

Hand of **HELP**



Hand of Help
Ministries

Dear Brethren,

It is a difficult thing to quantify hope. Because of its effervescent quality, it's almost impossible. Sure, we have anecdotal evidence aplenty, and based on that alone, we would conclude that hope's worth is priceless, but most people today balk at the thought of subjective experience. They want hard data, incontrovertible facts, and peer-reviewed statistical analysis before they're willing to give you the time of day.

Granted, these are the same people who roll their eyes at the incontrovertible fact that gender is binary, but that's another discussion for another time. It's an odd thing that the people who could use a little hope the most are the ones who reject it and vilify anyone who dares affirm that not only do they have hope, but that their hope is keeping them afloat while others are drowning in a sea of desperation.

The one thing about hope that few rarely mention is that your hope as an individual is only as strong and sustaining as the thing you put your hope in. Just as a house is only as reliable as the foundation it is built upon, hope is only as effective as what the object of your hope is.

If your hope is placed in men, machines, machinations, or any such things that are both trivial and temporal, your hope will return void, having had nothing to bolster it and sustain it. If, however, your hope is placed in the One who spoke the universe into being, it will never be misplaced, nor will it ever fail to strengthen and encourage in your hour of need.

As Paul once wrote to the Corinthians, if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. Why? Because this world and everything in it will pass away. These husks of flesh will one day return from whence they came, and our journey here will inevitably end. It is myopic and shortsighted for our hope in Christ to focus only on this life. Because He lives, our hope extends beyond this present life. Because Jesus conquered death, our unshakeable hope is that we will likewise conquer death. Because He lives, we too shall live, no matter what today or tomorrow might bring.

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.

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Child of the Month

The family's children, Irina, Dumitru Alexandru, Andreea, Iosif and Maria Gabriela, touched the hearts of their village neighbors after their father lost a long battle with cancer. Immediately after burying her husband, the siblings' mother left her home and entrusted Irina, at a very young age, with the care and provision of her brothers and sisters.

For a whole month, the children lived on their neighbors' compassion. The mother burned through the state allowance for the children, spending it on alcohol. When they were left with no electricity and the living environment became inhumane, they were forced to abandon school also.

Unfortunately, this was not the first time the siblings were abandoned; during the months when their father was unable to function, spending all his days in bed, heart-wrenched and having to cope with his inability to support his family, his wife used to leave him and the children for days. The older children tried their best at taking care of him and the family (a task no child should have to endure) but soon after were faced with their father's passing and being left alone again.

Maria and her siblings, Andreea and Iosif have found a home at Hand of Help. They are currently growing up together in Virginia's House, under the nurturing care of our social workers. She has changed a lot in her years here; dedicated classes to

help her with her speech have allowed Maria to do well in Kindergarten and easily adapt; she loves painting and drawing - most of the time you will find her in her room surrounded by coloring blocks, paint and colored pencils. She is very attentive and loves the company of other children and adults as well, always carefully listening to everything they are saying. Maria has already started developing important life skills and we rejoice in seeing her happy, playing with her dolls or tidying up her space in the bedroom. The siblings are very attached to each other and continue to

see their mother regularly (she visits them and calls us often to see how the children are doing).

Please keep Maria in your prayers! Through you, she has found the comfort that a home should offer and can now rejoice in the safety and hope we all have in Jesus.

