



Hand of **HELP**



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Founder

The Truth for Today

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*With What Little
They Have*



With What

Little They Have

Many in our day and age have been conditioned to believe that only out of abundance can they do something noble, selfless and charitable. Sadly, many even within the household of faith consider the needs of others only when their own cup runneth over and they have need of nothing.

Shortly after returning to Romania I, along with my father and my brother Sergiu, took a trip to the senior care facility in Vladeni, Podeni to drop off some blankets, some packages with oranges, chocolates, bananas and other goodies the residents don't usually get, and just spend some time with the staff and the seniors there.

It was not a new experience. We'd been there before a handful of times throughout the years, but this was the first time I got to sit down with the director of the facility and have a conversation. The other times, we were either on our way to somewhere else, and didn't have the time to sit down and really talk or he was not on the grounds on that particular day.

He knows what we do well enough, in fact the current director of that facility used to work for the Hand of Help orphanage when my mother was alive, then moved away because he and his wife had inherited a home in a different city. As the conversation moved from the hardships of keeping a facility such as theirs and ours open, and how God's hand is visible throughout whether in great or small things, we finally settled on talking about budgets and about meeting budgets every month.

Yes, I know, fascinating conversation, but as boring as numbers are to most, myself included, the conversation turned out to be very enlightening. The Vladeni, Podeni senior facility cares for 30 seniors, they have eight people on staff, and their monthly budget is \$5175.

No, you did not read that wrong. Their budget is just a tad over five thousand dollars per month, what even run-of-the-mill televangelists likely pay in hangar facilities to house their private jets or in salary their indoor pool skimmer. Of that money, a large portion goes to buy diapers of all things, and by the time the last few days of each month roll around, they are running on empty.

When I asked how they could possibly make it on such a shoestring budget, Verginel just shrugged his shoulders, and said, 'We make do.' 'If your heart is in the right place, and you're doing what you're doing for the right reasons, it's amazing how far you can stretch a few lei. My wife and I had good examples growing up, we saw selfless people doing selfless things all the time, and I guess it rubbed off,' he said with a smile.

**VLADENI, PODENI
SENIOR FACILITY:**

30
residents

8
staff members

\$5175
monthly budget

It's easy to find excuses for not doing more. Believe me, I've been there. There have been times when I could rattle off a hundred different excuses for not doing something, but then all those excuses would be outweighed by the overriding truth that I was supposed to be doing that thing, it was my duty to

With what little they have the Vladeni, Podeni senior hospice continues to do its work. I gave my word that we would try and help with the purchase of some diapers if at all possible and if the Lord lays it on your heart to help in this area, you already know, given their budget, that every little bit helps.

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.



do it, and I knew in my heart not doing it would amount to disobedience on my part.

I believe we have already entered a season wherein God will ask many of us to do things outside of our comfort zone. Whether it's witnessing to the lost, or going on a missions trip, or finding a way to help the needy, or one of a thousand different things, I believe God is beginning to stretch us, grow us, and nudge us toward believing Him for greater and greater manifestations of His will and power in our lives.

Sometimes in His gracious love, God allows us to run across people like Verginel, to remind us that it's trusting in Him, and not the provisions with which He blesses us that will carry us through. In God's economy it's not the amount that gives us peace; it is knowing that God will make a way for us with the little that He provides.

Sometimes it doesn't take an army to take a city, or a large ministry to make a difference. Sometimes all it takes is the willingness to be the one to stand and trust and believe that God will carry you through.

Come and See...

We are continuing to host groups to Romania for the foreseeable future. If you or someone you know would like to visit the orphanage and outreach in Botosani, please contact Daniel Boldea at daniel@handofhelp.com for more information.



Remains



It is a difficult task to maintain a spiritual constant. The task becomes all the more so when we are pressed down, tested, tried, and sifted, and when we barely catch our breath before the next wave of hardship drags us into the deep. It is difficult, but not impossible, and those who have learned to trust their Father implicitly carry on even when others would have long given up hope.

It has been many years since I've known sister Felicia. The first time I met her, we had just purchased the old home and the land upon which the church in Lisna is now built. Back then

our sponsors called it the mushroom church, because it had an abundance of mushrooms growing in the front yard.

