out to you knowing you understand where I'm coming from better than most. If not for the exhortation to not grow weary in doing good, it would be quite easy to grow weary and at times even despondent.

The notion of growing darkness is said to be an optical illusion. Darkness cannot grow in and of itself; it only seems so because light is diminishing. As the light dims and diminishes, darkness floods the space where once there was light until it overtakes every inch of ground the light gave up. The light is dimming in many a heart and this is a tragic, tragic thing.

One can't help but get weathered and bruised being in the thick of it day in and day out. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recapture the innocence of youth, to enjoy the simple things like a sunny day and a cold glass of lemonade, and to be unfettered by thoughts of tomorrow or the day after.

As I try to do most every year, this year I got to go to camp with the children for a couple days. I saw the

innocence I speak of manifest in their actions, and as it always does, it brought a smile to my face.

When Jesus said we are to become as little children, I believe one of the most important aspects He was attempting to open our eyes to, was a child's implicit trust in their father or mother.

A child trusts that their parent will feed them, clothe them, and protect them, all the while not knowing exactly how, but nevertheless believing wholeheartedly that it will come to pass.

Oftentimes God reminds us of the most profound truths through the strangest of means. It took my watching children at play to be reminded that I didn't have to know the *how* of a situation to know that God *will* carry us through.

We don't always see it. Try as we might, squint as we might, sometimes we just can't see how a way will be made but we know our God promised He would make a way and our God keeps His promises.

For those who have long learned to lean on the everlasting arm of the Father and trust Him implicitly, what is shortly to follow in the world will not perturb them or be reason for alarm. For those who've trusted in their own strength without ever knowing the comfort that trusting God brings, there will be turbulent times indeed.

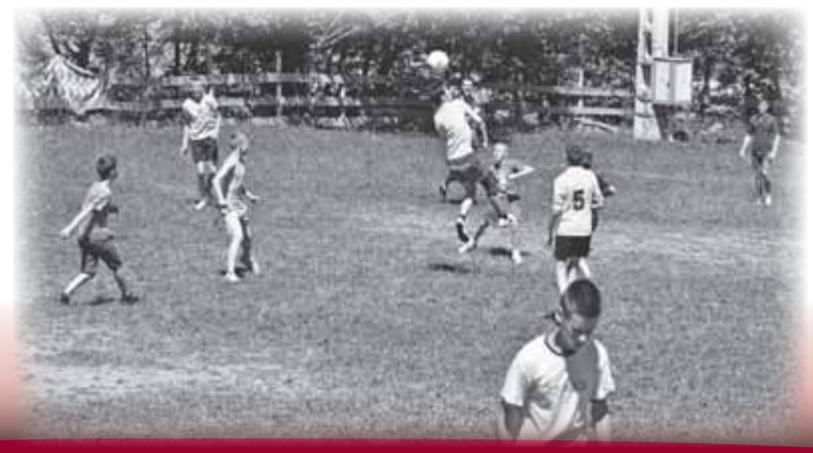
We press on toward the prize, we continue in doing good, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for standing with us and helping in whatever way the Lord might lead. One day you will know the full extent of what you helped accomplish, as well as receive your rightful reward for every sacrifice.

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.



“Few things are able to take my mind off the ugliness of today’s world like seeing children at play.”



Yes, We Have

Multiples

As another school year draws near I can only imagine the hustle and bustle of our staff at the orphanage in Botosani. In countries like Romania, along with all the school supplies and books needed, schools require each child to contribute to the class fund and orphans are not exempt. The money isn't used for field trips as one might think, but for fixing the windows before the winter chill creeps in or adding a fresh coat of paint to the chipping, moldy walls.

The expenses that are attached to the beginning of the school year can break any family's budget, especially a family as large as ours.

We stock up on what we can, if finances are available, two or three seasons in advance, as any frugal person does, when everything is on clearance. This past Spring my wife and I received a call from a friend informing us of a clearance event at a local children's outlet store. We quickly made our way there and started filling bags with all the winter items available, many at 50 cents a piece. Twenty large bags later, we made our way to the register. Our checkout process was around 45 minutes and we were holding up over 20 people, some more patient than others. As we were waiting for the salesperson to override the price of each item, a little girl, that was a twin and shopping with her mother, leans over and says, "Mom, I think they have multiples".

