

Hand of HELP

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A People in Need



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Model Family

What does it take to raise eleven children? That is the question I wrestled with as we were on our way to visit the Amarande family. I'm not talking about the obvious, like money and food, but I remember my three boys, and sometimes they were a handful. What about eleven, I thought to myself.

As it turns out, the one indispensable thing necessary to raise eleven children and do so well is structure. Except for the three-month-old, everyone has a job, a duty, a family contribution, something they must do, and Doina, the matriarch of the family, makes

certain that they get done.

I first met the Amarande family when we bought them a cow. It was a brief, hurried encounter, wherein we dropped off the cow, and went on

"We pray a lot, God knows our needs, and we leave it in His hands"

to the next need, but even that brief encounter left a mark as I noticed the children were well mannered, clean, and polite.

We became acquainted with this

family through the local pastor who made us aware of their need, and when a third party intercedes on another's behalf, it is always a good sign. Experience has taught us that those who are in real need rarely take the time to knock on doors and ask for help.

Especially if they have families, their priority is to put food on the table, and that is what brother Valerica has been doing. He is a plumber, and although the work is not as consistent as he would like, he has a good enough reputation that he gets more work than most in his area.



Model Family

The reason we were visiting the Amarande family again was because the cow we had bought them had birthed a calf, and they wanted us to see it. Once again, the orderly nature of the homestead stood out, as I noticed the immaculately tended garden, the fruit trees in full bloom, what would be a small slice of heaven if not for the tiny home the thirteen members of the Amarande family share.

Their current home is made up of two small rooms, and that's it. The children are growing, and with each passing season, it's getting more and more cramped.

Seeing that they would soon outgrow their two-room home, brother Valerica has started building a new home next to their old one, and as most people tend to do here, he builds as he goes, and as he is able to afford new materials.

Since he is also knowledgeable about construction, brother Valerica is doing most of the work himself, but there is still the issue of the building materials.

Again, throughout our visit, neither Valerica or Doina asked for help, and that was both refreshing and impressive.

"We pray a lot, God knows our needs, and we leave it in His hands",



was all Doina said when asked about the needs they might have.

It would be both an answer to prayer, and a realized dream for the Amarande family to complete their home, and I would ask that you join with me in prayer for this family and their need.

Pastor Mircea Boldea, Sr.



Home and Hearth



A mud-brick home with a thatch roof will only last so long, no matter how well tended to it may be. Most of the families we visit who are hoping to build a new home are living in houses well over a century old, which weren't all that well built even in their heyday. Add a hundred winters, springs, and falls, countless snowfalls and rainstorms, and one begins to understand why the overwhelming need we are confronted with is that of a new home.

Even with the depressed economy and the strength of the dollar in Romania, it is still a challenge building a home for a family, because no matter how small the home might be, it's still a considerable sum.

Back in the good old days after the revolution, and for a few years thereafter, building a modest home would cost a few thousand dollars. It is largely the reason our ministry was able to build so many churches throughout the country at the time, because not only were materials cheap, but labor was cheap as well.

Nowadays, neither materials, nor labor come at a discounted rate. In fact, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find builders who know what they are doing, because those with any demonstrable skill have taken to Italy, Germany, Israel, and other countries to ply their trade,

and earn substantially more money.

Even so, we press on, because we know the paramount importance of a family having a roof over their heads and a warm place to lay their heads. Thankfully, no matter the community, there are always fellow believers eager to lend a hand, and even if they are long retired, and in the twilight of their time here on earth, they are enthusiastic when it comes to rolling up their sleeves, grabbing a hammer and nails, and



getting to work.

More often than not, the only hindrance is the lack of funds for materials, and that's where we come in. We've been able to help dozens, and dozens of families either build a home from the foundation to the roof shingles or stepped in when they ran out of funds halfway and lent a hand so they might finish the construction.

The Tanasa family of Vorniceni, Botosani currently lives in a very old home that is crumbling around

them. It is unheard of for safety inspectors to venture out to the villages because if they did, there would be many homes that would be deemed uninhabitable. The Tanasa family home is just such a home, and with each passing year, it's getting worse.

They laid the foundation for a new, small home next to the one that is being reclaimed by time, and their prayer is that one day, they will be able to finish the project they started.

What makes this a special case is that the Tanasa family has 12 children, and they need a safe environment in which to grow up.

Stefan works in construction, and so the building of the home would largely be done by him. What we need is material. Please keep the Tanasa family in your prayers, and if the Lord leads you to help in any way, it would be a blessing for this large family.

Pastor Mircea Boldea, Sr.