After the church was built and we had the dedication, sister Felicia was designated as the person in charge of upkeep from the beginning. Whether cleaning, keeping the fire stoked between services, or any other need that might arise, sister Felicia was always faithful, a servant in every respect, and throughout the years she was diligent in her duties and carried them out in an exemplary fashion.

This is why I felt a special kind of hurt when Pastor Ghiocel called me one early morning and told me that sister Felicia's house had burned to the ground. Her husband Vasile earns his living as a handyman, fixing everything from refrigerators to washing machines. Having cut some sheet metal with an electric saw, Vasile did not notice the sparks that had flown onto some plastic, and though they did not ignite immediately, around 9 pm there was a full blow fire that engulfed the entire home.

By the time the fire department arrived on the scene, the house was all but gone, along with all of the Rosca family's earthly possessions.



The third day after the fire I went to meet with sister Felicia, and to my surprise she seemed unchanged, smiling as always, as though her home had not just been burned to ash less than a week prior.

When I asked her how she was holding up, she said, 'Usually when something bad happens to somebody, they say 'at least I have my health,' but with the heart problems that I have, I can't even say that. What I can say is I have God, and there is nothing more I need.'

With that, her smile broadened even more, and I couldn't help but smile along with her.

'I've been around long enough to know that there are no accidents in this life, and knowing that puts my heart at peace. God knows why, I have to trust Him, and that says it all. I know that when we're done building, the new house will look better than the old one, Lord willing, but we're still a ways away before that happens.'

Because we are children of God, faith remains with us and in us, when hope has long since vanished from the heart of the godless. Through eyes of faith we see the victory God has already provided, not the bruising we have presently received. We see the mountaintop while still in the valley because our trust is in the God who changes not, who keeps His word, and keeps His beloved throughout their days.

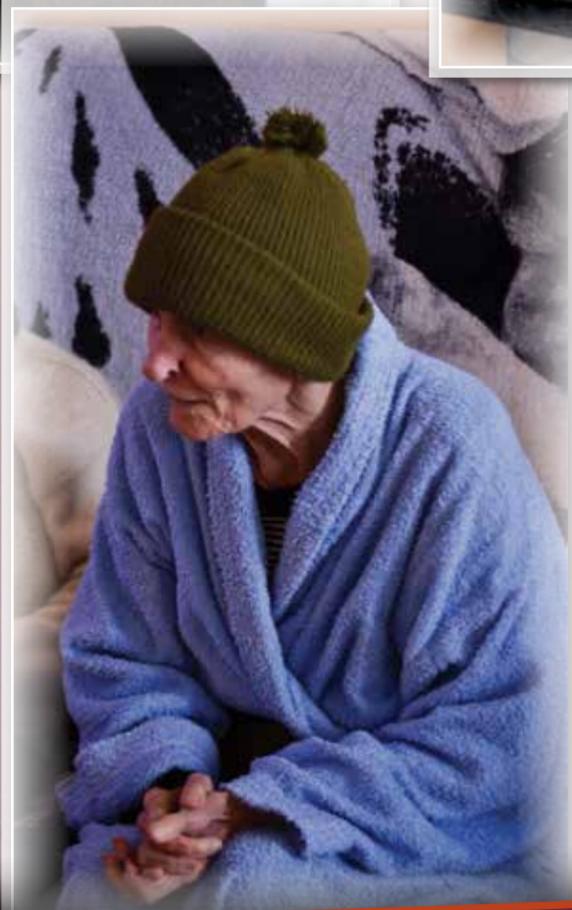
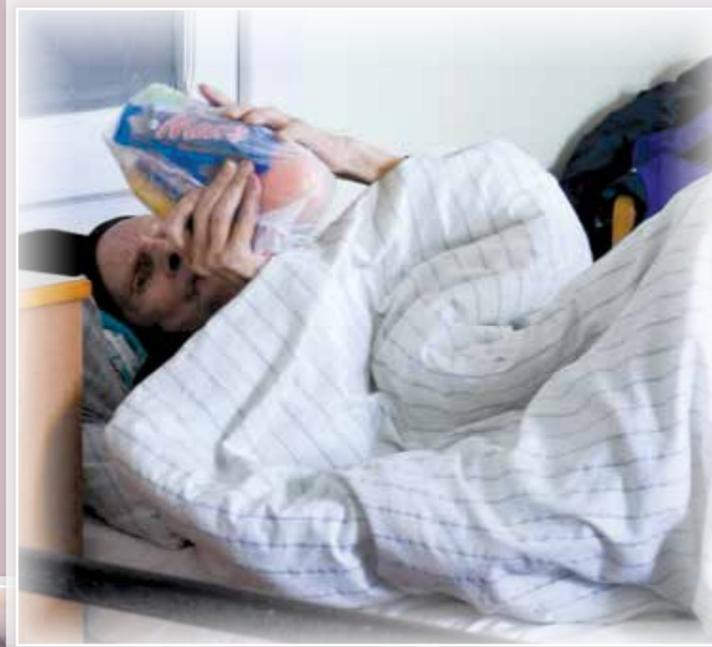
I ask that you keep the Rosca family in your prayers as they begin to rebuild, and if the Lord leads to help in any way, it will be greatly appreciated.

