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# Hand of HELP



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# Slava Ukraini Bogu!

During a national crisis, a rise in patriotism is expected. We saw it in our own USA after 9-11 and time and time again after that, in various nations worldwide. A crisis tends to bring people together like nothing else because it gives them a common cause.

While there is nothing wrong with being a patriot, we are lost, limited, and stunted if that is the extent of who we are.

The course of a country does not change simply by waving a flag, putting on a bumper sticker, or even showing up on election day. There is no true change if God is not at its center.



I often flip through various international news channels, praying and hoping that somehow the discourse would change. However, I must confess that when I hear “slava Ukraini,” I cringe every time. “Slava” in Ukrainian means glory, so what has become the customary sign-off of Ukrainian politicians and international political representatives alike means “glory to Ukraine.”

Immediately my mind goes to two passages of Scripture:

Isaiah 42:8 *I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.*

Psalm 127:1 *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*

If the people of any nation continue to look inward for a resolution, we don’t stand a chance. We are called to “fear God and give Him glory”. Any other approach or strategy is simply wasting time.

“Bogu” - God is the only word that should follow “slava” or glory. He is the only One deserving of all the glory, and our lips should never utter another.

Our resolution is in His hands.

II Chronicles 7:14

*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Ukraine is being tested, and so far, as a nation, it has not cried out to God; it is failing. Therefore, let us join in with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ and pray that eyes would be open to the truth both in their nation and ours; that the Holy Spirit would bring about conviction and genuine repentance on all sides; and that our Father would hear our cry, forgive our sin and heal our land.

Jude 1:25 *To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen*

Slava Bogu! Glory to God!

For His glory,

Daniel Boldea

# The Tabernacle of Meeting

We live in a generation where the Gospel gets lost in artificial man-made methodology. We took something simple like preaching the Gospel to the lost and made it exceedingly complicated by attempting to manufacture repentance. Many churches focus on numerical growth, and their approach to that growth is often laced with compromise.

Gone are the days of simple men such as John the Baptist, calling people to repentance.

We have replaced the riches of the Word of God with acronyms or one-liners in hopes that we would be cool enough to attract the masses. Smoke machines have replaced God's presence in our midst. Dim lighting has reduced our ability to be watchful and discerning. Emotionalism is at peak levels, while genuine repentance and fruit-bearing believers are few and far to come by.



Considering the above, it was encouraging to meet with brother Paul and his mentor, brother George, and spend a few hours in fellowship with them. The 12-hour journey was a small price to hear of the work that the Lord has called them to.

Paul's testimony is a miracle in itself. He grew up with a Christian mother and an abusive alcoholic as a father. His father would drag the mother around by her hair or a chain around her neck and beat her with a wooden beam. "I still remember how my mother would cry, but not tears of pain, tears of joy that she could suffer for her faith."

Loan sharks would stop by the house and threaten to take the children into slavery if debts run up at the bar weren't paid.

The whole village knew of their situation. Villagers often crossed the street when they walked by the family's home. "Everyone said we would never amount to anything. They would've been right had God not changed my life!"

Paul shared how everything changed after he had repented and called on the Lord for salvation. God blessed his work, and he was able to build a home for his future family. He chose a specific spot, right next to the cherry tree, where his mother would go to pray for her husband and children so that they might come to know the Lord.

Paul knew that the work the Holy Spirit had done in his life and the hope he now had were to be shared with as many as would listen. When this was heavy on his heart, brother George approached him with a question, "Would you pray about joining me on our tent ministry?"

Soon after, brother Paul would spend the bulk of his day with brother George, seeking out unreached groups of people with whom they could share the Gospel.

Their mission field proves to be more complicated than many others, as this area in Gorj is known for witchcraft. They shared that at least 25% of the people

they interact with are either witches or involved in some form of witchcraft.

After days spent in prayer, the group of volunteers travels to a village, in areas often without a local church or even a single believer, pitch a tent in a Moses-like fashion, and start walking the streets of the village.



*Exodus 33:7 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.*

They interact with the locals, give out New Testaments and invite them to the evening service.

