



**Hand of Help**  
Ministries

# Hand of **HELP**

*The Truth for Today*



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Founder

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## *Those We Serve*



# No Longer

We have known the Damian family for some time now. A few years ago their youngest, Sara, was diagnosed with a heart problem, namely a hole in her heart, and with your help and God's guidance, we were able to send her to some of the most renowned surgeons in Romania to fix her broken heart and give her a chance at growing up.



One of the most pleasant surprises in visiting the Damian family was seeing Sara again, now eight years old, and ready to begin first grade. There is an indescribable sense of fulfillment when you see the outcome of labors long forgotten smiling up at you and telling you how she's excited to go to school. This

was a little girl who three years ago had a difficult time breathing if she sat up, and a smile on her lips was a rare thing indeed.

Life has not been easy for the Damian family throughout the years, as they've never had a home to call their own, moving from place to place, at the mercy of kind souls, or renting a room or two as finances permitted. Although they number seven in total, Dumitru and Camelia Damian along with their five children currently live in one room of a home they are caretaking, and the owner has informed them that they will have to move out before winter as he is selling the property.



Some time ago, with your help and God's grace, we were able to purchase a piece of land for the Damian family, and as Dumitru and his two eldest sons

worked odd jobs, they saved, and began building a small home on the land we purchased for them.

Because jobs are hard to come by, and day laborers are no longer sought out as they once were, the building of the Damian family's home has stalled, and without some help, their dream of being nomads no longer will remain just that, a dream.

'We put every bit of energy and money we had into this dream of ours. I would do any kind of work, but no one is hiring, and not just here, but in other countries in Europe as well', brother Dumitru said with a sorrowful look on his face. 'It used to be you could take a bus to Italy, or Spain, and find a job within the week. Nowadays, they don't want you in their country. Not enough jobs for their own people anymore.'



The Damians are a hard working family who isn't looking for anything other than an opportunity to work, and earn their daily bread with the sweat of their brow. The global economy being what it is, earning one's daily bread is becoming more difficult than ever before, and things don't seem to be



improving, at least in Europe, and specifically the nations where one could travel to for work. From Greece, to Spain, to Italy, to Portugal every nation that once hired laborers from Eastern European countries have ground to an economic standstill.

They need about \$5000 to finish their home, and seeing as in a few months' time they will be out on the street, we want to help them complete it before they are forced to leave their current residence.

We want to be able to help this family finish building their home, and we ask that you join with us in prayer for this project to reach a good end.

In His Grace,  
*Hand of Help Staff*



## Practical

# Needs

We are confronted with a wide array of needs on a daily basis. Whether by telephone, or showing up in person, the stories we hear are heartbreaking, but knowing our own limitations, we understand we can't help everyone.

The first thing we do after being confronted with a need is to assess whether or not it is a practical one. If someone's roof is leaking and they need to repair it before the autumn rains come, that is a practical and immediate need. If someone needs to fix their nose because they don't like the way it looks, yet it poses no threat to their health, then that is not a practical need and we tell the person as such.

For the individual in question their personal need is always a priority to them, but it does not make it so when compared with other needs, perhaps more immediate and more urgent than their own. Most people come to understand this when we tell them of other families or individuals we are helping with either a cow, a pig, firewood for the winter, and a myriad of other things that are not only practical, but also necessary.

The need of the Chiriac family is a practical one. Gheorghe and Rebeca have seven beautiful, healthy children, the youngest being just two weeks old and coming into the world at an astounding eleven pounds, and they need to finish the home they started building some years ago. Currently they are living in a one room ancestral home passed down to Gheorghe from his grandparents, a home which has seen better days, and would not pass safety inspection even if the inspector gave it a cursory glance.

When we pulled up to the Chiriac home, Gheorghe was busy working on their new abode, with his sons busily trying to mimic their father in what he was doing. The home is coming along, and as a means of earning some income Gheorghe built a greenhouse in his yard which produces tomatoes and cucumbers.

As Gheorghe put it while we were talking later on that day, 'I'm going to have to sell allot of tomatoes to finish building this home, but tomatoes I will sell until it's done.'

One of the reasons we want to help the Chiriac family finish their home before the onset of winter is the dilapidated state of the home they are currently living in. Although Gheorghe has done consistent maintenance on it reinforcing a wall, patching up the roof, and consolidating the foundation, it is uncertain whether or not the home will make it through a heavy winter.

Every little bit helps, and the few cents Gheorghe makes on a kilogram of tomatoes and cucumbers is proof positive of this.

Please remember the Chiriac family in your prayers, as well as all the others whose need is both practical and immediate. We labor knowing it is not in vain, with the full assurance that our Father in heaven sees and remembers every kindness.

In Christ,

*Pastor Michael Boldea Sr*





# Those Who



# We Serve



## The Fleeting Days of

# Summer

As all good things eventually must, summer is drawing to an end, and while the children at the Hand of Help orphanage are trying to make every moment count, enjoying the last vestiges of good weather and carefree days, the staff is busy making preparations for the beginning of the new school year, and all that getting eighty plus children ready for school entails.