In Christ,

Pastor Michael Boldea Sr.



With What Little They Have



Romania

As is the case with pretty much the rest of the world, uncertainty hangs heavy in the hearts and minds of most of the citizenry here. The hopelessness and desperation is almost physically oppressive, and it's a rare sight to see someone smiling.

It's hard to come to terms with the notion of an uncertain future. It's hard to come to terms with the idea that though you work and build and save and dream, it can be upturned in an instant, whether by inflation, the devaluing of your currency, invasion, war, global chaos, or a dozen other things that have a ripple effect throughout the world given the global economy we have fashioned for ourselves.

I believe this is why coming to the orphanage is like a breath of fresh air for me. It's the juxtaposition, the stark comparison between the joyless faces one might encounter on any given day on any given street here, and the smiling faces of the children at the Hand of Help orphanage.

When you see them smile you can't help but smile and all the hopelessness you had to wade through that day melts away in an instant.

Some might say that the children are smiling because they are ignorant of the world around them. I tend to believe that they are smiling in spite of knowing exactly what is happening in the world around them, because we have raised them with hope and faith and love for God, and an unshakeable trust in His almighty arm.

The joy and hope I speak of are not exclusive to the children, but radiates throughout the staff as well. It's not like we

promised anyone lifelong employment, or a higher salary than what anyone else in the city makes, yet the staff here possesses joy and peace, even though they see what is happening throughout.

With flu season in full swing here, it is an outright miracle that none

of our children have fallen ill, as there are countless cases throughout the area, especially among children and adolescents. One sick child would likely lead to two, then five, then more, and until the virus ran its course, there would be a lot of sniffing, sneezing, stuffy heads, and fevers. Some say nutrition plays a factor, as our children are well fed, and warmly clothed, but we know that God watches over us, and protects us, and we give all glory and honor to Him.

As far as this winter is concerned, mercifully, thus far it has been a mild winter, with only a couple snowstorms worthy of mention. Although snowfall has not been severe, the cold is still ever present, and so our quest to distribute blankets and firewood continues undeterred.

It's amazing how something as ordinary as a blanket can brighten someone's day. And if you've ever been cold, truly cold, you know how much of a blessing a warm fire can be.

As the world seems to be unraveling, all we can do is press on and be about our Father's business one day at a time. Our mandate has not changed, nor were there any stipulations about doing the work only until it got difficult, so even when the going gets tough, we press on toward the prize.

Thank you for standing with us throughout the years, for being there in good times and in trying times, and for realizing the true worth of this work is not just feeding and clothing some children in Eastern Europe, but raising children in the fear of the Lord, children who have the joy of the Lord firmly upon their countenance, and who have learned not to fear for tomorrow.

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.



A Long Time Coming

When we have a pressing need, time seems to be our enemy. We pray, we plead, we ask God and entreat His favor, then many of us wait, sometimes impatiently, chewing our nails and checking our watches, hoping God comes through sooner rather than later.

Although we know full well that God has made everything beautiful for its own time, and when He chooses to answer a request it is the perfect moment for that request to be answered, we have grown used to having everything at our fingertips, instantaneously and without much ado.