A People in Need

With every testimony that I hear, every prayer that is answered, every child that is fed and every heart that receives the message of the Gospel, I am overwhelmed with emotion knowing that Hand of Help's call to extend its relief support to the Ukraine was God-directed and timely.

In the past three years of our work in the Ukraine, we have been able to touch thousands of lives through the leading of the Holy Spirit and your generous support of our work.

Out of this dark, gray, and suffering

corner of the earth, God is raising incredible testimonies of survival through divine provision, but most importantly, souls are following the call unto salvation through Jesus Christ.

There is no greater feeling than to know that God is using you, our supporters, to be a channel through which He is reaching many with the Gospel and bringing hope in one's darkest hour.

God has blessed us with a servant by the name of Dan Iacob who tirelessly volunteers his time to lead teams into Ukraine and touch the



people of that country. You can see him in many of the photographs.

Up until recently, I have settled for making it just across the border into the safe area of the Ukraine and minister there. The accounts of others as to what the mission field



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on the far side of the country, over a 20-hour drive away in the war-torn area, looked like were enough for me.

The brothers would often ask me, "When are you going to come with us?" "When I feel called," I responded, without missing a beat.

God was nudging at my heart even then. Maybe the reason I thought I wasn't called was that I was not yet willing to be called. Maybe I didn't feel led because I still wanted to be in control and lead. Maybe the memories of the revolution in Kenya were still too fresh in my mind to venture out into an area that still sees military action.

However spiritual I made my excuses sound, I knew they were

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

just buying me time at best. God has made it very clear that it is time to not only talk or write about Eastern Ukraine but to crawl out of my comfort zone and walk alongside my brothers that are going through their life's greatest hardships.

These pictures are intended to remind us of the simple joy a hungry child experiences when he is handed a loaf of bread. A loaf of bread that he doesn't have to share with multiple siblings, or parse out to make it last for as long as possible. They are intended to highlight the happiness felt by the entire family when a stranger shows up with a small furnace, firewood or coal,



bringing promise for a warmer winter. We see the hope that a group of strangers from far off lands can bring when they choose to obey, leave their families behind, risking their lives, to come to feed heretofore unknown people and lovingly share about our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is images like these that bring us to a place of gratefulness and contentment. It is a perspective that is needed on occasion so that when we butter our toast in the morning, we do it with a thankful heart. That when we adjust our thermostat, we are grateful for having that luxury. That when our pastors go over their allotted sermon times by five minutes, instead of aggressively tapping on our watches in plain sight, we are reminded of those risking their lives to congregate and thank God for the peace that we still have in this country to come together and worship freely.

As you peruse the photographs, I pray that you would allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as to what He might have you do, whether it be intercessory prayer for this

work, financially supporting this outreach or maybe packing a bag and traveling halfway around the world in obedience to Him.

We will be hosting teams to Romania during the following months:

October 2-17, 2019

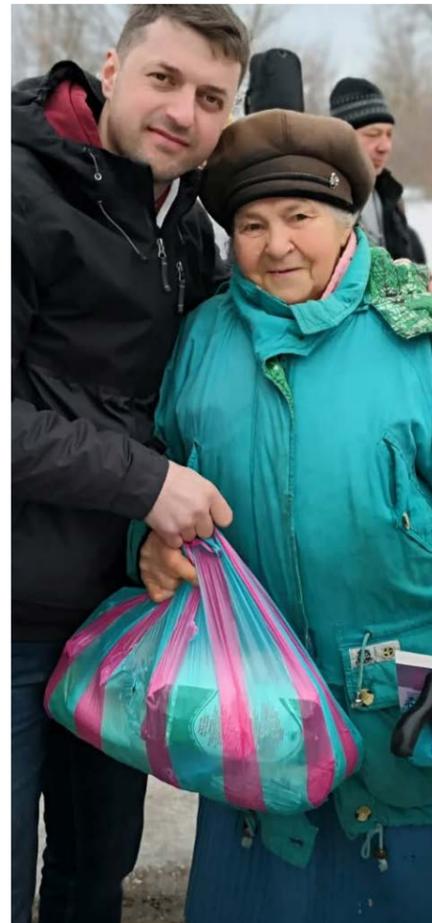
April & May 2020— dates to be determined.

I will be leading a small team of men in late November to both Romania and Eastern Ukraine.

Please contact our office for more details.

In obedience to Him,

Daniel Boldea



Answered Prayers



God uses people. It's one of those simple truths that we tend to overlook given enough time until it's demonstrated in such a profound way, as to make one take a pause and reflect on the goodness of the Lord.



