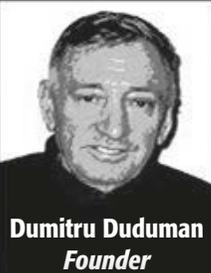


Hand of **HELP**

March - April 2023



Dumitru Duduman
Founder

HAND OF HELP

PO Box 496719 • Garland, TX 75049

HAND OF HELP OFFICE

1012 South Third Street • Watertown, WI 53094



[handofhelp.com/facebook](https://www.handofhelp.com/facebook)

Toll Free: 866-371-7636 Ph: 920-206-9910
www.handofhelp.com info@handofhelp.com



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Strengthen the Things Which Remain



One day the dust will settle. This too shall pass, for all things do, but what will remain after all the needless death and destruction is another question altogether. When all is said and done, what will be left? A dispersed people and tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of graves in desolate lands? Destroyed rusty tanks replacing communities as monuments to evil and power-hungry dictators? Mine-laden fields where bountiful crops once stood?

We are human. We are limited in our knowledge and understanding and do not have the answers to these questions, but we can “strengthen the things which remain.”



As the work continues in war-torn Ukraine, I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes from my wife’s grandfather. This faithful pastor served under the Communist regime, much like my grandfather.



“When I finish my work here, nothing of me will remain. What will remain, however, are the testimonies of faith arising from the struggles and of perseverance by His grace. These will define the Church.”



We have trusted and surrendered both our journey and the end thereof to our Sovereign. We pray that we remain steadfast in strengthening the remnant that refuses to leave the areas of conflict in hopes that others would come to saving faith. Whether in victory or defeat, God will get the glory that He is due.



Our prayer is simply this, regardless of how much destruction or death occurs, the testimonies of faith, from the midst of intense struggle, and the saints' perseverance by His grace would resound ever so loud and clear.

It is for His Glory that we labor,
Daniel Boldea



Blessings

The Dumitru family



The Maftei family



The Dediu family



The Oprea family



The Burtea family



The Ivasca family



Smarter Than I



middle of the night and collect and recycle cans in order to provide the family with what it needed for survival.

They never let us go without; as children, we never took the brunt of our financial struggles. Yes, we were taught to thank the God of provision for everything, but since there was never really a lack of what we truly needed, did we ever truly appreciate them as one should?

We grew up poor. It's hard to be otherwise when everything your family worked for is taken from them, and you end up in a strange place with strange neighbors and nothing to your name except for the clothes on your back. Even during the worst of times, we never lacked any essentials. Nonetheless, seven people living in approximately 900 square feet and sharing a small bathroom in Southern California temperatures was less than ideal. I almost forgot to mention that we were also running a ministry from the living room and would often host guests from Romania for months on end sometimes.



In our areas of ministry, the definition of poverty takes on new depth. Time and time again, we walk into a home and find hungry children asking God for their next meal or a parent blessing the last piece of three-day-old dry polenta that would be fed to hungry mouths. While the idea of a hungry child is enough to make anyone weep, that is not the point I want to make.



From the very beginning of our time in the U.S., our parents and grandparents desired to instill a healthy work ethic. So, instead of accepting government handouts, they would get up in the

What we experience as we minister to the hurting is of far more value than the food we bring in tow; they have complete trust in our Provider. Is there a blessing in poverty? Absolutely! It is enough to

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More Blessings



Smarter Than I (cont.)

hear those children pray and acknowledge that by God's grace, they have received sustenance. They are smarter than I ever was at that age. They know where their next meal comes from; ultimately, it comes from the Lord!



At their age, I still thought milk came from Price Club. But, as I said, they are much smarter than I am.



It is a tremendous blessing to be the agent of the fulfillment of one's prayers and greater joy yet to see the joy manifested in the eyes of little ones who greet their new family cow, fully understanding the blessings that will follow. Full tummies and happy faces are a blessing unto themselves, and that even at a young age, they are aware of the Lord's provision gives one hope for the future.

There are always a few close calls, like the family pictured that had started tearing down their fence to use as firewood. We were able to get them the logs they needed for warmth and save their fence.



We have much to learn from those we serve – the manner in which they pray is undoubtedly one of the things we can glean from. Praying to survive is very different than praying to thrive.

May we humbly go before Him with hearts full of gratitude for all He has blessed us with, and if we are lacking, may we trust Him fully! Just as the old gospel hymn declares, “For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”

Daniel Boldea



Good Problems

There is no greater joy for a Christian parent than to see their children walking with the Lord.

I will not say it has been an easy road, pouring into over 500 lives through the decades the orphanage has been operating, but every tear, every prayer, and every moment of frustration have been worth it.

At the start of our journey working with orphan children, it was all sowing, sowing, and more sowing, and prayerful anticipation of how the Lord would bless His Word in these tiny hearts. We knew that a harvest was inevitable. We knew that one day we would reap for having sown diligently and without restraint. In one sense, our work is much easier now as we are blessed and energized to see the fruit in the lives of many children.

Comparable to the parental joy of celebrating a life regenerated is that of a grandparent seeing his grandchildren also repent and believe in the Lord for salvation. We are blessed to have orphanage grandchildren now walking with the Lord!