They have been in situations where they were threatened and driven out by men wielding swords, but for the most part, the team is encouraged by the many listeners that show up and, more importantly, by the fruit they see in the lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Alexandra, Paul's wife and mother to their four little ones, shares how she volunteered in this ministry and would help pitch the tent before Paul and her met. "It was such a blessing to serve!" She went on to share one interaction with a village woman who said she would love to attend the church service, but she can't leave her goats alone. "Without thinking about what that would entail, I told her, 'I will watch your goats.'" Little did Alexandra know that would require milking them and carrying them to their pen. "I couldn't wash the goat smell off me for days."

Paul is a living testimony of a life changed by God – a testimony to all those who knew him as a child that wouldn't amount to much. Their love and dedication to reaching the lost with the Gospel are contagious.

It was a blessing to see brother Paul's respect for his senior mentor, George; he asked for advice every step of the way, and they prayerfully brought everything before the Lord together, along with their most committed prayer warriors, their wives.





Their calling is clear, to evangelize the unreached. During the years spent ministering in this way, they have established two churches and three permanent ministry points, which they have handed over to brothers called to pastor.



During the end of our time together, I asked them how we could help and what can we be praying for.

Paul's response was beautiful, "Our petition is too great for any one man, but we bring it before the Lord. We are praying for a vehicle that we could use to carry on with our tent ministry."

Their prayer is to purchase a seven-seat van (the number of people required to pitch the tent) and that it would be strong enough to pull behind the trailer with the tent and chairs. They estimate that \$12,000 is needed to meet this need.

Paul was right, this petition is too great for any one man, but would you please pray with us? We serve an Omnipotent Father.

Daniel Boldea

# Herds of Blessings

This year, providing so many cows to families in Romania and Ukraine has been a tremendous blessing. Thank you to all those who have been praying and supporting this project!

We have been getting more requests than ever for purchasing livestock for large families, and with food prices surging, we anticipate that the need will only increase.

A good cow runs about \$900-\$1,000 and provides the family not only with milk, cheese, cream, and butter but allows them to barter for other items needed.

If cheaper cows are found, the remainder of the money goes to purchasing a starting batch of feed or is allocated towards the next cow purchase.

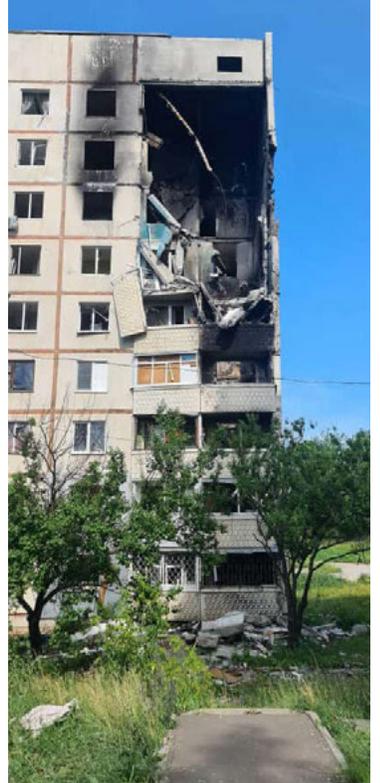


# Why Don't They Just Leave?

It has now been well over four months since Russian invaders are pummeling entire cities of Ukraine. As I write to you, Russian forces have occupied the entirety of the Luhansk region and are making progress towards nearby cities that we know very well, areas where Hand of Help has and continues to minister through the dedicated work of our missionaries.



I am sometimes overwhelmed by the sheer volume of work needed to coordinate and send relief into a warzone. I carry the weight of those risking their lives to deliver the goods we send, and every new day I awake, my heart skips a beat until I check my phone and make sure everyone is OK. In times of frustration, for a split second, the question pops into my head, "Why don't they just leave?"



My split-second vent helps no one. In fact, it would be a grave error to assume that this is the will of God for all of those in Ukraine to flee.



Everyone must submit their petitions before God and make decisions prefixed with, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

The reality of the situation is that many are simply unable to flee. Whether it be due to a debilitating illness, a crippling fear, the knowledge of someone who died fleeing, a lack of resources or opportunity, many have ruled out leaving their homes and venturing out into foreign lands, into the unknown.