Sure, He can make ravens bring the hungry bread and meat, but as long as He has His servants, God prefers to use them as a means by which He answers prayers, and restores hope. Over and over, we

are reminded that those who put their trust in the Lord will not be put to shame, and God has used you in achieving this countless times.

Due to a generous donation designated for cows, we've been buying cows like they've been going out of style. Granted, certain segments of the political class would

It warms the heart and feeds the soul to see prayers being answered through this ministry

like to see worldwide extermination of cows due to their flatulence, but until that day, the cow remains one of the most versatile animals one can raise.

Milk, cheese, and butter are Romanian staples, and the cow can provide all three. As an added bonus,

they also act as free lawn care service, but that's not something most of the rural folks of Romania are concerned with.

Because we do our due diligence, the cows we purchase have very good milk production, and as such



whatever is left over can easily be bartered for eggs, potatoes, corn, or other necessities.

It warms the heart and feeds the soul to see prayers being answered through this ministry, and with each

Answered Prayers



cow we purchase, we realize the indispensable service this ministry provides. For the Dumitru and Stela Atomei and the Gheorghe Meglei families receiving a cow was an answer to many prayers.

Yes, there will be more need, yes

there will be more cows that need purchasing, and more families waiting on them, but the God we've trusted thus far has yet to fail us, and we know that He is not about to start now.

Faith builds upon faith, like bricks building the walls of a sturdy, timeless house. For almost thirty-five years, our faith has built upon itself at seeing God do wondrous things through those whom He has called to be co-laborers with us in this work. Our faith is strong, and we know there is nothing our God cannot do.

May you be blessed abundantly for your faithfulness to this work, and may you know the joy you bring to

the lives of others daily. Prayers are being answered, and God is using you to do it. Few things in life are more profound than this.

As for us, we will continue to labor as unto God and be obedient to His voice as He guides us into new territories where our presence is needed, such as Ukraine. Although sometimes there might be a shortage of funds, there will never be a shortage of need, hunger, and desperation. It is but a short while, and He will come, and His reward comes with Him to give to each one according to what he has done. Oh, what a glorious day that will be.

**In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff**

Child of the Month *The Day His World Stood Still*

Dumitru's biography is very different than others featured in our publications. With his permission, I will be sharing some of the details of his suffering and most current information available, as many have contacted our office asking for an update.

Dumi, as everyone at the orphanage calls him, was on the fast track to becoming an independent young man. His passion for electronics had landed him a full scholarship at the University of Engineering and Robotics. Throughout his time at the orphanage, Dumi loved worshipping God through his guitar playing and

was quick to befriend everyone. He continues to be a role model for the younger boys at the orphanage.

The things that Dumitru was able to accomplish are remarkable. He acknowledges that everything good in his life has been a direct result of God blessing Him through the Hand of Help family. Through God's help, he overcame the memories of living with an alcoholic and abusive father and the flashbacks to witnessing his mother being beaten repeatedly.

Dumi's clear path to a promising future came to a screeching halt in January when he noticed a mass growing in an area that he had injured during a fall, a month prior.

Expecting it to be no more than a fractured rib, the news of him having to get a CT scan came as a surprise to Dumi.

With medical treatment in Romania being less than ideal, and with no one understanding the extent of the pathology growing inside of him, it took three weeks to get him in for a CT.

When the result finally came in, it caught us all off guard. The staff and children wept as one big loving family. All of his dreams and his ambitions were shattered in one single solitary day.

Further testing proved the mass to be growing at an alarming rate,



which had now affected the pleura. After draining a massive amount of liquid from his lung and waiting an excessive amount of time for the anatomical and histochemical pathology report, our worst fears had become a reality – Dumitru had stage IV cancer with pleural metastasis.

The only peace to be found throughout all this has been in our Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit has accomplished a deep work in the heart of this young man, and even amid such a great trial, he asked to be baptized. Over four hundred people in the local church community gathered at 4 PM for a special midweek service held for Dumi's baptism.

Dumi's own words have strengthened us tremendously.

"May God do as He wishes with this clay, I am grateful for the peace I have within."

Dumitru is now recovering from his 5th round of chemotherapy and is getting ready for his 6th and final round. After the conclusion

Child of the Month *The Day His World Stood Still*

"May God do as He wishes with this clay, I am grateful for the peace I have within."

of chemotherapy, a PET scan will be done to once again stage and assess the cancer. At that time, it will be determined if Dumitru would benefit from radical surgical treatment – the removal of at least three ribs and resection of part or all of the right lung. Due to the degree of difficulty and the multi-disciplinary challenge of this surgery, the oncologist is referring us to a clinic in either Austria or Germany, both hospitals refusing to take Romanian health insurance. We are waiting to hear back regarding the cost, but similar cases have been \$15,000-\$20,000.