Yes, we have multiples. We desire that our large family lacks nothing. We continue to trust God for His provision, for this school year, as well as all those to come. We want our children to be an example in everything and we spare no effort in trying to build them the best environment we can. Thank you for keeping our "multiples" in your prayers this new school year!

Daniel Boldea

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If you or your fellowship would like to invite a group or a member of the Hand of Help team to come and share at your event, we would love to join you in your vision and evangelistic efforts. From worship, testimonies, prayer or missions, it's our desire to edify and encourage the Church.

Please contact our office at 1-866-371-7636 for more information or to secure a date.

Dear

Brethren,

Jeremiah 51:33, "For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor when it is time to thresh her; Yet a little while and the time of her harvest will come.'"

The church is dying. For far too long it has been on life support but even with the artificial devices pumping air into its lungs, it is beginning to look and smell like the ambulatory corpse it has become. You can't hide decomposition for too long. You can spray paint it, coat it in makeup, pour gallons of perfume over it, but there will always be that lingering smell of something not quite right, not quite healthy, and not quite living.

We talked ourselves into believing compromise was a viable option and that is where we stepped off the path. The more compromises we allowed in our lives, in our families, in our churches and in our pulpits, the more the world seemed to love us and embrace us and fawn over us. We reveled in the world's fawning. We reveled in the world's acceptance, disinterested and indifferent as to whether or not God was likewise accepting of us.

We preferred the world over the God we purported to serve, and that was mistake number two.

The third mistake we made, a mistake which came on the heels of the first and second, is believing that once compromise with sin and the world began, it could somehow be stopped.

We believed the lies of men when they assured us compromise was like a controlled burn rather than the raging wildfire it is. Some saw the train wreck coming. They tried to pump the breaks and sound the alarm, but it was already too late, and the train and its passengers continued to barrel toward the inevitable.

I hear the words of respected and even revered men in our day and age and I don't know whether to laugh or to cry. The thought that we can dictate terms to God and have Him bend His will to suit our own seems to have enveloped young and old alike, from every denomination, and every corner of the earth. We think that if we throw a big enough tantrum, if we throw a big enough hissy fit, then God will go back on His word and no longer call sin what it is.

It is our compromises that have weakened us. It is our compromises that have brought us to the edge of the abyss, because with every compromise we made we took yet another step farther from truth and the will of God.

One can either journey toward the light or the darkness. One can either choose life or choose death. One can either submit to the authority and will of God in all things or cherry pick the things they

... Continued on back

Dear

Brethren, continued...

like and fashion for themselves an idol they call their god. Since such individuals are the creators of their own god, they can and oftentimes do decide what their god is perfectly fine with, and what their god finds offensive, sinful or abominable.

Because of our fallen state, because of the compromise coursing through our veins, because it has been so long since we've contemplated the very notion of obedience and submission that we've forgotten what they mean, we comfort each other with the illusion that if enough of us deem something as lawful and just, God will have no choice but to acquiesce.

God will not be bullied, pressured, or harassed into changing His will, especially when that which is asked of Him contradicts His very nature, a nature rooted in holiness and righteousness.

It isn't one large wound that has become the death of us, it is a thousand little ones. A thousand little compromises causing us to bleed out and grow anemic, and wandering about in a daze asking ourselves where it all went wrong.

The sifting is upon us. Soon, sooner than some would like to believe, brother will turn against brother, mother against daughter, and father against son, because the Word of God has a way of coming to pass when we least expect it.

The shaking must come, the separation must take place, because the tares are choking out the wheat, and soon there will be no life left to speak of. One thing few realize is that the wheat and the tares were growing in the same field, side by side, in the same soil.

It's not the world that's choking off the church, it is the pretend Christians within the church, the compromised, duplicitous, hypocritical, self-serving souls paying God lip service who are choking off the true believers at the great glee and merriment of the world and the devil alike.

1 Peter 4:17, "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.