I'm not saying it's wrong to live with expectancy. We are supposed to live with expectancy, knowing that our prayers have been heard, and having the faith that they will be answered, but being expectant is one thing, being impatient is another.

Throughout the years I've had the honor of serving this ministry, God has taught me many a lesson through the people we help. It seems God has ways and means of teaching us things we never even considered, until we are face to face with them, humbled by the simplicity and profundity of what we just learned.

I recently met the Ungureanu family, and through them God taught me patience and persistence. Petru and Ortansa Ungureanu live in the village of Dumbravita, Dragalina, they are in their sixties, and Petru has been petitioning the Lord for something for the past thirty seven years.

Thirty seven years is a long time by anyone's count, but brother Petru has not lost heart, he has not given up, and his prayer continues to be the same as it ever was, full of passion and ardor toward God.

In 1978 brother Petru was in a car accident which resulted in the amputation of his left leg and the loss of feeling in his right hand from the wrist down. Ever since he got out of the hospital brother Petru has wanted a prosthetic leg, but whenever he thought he was close to saving up enough to purchase one, something



always came up, there was always another need to be met, and he went without yet another year.

Recently, the Ungureanu family has had to take in their two grandchildren, look after them, and provide for them, and once again Petru's hope of getting his prosthesis has had to be put off.

Since the area where the leg was amputated was also burned in the accident, the skin is sensitive, and it requires a special kind of prosthesis.

Brother Petru has to come up with \$2,500 to get his prosthesis, and although that might not sound like much to some, when you live out in the middle of nowhere, and subsist on the chickens you raise, and the vegetable garden your wife tends to, coming up with \$2,500 is next to impossible.

Brother Petru has been praying for this for thirty seven years, and I know that we can be the people God uses to be an answer to his petitions. I ask you to pray about this need, and if the Lord puts it on your heart to meet part or all of it, know that your selflessness will not go unrewarded.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael Boldea Sr.

February's Child of the Month

In January 2011, after the local authorities asked for our help, our orphanage was able to welcome Cristian Andrei and his brothers. Cristian's father was in jail at that time and his mother, a notorious alcoholic, used to leave the house for days in a row while Cristian had to take care of himself and of his little brothers, Nicolae and Iulian. When they arrived at Hand of Help, the three brothers were malnourished, dirty, lacking proper clothing for the low

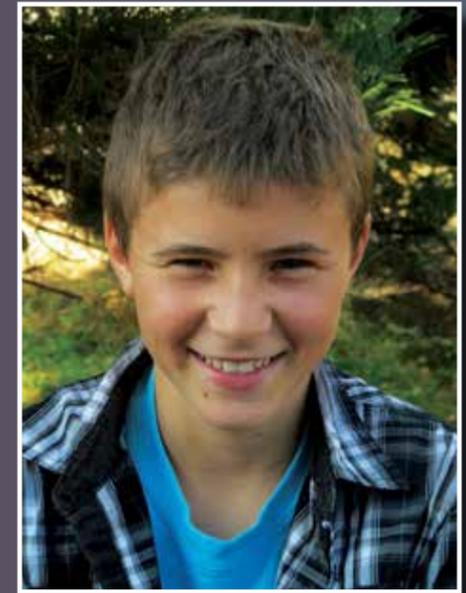
temperatures outside and almost ready to give up the fight for their survival. We received them with our arms wide open and we have since given them all the love and comfort they missed in years prior.

Two days after their admission at Hand of Help, the brothers received

the news of their mother's passing caused by overconsumption of alcohol and by the extreme low temperatures that her body was exposed to during that unusually cold winter. Our Lord has helped them overcome all the suffering and pain and has restored hope for them by working in a miraculous way.

One day, a family that couldn't have children of their own, came to our orphanage requesting a child that they could take into foster care and eventually adopt. The younger sibling, Nicolae, looked remarkably similar to the husband, so the family decided to focus on building a relationship with the brothers. After numerous visits with this family, Nicolae and Iulian were taken into foster care and are presently being raised in a loving environment that offers them the opportunities they have never had in their own family.