Prayer requests:

There are hundreds, maybe even thousands, crying out for divine healing. Please join us!

Pray for God's peace that surpasses

all understanding, to guard his heart and mind.

Pray that the cancer would not spread to other parts of the body and that the tumor can be excised.

Pray that God would direct us to the right team of doctors.

Pray that God would meet all financial needs for the treatment of this young man.

Pray for the salvation of all of our children at the orphanage. We see a tremendous awakening amongst them during this trial.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children.

In closing, the following are a few lines from a song that Dumitru has written amid this storm:

"Today, I live and continue on the path that You have set before me, oh Lord, step by step. The situations of this life would want me to stumble, but I will sing Your praise through all my days and be a testimony of Your loving power."

Daniel Boldea

Dear Brethren,

Luke 10:19, “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

The devil despises what he fears. He attempts to denigrate, disparage, defame, disgrace, and discredit what he knows can do him harm. When you see the devil attacking someone, when you see the devil trying to disprove something, it usually means he is terrified, and he is trying to proactively minimize the impact the teaching or individual might have.

We all know the devil roams about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour but what we must also understand is that he is more a hyena than he is lion. The devil is a scavenger far more than he is the king of this jungle because he knows that there are certain individuals he cannot touch.

In his arrogance and pride, he sees himself as a lion, but when he happens to run across the right kind of Christian, he is reminded of just how impotent he is, and that infuriates him to no end. There is nothing more humiliating for the devil than to be presented with his own impotence.

Certain individuals are beyond the devil’s ability to devour. There are certain individuals he downright fears because of what they have tapped into. The devil fears no man because of who the man is, but he fears certain men because of who their Lord is, and the authority they know how to wield in His Name.

A powerless Christian is no threat to the devil. We can have Hillsong on repeat until the stars fall from the heavens and still the worst the devil might do is bob his head to the rhythm. There may be an emotional reaction to a Hillsong ballad, but there is no underlying power. It doesn’t make the

devil flee. It does not compel spirits to come out of those who are oppressed, and it does not strike fear in the heart of our adversary.

Sure, it’s nice to listen to, but in the grand scheme of things, it’s just nice to listen to.

The devil fears power. Not the power of human will, not the power of the human physique, but the power of God, as manifest through the gifting of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think one of his most ardent campaigns is against the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit? Do you think it’s a coincidence? Do you believe it to be happenstance?

Understand, that though the devil may roam about he is nevertheless purposeful in what he does. We have to find the balance between giving the enemy too much credit, and too little credit, and focus more on his intent rather than his ability or inability to carry out his plans and machinations.

The fact that he wants your destruction ought to be enough of a motivator to get you to discover what he fears, then do your utmost to acquire it to the fullest. If I have a mortal enemy and discover the one thing that can do him harm, the one thing he is terrified of, I will not be dissuaded by naysayers or those who insist it’s no longer on the market. I would scour the earth, do my utmost, and commit myself to acquire that which can deter my enemy because I want to live.

For the life of me, I can’t understand Christians that give up so quickly on seeking out the gifts of the Holy Spirit, knowing that it is the empowering of the Holy Spirit that terrifies the enemy so.

“So and so said it’s no longer attainable, or available.”

“Well, good enough for me. Guess we’d just better play dead and hope the

devil passes us by.”

But what about what Jesus said? What about what Paul said? What about what Peter said? Do we discount all the writings of Scripture because one man, two men, ten men, or a whole gaggle of men determined that the Son of God along with His disciples lied?

Let’s be honest. That’s what it boils down to. To deny the continued work of the Holy Spirit, to deny the gifting and power of the Holy Spirit is to call Jesus, Peter, and Paul liars. Let’s not beat around the bush. We’ve had enough of that in Christendom for far too long.

To hear some of these guys talk you’d think you were listening to a schizophrenic with multiple personalities.

“Nothing is impossible to our God! Well, except this one thing, this critical thing, this thing He promised would be with us and in us until the end of time! But other than that, nothing is impossible!”

Either you fear the devil, or the devil fears you. There are no other options. Either you believe there is power in the blood of Christ, there is power in His Name, and His servants are imbued with power from on high to do battle against the darkness, or you believe yourself to be as powerless as the godless, no more than prey, quarry, game to be taken and disposed of at the devil’s pleasure.

Conqueror or conquered! These are your only two choices. Whether or not you are in possession of what the devil fears will determine which you will be in the end.

Romans 8:37, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

**With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.**