Others have immovable faith in our Sovereign King and know that just as He protected Daniel in the lion's den and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, He can protect them too.





Just this past week, I wept as I read a message from one of our missionaries in Krasnohorivka, Ukraine, whose church had just been bombed and 68 homes damaged in the community. The church building's roof and its annexes were destroyed. Yet, the very next day, they resumed congregating in the foyer still left standing and continued to pray for their country.



The local churches continue to serve, and as many as 200+ people still show up to hear the Word of God in various locations, with bombs dropping a few hundred feet away. Hand of Help continues to support these dedicated men and women serving.

The following are some pictures of the work that goes on in the toughest of circumstances.

As for my question, never mind.....I will pray for them and do everything I can instead.

Daniel Boldea



# Child of the Month

Cornelia, Biatrisa, and Alicia faced multiple challenges at a very early age. When their parents' marriage deteriorated and the physical, verbal and mental abuses started, their mother decided to leave home. A while after, she gave her marriage another chance, and the family moved to Spain. However, the situation continued to escalate. The mother returned home to Romania with the children when the father was sentenced to prison.

The following years the children were tossed around from their grandparents to their father, their father's concubine or any other relatives that took pity on them and allowed them to stay with them for a short period.

Given the desperate situation of the girls, the local community where the father used to live asked us to help the children.

When we decided to take the girls into our care, we found them at their aunt's house. Although the sisters were being taken care of, their aunt told us that she could not carry the responsibility of raising three more children while providing for herself and another three of her own.

The sisters rapidly adjusted to their new home, getting to know our staff and the rest of our children. Their parents decided to keep in touch and started calling and visiting them at our center. However, none of them had the means to take them back. The

father is currently working abroad but calls our staff regularly to inquire about the girls.

Alicia has grown into a studious young girl, always eager to discover new things. She attends a very good school in Botosani and will begin the sixth grade in the fall.

She plays the mandolin and sings in church together with other adolescents from our center.

Alicia understands how blessed she is to be able to live with her sisters at Hand of Help and is grateful for finally having a home she can call her own.

Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of these little ones!



# Dear Brethren,

Ignorance is bliss only to the blissfully ignorant. Thankfully the current state of affairs throughout the world is making blissful ignorance an escape for fewer and fewer people. You can't ignore what's in front of your face, even if the talking heads on television are bursting blood vessels trying to tell you not to believe your lying eyes. Although some might want nothing more than to go back to sleep, the blaring horns and crackling flames make it nigh to impossible.

The tragedy of it all is that it's taken something this catastrophic to wake some people from their slumber, and I am not referring to those of the world. My issue has always been with the household of faith because, as per the Word of God, we should be one step ahead of the godless, seeing what is to come before we are confronted with it.

It's not as though God didn't try, whether via His Word or messengers He sent to this nation to warn over and over again, but here we are, watching the tidal wave approaching and, for the most part, as ill-prepared as the rest of humanity. Yes, I am aware that I am generalizing, but if you happen to be among the handful who are an exception to the rule, then it means you heeded the warnings and prepared yourself for what the Bible said was sure to come.

It's funny how the same people who mocked those warnings of coming persecution a handful of years ago are now hyperventilating about how quickly everything has devolved and how close we are to the reality of being silenced if we attempt to preach the truth of the Gospel. It is because those selfsame people forgot that the devil's singular enemy is the church that we are in this predicament to begin with.

If others slept through the lesson that the devil is methodical, cunning, and ruthless, the children of God ought not to have, and when the godless attempted to shroud their perversions in words such as love, inclusion, and tolerance, we ought to have known better.



The enemy is no longer at the gate. The gates have been breached, the enemy has revealed itself, and now those within the citadel are picking sides. The sifting is coming, but the shaking always precedes it; it's what triggers it, and many who think themselves strong will fall by the wayside.

It is not our strength we stand in, but His strength. It is not our prowess, abilities, or possessions that will see us through the coming storm, but faith in Him.

*1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!*

*Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear, nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the one that goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea, Jr.