

# Hand of HELP

*The Truth for Today*



Dumitru Duduman  
Founder



Hand of Help  
Ministries

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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## *Defender of Widows and Orphans*

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

There are instances in life wherein any word uttered, no matter how comforting or encouraging we might desire it to be, seems as nothing more than a flimsy toy breastplate trying to confront the blustering, fearsome attack of reality. Our visitors remained silent at the sight of Ivancov family. In reality there was nothing they could say. Any attempts to articulate a word of sympathy or some comfort, would have been scattered afar by the heavy winds of desperation howling through this home.



Ivancov Ilenuta is a mother of seven...and a widow. Samuel (10), Elisa (8), David (7), Tabita (5), Abel (4), Cornel (3) and Raluca (3 months) had to witness the insurmountable sufferings of their father, brother Radu. Fifteen years ago, when brother Radu decided to follow Jesus, he was the first in his family to become a bondservant of Christ. Soon afterwards, his unwavering commitment to Jesus became the means by which the destinies of those around him changed as well. It was not an overnight occurrence, but with time, and a focused

determination, Radu planted the words of truth in the hearts of all he came in contact with. What greater joy than to bring God's salvation to the knowledge of our dear ones! When he married sister Ilenuta 12 years ago, they both set their hearts upon obeying the Savior in all their thoughts and actions. And then cancer came. From

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the onset it was brutal and evolved quickly. Nothing stopped the rampant evolution of his sickness and when the family was left with no income, they had to move in with relatives in the village.

Brother Radu knew he was going "home"...he called his pastors, prayed with them, sang hymns of worship and gratitude to God, and chose to spend his last hours in conversation with his wife and each of his children, entrusting each of them in God's mighty arms and accepting His will in its entirety. I will never be able to imagine the hurt in a father's heart as he is trying to say good bye to his family. He could not promise that he would be there for them; he could not gently caress their hands, dreaming of their wedding day or of his first grandson or granddaughter. He could not assure his wife that he will be next to her for good or for bad. But he asked our Lord to do all of these things for him.

Brother Radu died at the age of 37. Sister Ileanuta and her children are praying to be able to remodel an old house where they could all move and stay together. The Ivancov family has trusted God in greater measure than many, and has decided to see every hardship and trial as a future comfort and reward. It was in those dark moments of losing their pillar, brother Radu, that everything was upended and the world as they knew it and as they hoped it would be, evaporated like mist. In those moments their faith and trust in God was tested and they had to overcome. Please join us in prayer as we ask our Lord to comfort the Ivancovs. Although they only know in part, sister Ileanuta has decided to trust God fully. They know that there is strength in Him, there is power in His presence, there is Peace in His words, and there is a comfort that no human can give in His arms. No matter how exhausted, how hurt, how bruised they might be, they know that they are homeward bound as well.

"A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families (...)" " (...)Thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor." Psalm 68:5-6; 10

In Him,  
Alexandra Boldea

# A Family in Need



Being a pastor is often times a thankless job. It is not something one chooses, it is something they are chosen for. It is a calling, a passion, something that cannot be quenched by circumstance or hardship, by rejection or lack.

Some cases impact me more than others, even though all of them touch my heart to one degree or another. Being a pastor myself, it is easy to sympathize, and even feel a kinship with Pastor Ionel Cristea and his current struggle, because like me, he was called to shepherd the household of faith in the twilight of his life, and was taken by complete surprise when the Lord called him. Brother Cristea pastors a small country church in the village of Buda, which is in located in Suceava County.

Although many in the West automatically imagine private jets, limousines, and excess filled lifestyles when they hear the word 'pastor', the reality of many a shepherd, especially in countries such as Romania, is that they live lives of poverty, subsisting by faith, wherein if the Lord does not provide, they are simply adrift in a sea of desperation with no one to turn to, and nothing to cling to.



The Cristea family is a numerous one, having a total of ten children, and for the past year or so they have endured trial after trial. It began with their daughter Crina, currently 18, who had an eye infection which grew progressively worse, and after many unsuccessful surgeries, she ended up losing her eye. Having had their savings depleted by the surgeries, the family was forced to sell their cow to pay off the remaining debt, only to have their roof cave in during a particularly violent storm this fall. Subsequently, one wall and their stove also had to be demolished, as they were no longer safe, and were likely to crumble in on themselves at any moment.