It is not an easy task, and although the children still spend most of their days playing outdoors, they too know that soon they will have to get back to a schedule of waking up in the morning, getting ready for school, and doing the dreaded homework only a handful of them truly enjoy.

Along with getting the children's school uniforms cleaned, ironed, and ready to wear, we've also been doing some maintenance and upkeep on the orphanage itself. Although it might not seem like it, we've been operating for sixteen years now, and certain signs of wear are starting to show. One thing we've learned over the years is that if you don't do preventive maintenance, eventually you will have a large problem on your hands, one that will likely come at the most inopportune moment. Since there were a couple leaks in the roof of the boiler room, some rooms that needed to be painted, and some furniture in need of a bit of restoration, we decided to do all these things before the fall rains came upon us, while the sun was still shining and we could still claim summer if only for a little while.

The work is never done here. There is always something to do, whether stock the pantry with potatoes and vegetables for the winter, or make certain all the children got their eyes checked; there is a continual ebb and flow that one must experience in order to understand.

We are ever thankful to God our Father for an uneventful summer, and we pray that the fall and the coming winter will be as uneventful. Drama is the last thing you need or want when you're tending to over eighty children, and though some might not see the joy in it, we are exceedingly joyful for this grace.

During the summer the few children who have relatives or family get to go and visit if they so wish. While we know it's a good thing for them to keep in contact with their family, and have that familial bond, we are also worried about them as we know we cannot protect them when they are gone as we could if they had remained at the orphanage. Thankfully, all the children that went to be with family over the summer have returned, and to the last they are unharmed, healthy, and seemingly well fed.



Summer is all but gone, and soon we enter into the difficult time of year where we will surely have to deal with sniffles, colds, lost umbrellas and muddy shoes, but this is what we live for and we are ever thankful to God and to you for allowing us the privilege of caring for these children and raising them in the fear of the Lord.

Without you, we could not do what we do, and though insufficient as it might seem, our thanks and prayers are all we have to offer in return. May the God of heaven keep you, protect you, guide you and comfort you, and may you one day know the joy you help bring to the lives this ministry touches.

In His Grace,  
*Hand of Help Staff*



# Faces



Somehow it never gets old. I can walk into the dining hall of the Hand of Help orphanage a dozen times, and every time I see a new face it seems almost surreal. I had been in America for the previous few months, so when I walked into the orphanage and saw no less than five new faces I thought I was mistaken, or had somehow forgotten the faces I was looking at.

It is not unusual to see one or two new children with every visit, but this time there were five, and unless my eyes were playing tricks on me there was even a pair of twin girls sitting at one of the tables enjoying some sliced apples.

I walked through the hall returning the greetings from the children who already knew me, then made a beeline for one of the tutors and in a hushed tone asked her if the five girls were new, or if I'd somehow missed them on my last trip.

'No, they're new, you're not mistaken. Three are siblings, and the other two, well, they're twins.'

And so, it is my sincere pleasure to introduce you to the five new members of the Hand of Help family, beginning with Cornelia Adriana, Alicia, and Biatrisa Onofrei, three sisters who though mild mannered, highly intelligent, and well behaved could not find a suitable home with either their mother, or their father.

Whenever parents lose their way, it's always the children who suffer, and this case was no exception. After the father began to be physically abusive, the mother filed for divorce, and before the papers were signed, the mother found someone else who didn't like the idea of having three children. As such, the mother abandoned the girls, the father was out of the country, and until we were contacted, for a little while the girls lived with their grandmother.

Both the mother and the father have given up their parental rights, not wanting to care for their daughters any longer, and after filling out the requisite paperwork, the girls came to be permanent additions to the Hand of Help family.

While for some children it is difficult adjusting to the large family atmosphere, Cornelia Adriana, Alicia, and Biatrisa took to having eighty some new brothers and sisters swimmingly.

Andreea Corina and Catalina Georgiana Merticaru are the other two additions to the Hand of Help family, and they are twin sisters. The girls are seven years old and full of joy, despite the hardships they faced at such a fragile age.

Four years ago their mother passed away of lupus, and ever since they've been bounced around from family member to family member, including their grandparents, finally ending up with their father and his new concubine. As the father had to leave the country to look for work he left the twins in the care of his concubine who began abusing them physically, and neglecting their most basic of needs.

Upon a routine control, the Child Protection Agency discovered the conditions the Merticaru twins were living in, and they contacted us to see if we would be willing to take the girls in, since their grandparents refused to give them shelter.

From the moment they walked through our doors you could see both Andreea and Catalina share a look and smile at each other in the knowing way only siblings can. They knew they were safe, they knew they were loved, they knew they were home.