Nicoleta, who, along with her siblings, grew up with us, is the wife of the lead pastor at the Messiah Church (adjacent to the orphanage) and, by the grace of God, a godly mother to their four children. What a blessing to know that we raised a young lady that has grown to be a helpmate to the shepherd God has placed to lead the local church!

As our family grows and other families from the community are added to the flock, they struggle with space limitations for age-specific Sunday School.

There is a wonderful team of volunteers who spend countless hours and have graciously come alongside our teachers at the orphanage, and parents in the community, to train up the children in the way they should go.

Luke 18:16-17, “But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’”

The church has been able to purchase an old workshop in the proximity, and though it does not look like much, with the church men volunteering their labor, they believe \$35,000 worth of materials would allow them to provide two classrooms and an attic space that could be used as a third.

Growth causes good problems, and we continue to trust the Lord for the means if He has established an end. As He has blessed us with more and more children needing to hear His Word, He will provide us with the tools needed to accomplish this in a God-glorifying way.

If the Lord should tarry, I look forward to being a great-grandfather, or even a great-great-grandfather, to the large family the Lord has given us.

In His service,

Pastor Mike Boldea, Sr.



Child of the Month

Lorena was born in 2007. At a very early age, along with her sisters and their mother, she was found living on the streets. The family was forced to leave the “structure” they were calling home due to the father’s abusive behavior (a space with a demolition order and lacking even the most basic features like electricity or running water).

As the mother could not afford to pay the fees associated with registering the birth of her daughters, none of them had birth certificates or any other paperwork to document their existence. With no education, no income, no relatives to rely on or get help from, and no government assistance, the mother agreed to have Hand of Help become the girls’ new home.

Lorena grew up to be a very intelligent young girl with a fantastic memory, constantly challenging the other children to learn more and do better with their studies. From an early age, she started singing and reciting Bible verses and lengthy poems that even adults would find difficult to recite.

She is always involved in the numerous activities around Hand of Help, and her smile and energy accompany her all the time. She loves arts and crafts and always seeks to learn and practice what she has learned.

Lorena is a studious young girl and does very well in school. She started Economics high school in 2022, and despite the many changes (new teachers, new classmates, new subjects), Lorena adjusted really well.



She continues to play the mandolin in our center’s orchestra and has recently started learning how to play the violin. She also sings in church and is a part of our choir.

Danusia, her oldest sister, finished a local trade school with a diploma in hairstyling/haircutting and attended an extra course specializing in the same field. Once she turned 18 and her studies were over, she decided to start independent life and move to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. Lorena’s other sister, Andreea, is still under our care.

She has grown into a mature young girl from a child with no legal existence. It is because of stories like Lorena’s that we do what we do. To see a little girl transformed before our eyes is truly humbling! Thank you for making stories like these possible. You are giving the

fatherless a chance and guiding them toward a life lived in Christ. We pray that the seeds planted in the lives of the children will bring forth much fruit and that the Holy Spirit will transform their lives into ones of continual worship of our God!

Dear Brethren,

Psalm 100:5, “For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”

Some mornings I watch my daughters sleeping, hear the birds chirping outside, and for an instant, I somehow forget that the world is on the brink of destruction. I forget that the culture has become a cesspool of fowl creepy things, I forget that those elected to govern by the will of the people are zealously pushing for tyranny, I forget that everything’s more expensive and that certain staples are harder to find, but what I do not forget is that God is still on the throne.

It’s easy to get swept up in everything that’s going on around us. Not a day goes by when some news headline, some event, or some machination of those who would enslave humanity doesn’t make its way to the surface that’s so disturbing and off-putting that it’s all you can do to catch your breath. From artificial intelligence to global depopulation protocols, wars and rumors of war, pestilences, earthquakes, and everything in between, one would be right to assume that we’re living in the times the Bible forewarned us of millennia ago.

Seeing these things and acknowledging them is not fearmongering; it is being prudent and wise. What would be fearmongering is to see these things occurring and slinking into some spider hole, waiting for the end to come. We do not behold current events with fear and trepidation but rather with steadfastness and hope. The One who foresaw the thread of human history to its conclusion also prepared a safe haven for those He would call His own.

The knowledge that He is with us is not a fleeting thing. It is not conditioned on our circumstances or on what the world is doing. When He is with you, it is through thick and thin, through the storm and the fire, through the good times and the bad.

God being with you does not mean you will not see the fire, but that you will pass through it and not be burned. It does not mean you will not be affected by the rushing waves, but that you will always keep your head above water because He is there.



Of everything we’ve seen of late, the most disturbing by far is that there are pastors, preachers, evangelists, and leaders that were caught unaware. They don’t know how to react to what they are seeing because they have always assumed it was for another time, another place, or another person. Some are waking up; others are scrambling to stick their heads further into the sand in the hopes that if they ignore the signs of the times, they will go away.

Things don’t get better on their own. Ignoring that growing lump on the side of your neck won’t make it go away. What does make things better is resisting the darkness and resisting the devil. If we resist the enemy, he will flee. It’s a promise, and God keeps His promises. However, for God to keep His promise, it requires action on our part first. We must resist that the enemy might flee; we must stand and do all to stand because the devil won’t give up without a fight. The fight is here. Whether we like it or not, whether we’re ready or not, it’s not far off, many years hence, but here and now.

Ephesians 6:10-12, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea, Jr.