Just as deep calls unto deep, so too, it seems, trial calls unto trial, and there is nothing more exhausting than being plunged back under the waves of desperation just as you find yourself with your head above water after long and long.

Why the Lord allows such things is a mystery that will one day be revealed to us when we stand in His presence for all eternity, but for now there is a real and present need this family is facing that we would like to meet if we are able.

The most pressing need at this point is the roof repair, as winter is well on its way, and the family will likely not be able to weather it without it being fixed. Since we have already purchased the Cristea family a replacement cow, the second most pressing need is a hectare of land where the cow can graze, and where the family can plant a vegetable garden.

As I said, it is easy to put myself in Pastor Cristea's shoes, and understand the anguish he is currently enduring. If you are able to, please help with this project as I know it will be greatly appreciated.

It is a reassuring thing to know that we can rely on the family of God during our seasons of distress, as is the knowledge that our heavenly Father will move upon hearts and minds and make a way when there seems to be none.

In Christ,  
Pastor Michael Boldea Sr.





# Winter is fast approaching!



cow it was that God provided. It was 7 months pregnant so they have the beginning of a small herd for future income.

We visited a home where they told us their prayer is that we (Hand of Help) will not grow tired in the work of reaching out to the poor and hurting. They know that the task is great. While we were at that house we were told about two families. One just lost the husband/father to cancer, leaving the mother and 7 children, and the other just lost the wife/mother to a heart attack, leaving the father and 16 children, the youngest only being two months old. New needs are arising all the time.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry both in prayer and financially. It is a team effort and Praise be to God this team is His team and He has chosen us to be on it. Every one of us is an integral part of what He is doing here in Romania.

*Dave, Cheryl, and Hosanna Edman  
Kalispell, Montana*

For the first time we have seen snow here in Romania in October and the temperature has already dropped to 24 degrees F at night. Our days are spent giving out food, clothing, blankets, firewood and large bags of potatoes. It's amazing how many families will say something like, "God must have told you to come to my house. I have been crying out for help and your coming is perfect timing." God often is arranging the answers to our prayers far sooner than we see them.

Very few of the homes we visit have enough firewood to heat their homes for the winter. Their homes are cold and they are dressed in layers of clothing to keep themselves warm. Many of the widows are still able to work in their gardens but getting firewood is beyond their ability. We could put a lot of brothers to work by providing monies for firewood and keep a lot of widows warm in the process. A double blessing!

Hand of Help was feeling led by God to buy a cow for the Tisoveanu family. When we arrived and told them to be looking for a cow to purchase. The wife, Brandusa, lit up and told us that the night before she had had a dream that she was returning from the fields with a cow. What a beautiful huge



# December's Children of the Month



three brothers have grown up to be fine young men, studying to have a chance at a proper job and believing that great things can happen to those who lay their hearts down to the feet of our only God and Savior.

Alexandru Olariu was born on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1997. Along with his two brothers, George (born April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1999) and Constantin (born March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003), he became a part of the Hand of Help family in 2007.

At the age of only 10, Alexandru appeared to have suffered more than anyone would possibly conceive. His face was betraying an early habitualness to suffering, his eyes were barely looking up, his hands were deeply calloused while his heart was aching knowing that his mother and his older three siblings decided to leave him, Constantin and George to their father's care...a man lacking any self-control, loving alcohol more than his own family, showing no remorse each night when his children had to carry him home from bars or ditches. His younger brothers were clinging to Alexandru for the ounce of security that he could bring into their lives.

Each night our three brothers were going to bed hoping that the next day a miracle would happen. And once they stepped into our center, they regained hope in the future. Alex soon understood that he needs to fight and that God can change the course of his life. Seven years went by and the

Two years ago, Alexandru and his brothers received the news of their father's death. He was found alone in a deserted house, with no windows or doors, no electricity, no heat... but with a bottle of alcohol next to him. Ever since their father died, the brothers have grown even closer to each other than ever before and their deepest desire is to keep their remaining small family united. They are all hard working and appreciate every encouragement that we, at Hand of Help, embrace them with. They believe in themselves because we all believe in them.