With love in Christ,  
*Michael Boldea*

# Truths

**2 Chronicles 15:1-2, “Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: ‘Hear me Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.’”**

Some things men forget with time. Other things men choose to forget, while others still, men want to forget. Among the things men want and choose to forget, it seems uncomfortable truths found within the pages of Scripture are high on the list, and some today are going out of their way to discredit or otherwise give themselves license to ignore the Word of God because it does not sit well with their doctrine or preconceived notions about the God of the Bible.

Because we have successfully redefined God in our day and age, and stripped Him of His sovereignty, glory, omnipotence, righteousness, and justice, we can make God into whatever we want Him to be, and most often we want Him to be a quiet, obedient, and malleable soul sitting in the corner just grateful for the company, appreciatively accepting a morsel of food or a glass of water whenever we remember to feed Him.

We have come to think so highly of ourselves, to esteem ourselves to such an extent that we view spending any sort of time with God as a favor we bestow upon Him, as some great grace with which we present Him, and one He ought to be eternally grateful for. Because we esteem ourselves so highly we think it only fair, and in fact feel entitled to, having every prayer answered, even though most often our prayers have to do with the material rather than the spiritual.

## Dear Brethren,

**Matthew 26:40-41, “Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, ‘What, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’”**

Some have said knowledge is the burden of the soul. They stipulate, and passionately so, that knowledge is a curse, therefore no knowledge of what the future holds for us as God’s creation was given because God’s love for mankind would not allow Him to encumber us so.

The more prophetic pieces fall into place and the more the end times puzzle takes shape, the more vociferous those who revel in their ignorance become as to how it is unthinkable and in their minds impossible for us to know what the future holds.

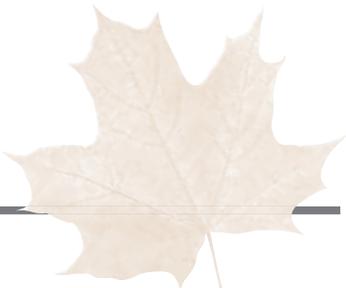
Not only are such individuals ignorant, they glory in their ignorance because they believe their ignorance will exempt them from the responsibilities which come with the aforementioned knowledge.

Men have always gone to great lengths to skirt accountability, and to this day they continue to do so, even going so far as denying what they see with their own eyes.

It’s not as though the disciples didn’t know the struggle Christ was facing at the time. It’s not as though He did not tell them that His soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death, or ask them explicitly to watch with Him.

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# Dear Brethren, *(continued)*



Christ had done this. He had explained the circumstances to His disciples, had asked them to watch with Him, and yet, when He returned he found them asleep.

We have also been told by Christ, and explicitly so, what to expect during these last days, and what the landscape will look like. When He returns will He likewise find us asleep?

The struggle, the burden, the hardship isn't the knowing, it is not knowledge itself, but battling against the weakness of the flesh and remaining in a state of watchfulness and prayerfulness until Christ returns.

We know it won't be long. We know His return is closer today than it was yesterday, and it will be closer tomorrow than it was today. When He returns He expects to find us awake, watchful, and prayerful, because it is what He asked of us, and it is in obedience that we receive our reward.

Watching and praying are not optional. We cannot choose, based on how busy we are, or how hectic our schedule, whether we will be watchful and prayerful on a given day, or during a given time period.

As children of God, as those redeemed, saved, and sanctified, we must understand the importance of being watchful and prayerful, and understand that slumber and the weakness of the flesh are not the only enemies we must contend with, but so are distractions and misplaced loyalties.

If the enemy can't cause us to slumber, if the flesh cannot cause us to enter into temptation, the devil will settle for keeping us distracted, and keeping us from praying and being watchful for those things we ought to be watchful for.

Another tool the enemy has in his arsenal is to make us passionate and loyal toward something other than Christ Jesus our Lord and King. It matters not what that thing is, whether a state, a nation, a denomination or an individual, if our loyalties can be shifted from Jesus toward something else, the enemy has won the battle, and if the situation is not remedied and we do not shift our loyalty back to Christ, he will eventually win the war. This is one of the reasons the enemy has had such an easy time running roughshod over the household of faith. Our loyalties were misplaced, and rather than stand for the truth of Christ, we chose to defend our political party, our interests, or other things not pertaining to Jesus.

It matters not what it is you are doing. If you are not watching and praying, then you are not doing what you ought to be doing, and when Christ returns, He will rebuke you just as He rebuked Peter and the rest of the disciples.

We can justify our absence of prayerfulness and watchfulness to ourselves, we can tell ourselves what we are doing is more important, more necessary, more impacting on the surrounding community, or even the nation, but if our own house isn't in order, if our own armor isn't on, if our own foundation isn't stable, do we really have any business trying to tidy up our neighbor's home?

A wise man knows to put first things first and watching and praying must be at the top of the list of what each of us ought to be doing today. My prayer for you today is that you understand the urgency of the hour, and hide yourself with God in that secret place, learning to hear His voice for yourself, and to be guided by Him in all things.

With love in Christ,  
*Michael Boldea Jr.*