Cristian is still at our orphanage, but is always in touch with his little brothers and visits them almost every weekend and during the holidays. Cristian is currently in the eighth grade and loves



anything mechanical. He can often be found trying to fix things or taking them apart just to put them back together again. He is very organized, orderly and has great attention to detail. Cristian has a genuine love for the Lord in his heart and always greets those around him with, "Pacea Domnului!" (translated: "May the Peace of God be with you!")

Dear Brethren,

...Continued on Back

Luke 14:27-30, "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it lest after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him saying, 'this man began to build and was not able to finish.'"

There are two diametrically opposed mindsets vying for the hearts and minds of the church today. The first is embraced by old and young alike, lauded for its promise of ease and good things, while the other is mocked for its insistence upon preparing one's heart and constitution for the inevitability of tribulation.

One is being put forth by the Son of God, within the Word of God, while

the other is being put forth by the flighty minds of immature men whose lust for power and position has stripped them of reason and the requisite humility necessary to teach what the Word teaches rather than what you fancy the Word ought to teach.

I am a man hard pressed to find truth in today's Christendom, and for this my heart weeps. I am a man hard pressed to find the Scriptures being taught and

Dear Brethren,

...Continued from page 11

preached from behind pulpits, and for this my soul aches.

Rather than tell men that there is a cost to discipleship, there is a cost to following after Christ, there is a cost, and the cost is your life in its entirety, we insist upon the fallacy that coming to Jesus is a golden ticket to every excess you've ever dreamed of, and every glut your wicked heart ever desired.

We no longer point men to the cross, but to Lear jets. We no longer point men to Golgotha, but to beachside mansions. We no longer point men to Jesus, but to our own brand of theology, our own copyrighted materials, our own courses on how to build up a ministry and lay hold of that brass ring you've been dreaming of.

Meanwhile the words of Jesus are still there for anyone willing to read and accept them, solemn words, sober words, words of warning and urgency.

They are not promises of six figure book deals, or five star vacations, they are not promises of adoring fans and swooning parishioners. They are promises of tribulation and hardship and sacrifice. They are promises of loss and loneliness and abandonment. They are promises of hardship and persecution and toil, but **be of good cheer** nonetheless.

It's no mystery why so many are turning their back on church nowadays. It doesn't take a brilliant mind to deduce the root cause of the exodus. Preachers, pastors, evangelists and spiritual leaders have made false promises to their followers, promises that never materialized, and because

their entire experience was predicated upon a lie, they came to conclude that the whole thing was a sham.

They kept getting told what Jesus could give them, but they were never told what Jesus expected of them, so they never counted the cost, they never expected there would be a cost, and when the first storm clouds gathered, when the first thunderclap broke the silence of the night, they abandoned their posts and fled like the untrained, immature children they were.

Men today take lightly what it means to be a disciple of Christ, a follower of Christ, a soldier of the cross, because those who were in spiritual authority over them encouraged it. They encouraged the slothfulness, the duplicity, the halfhearted watered down commitment that passes for Christianity nowadays, because if the sheep were all lukewarm, they would never notice the same malady in the shepherds.

Just so a handful of men could get away with living like the world while pretending to be ambassadors of Christ, they attempted to shipwreck the entire vessel on the rocky outcroppings of lawlessness.

We knew these days would be upon us sooner or later. We knew that men would be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, blasphemers, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, but even among those who knew, it was hard to reconcile themselves to the idea that these things would be taking place within the church.

Now, the things of which we were warned within God's Word are

undeniably taking place even within the church, replete with a great majority loving to have their ears tickled, and heaping for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires.

As far as sound doctrine is concerned, well, myths and fables are so much more comforting than the truth, even though they are just myths and fables.

It is becoming all the more difficult to cling to truth, but cling to truth we must, because only truth will make us free, and show us the way to life. In Christ we have all we need. In Christ we have the truth, we have the way, and we have the life. May we always cling to Him.

John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.

» Getting the Word out...

We are praying about organizing regional meetings for the fall of 2015 with Michael Boldea, Jr. as the keynote speaker. If you are a part of a large congregation that would like to host an event like this or if you would like to participate in the organizing of such as a regional contact person, please write us at daniel@handofhelp.com or give us a call at (920) 206-9910.