Alexandru will be 18 years old next spring and as he ends his high school studies, we pray that we will be able to help him start his new stage of life, on his own. He loves agriculture and our desire is to help him remodel his father's house, buy a few animals that would allow him to earn a steady income and continue to be an example of how God can truly change the course of one's life.

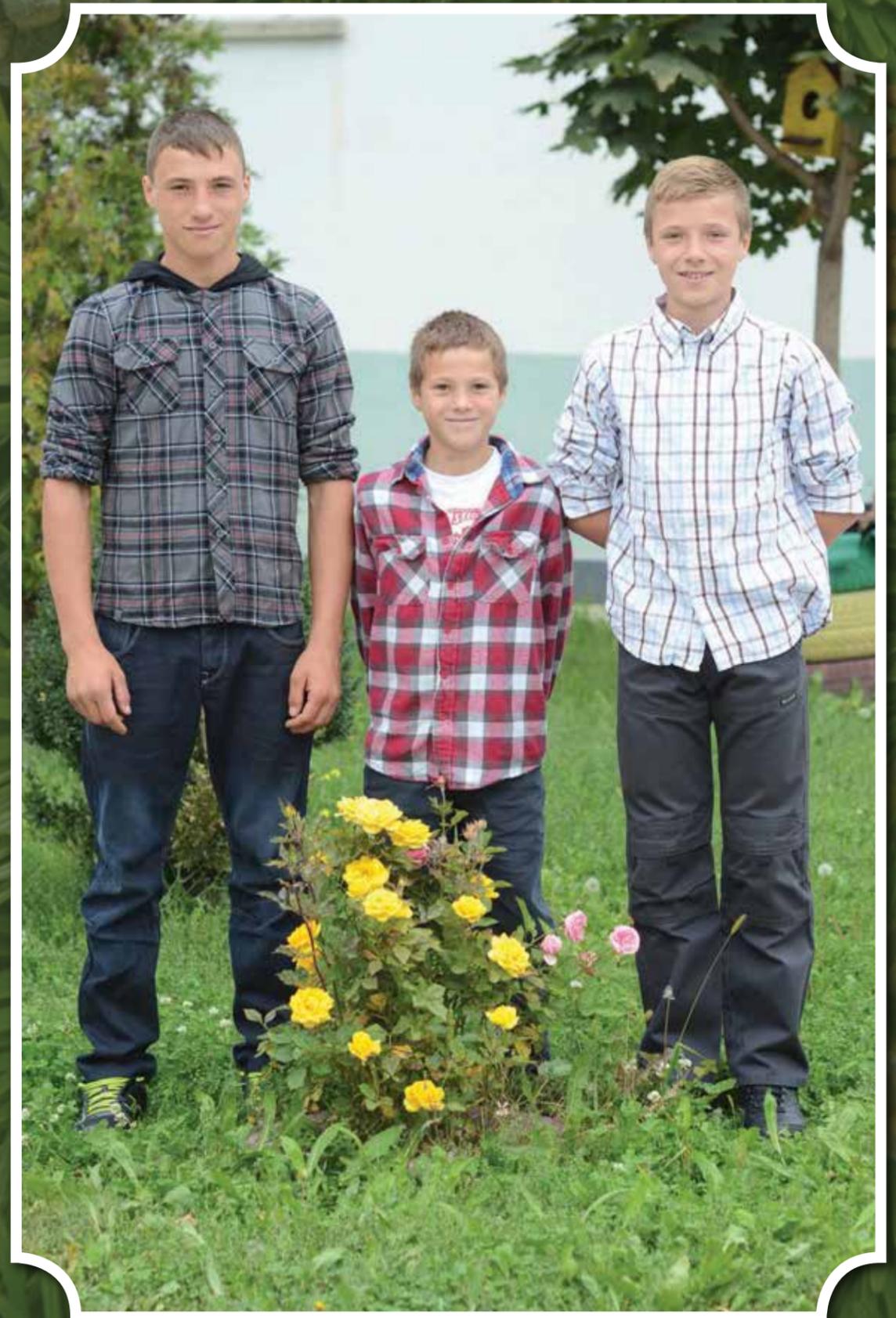
George is currently in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at a high school majoring in Electronics.

He truly loves what he is doing and his coordinating teacher always encourages him during his practical courses. George is also trying to learn as much as possible from our center's electrician and spends much of his free time observing him performing various work tasks.

Constantin, the youngest of the brothers is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He is a very shy young boy and every time vacation time comes, he is deeply hurt that he cannot spend some time with his family. His mother is abroad, his grandmother refuses to accept him in her life. It is a brutal reality that he has to face every day of his life, knowing that no relative is there for him.

He keeps himself busy by repairing different things around our center. He started loving electronics as soon as his brother grew so passionate himself. He is also going to weekly classes in electronics and hopes to improve in his studies daily.

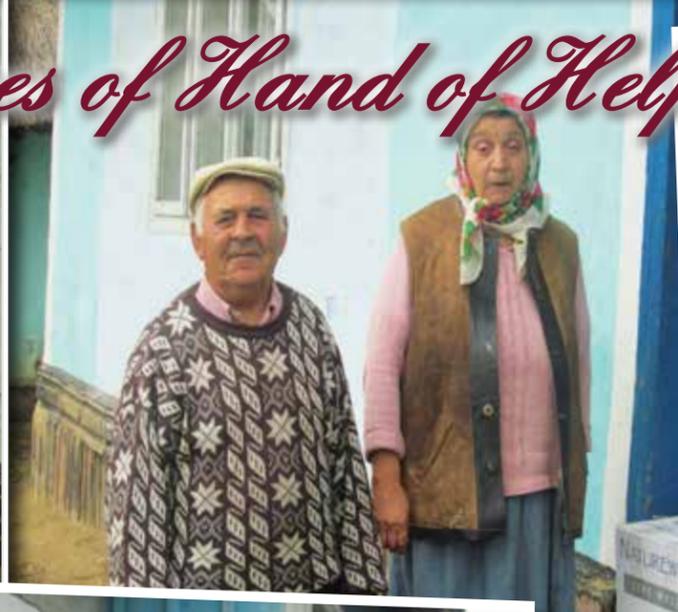
Join us in prayer as we ask our Lord to protect these three brothers and lead them in His perfect will. There is hope in Him, there is comfort in Him and there is peace beyond any human understanding in Him as well as a future that He can provide for, when there is no other way.



*The Many Faces of Hand of Help*



*The Many Faces of Hand of Help*



# Dear Brethren,



**Isaiah 9:6-7, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

*'For unto us a child is born!'* But children are born every minute, throughout the world, as I am certain children were born two thousand years ago, and though not many were born in a manger, if there were nothing more special than this fact about the child, do you honestly think His name would still be remembered two thousand years later?

Would the name Jesus have survived if He were not everything He claimed to be later on in His life? Would the name Jesus have survived if He were not divine?

How many more children born on the same day as the Christ, in Bethlehem do you know of? How many of their exploits, words, and memories have survived? How many of their lives have been told, and retold by generation upon generation? The very fact that His name lives on, and wise men still seek Him to this day, proves the uniqueness of Jesus, the Son of God whom the angels heralded on that great day that changed the world, and began the process of reconciliation between man and God.

The enemy isn't trying to do away with the name Jesus because he's got nothing better to do, or because his previous plans fell through, it is because he knows the power that resides in Jesus' name. He knows the majesty that is the Christ, and ever since that first cry rang out in that manger long ago, he has been intent on minimizing, diminishing, and if at all possible, doing away with the name Jesus altogether.

The birth of Christ was the birth of hope for mankind. Likewise the birth of Christ was the beginning of the end of the enemy's dominion. We greatly rejoice in the knowledge of our Savior's birth, in the knowledge that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to redeem those who believe.

We are not beaten, we are not defeated, even though the enemy would love to have us think it is so, and it is not because of our own acumen, ability, or wherewithal, it is because one day, long ago, a child was born, who was unlike any other child born in the history of mankind up to that point, or since.

This season is not about presents, or bearded fellows in red suits, it is not about red kettles and men ringing bells, nor is it about discounts on useless stuff we don't need in the first place. This season is about the hope that the birth of Christ has ignited in our hearts, and the knowledge that though millennia have passed, His name lives on, for He was not merely a child like any other, but the Prince of Peace, and Mighty God incarnate.

May you be blessed, may joy abound in your life, and may hope overflow in your heart at the knowledge of the loving kindness our Father has shown in sending us His Son.

**Psalm 62:5-8, "My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah"**

With love in Christ,  
Michael Boldea Jr.