

Hand of **HELP**

Be Still

April - May 2025



Speckdectomy

We have all been there: times of testing, times of conflict, times of tension, when all metrics point towards a moment in future time where collision is inevitable. Whether a long, drawn-out personal matter, a work situation, or, yes, believe it or not, a serious conflict within the church, you know the moment is coming, unavoidable and imminent, and all you feel is gut-wrenching pain and nausea.

I attempted rigorous research on the matter by using a well-known online search engine and discovered that there is no definitive data on exactly how many people out of 100 say they 'hate' confrontation. For the sake of actually being able to prove a point, let's say that number is high.

Problem solved, one would think since the vast majority hates confrontation. Not so fast; while many people state they hate confrontation, almost all of us do like to be "right." It would seem the need to be right outweighs our aversion to confrontation more often than not.

If one were to surround themselves only with people who are in agreement with them, again, there wouldn't be much of an issue. The problem, however, lies in the fact that for every two people, you have six opinions on any given issue, and the way we perceive and process information is contingent on our heart's posture.

It is remarkable that even in the Lord's Church, two godly believers can look at an identical situation and arrive at opposite conclusions, yet it happens more than one knows.

Before one would even attempt to address or adjudicate a matter – one must start with their heart in full acknowledgment that, according to Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (...)," and cry out before the Lord: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

In our efforts to address sin, which is our Biblical obligation (Galatians 6:1), are we proceeding according to the clear instructions of Scripture?

Matthew 7:3-5 sets out a clear and straightforward process. First me, then thee.

A side-by-side size comparison of a plank/beam/log and a speck/mote/sawdust is spelled out, and it is not without significance. What has been clearer to me this year than ever before, probably because I have been working on the 2 x 4 plank protruding for my own eye socket with greater awareness, is that I am to treat my sin as being much, much greater than anyone else's.

Unless we first address our own sin, we have no business addressing anyone else's. As one author put it, we "are in great danger if the grief you experience over the condition of others is greater than the grief you feel for your own sin."

If you do not see yourself as the greatest sinner in the room, then you are not ready to scrub in on the speckdectomy.

Lest you've been reminded of your complete and utter dependence on the Lord for His grace,

you are not ready to be used as an instrument to address sin in anyone else.

Another question to ask ourselves is, are we walking under the authority God has established in our lives? We see where throwing off the authority of God, as mediated through the King, led in Judges 17:6 and 21:25: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

What is our chief objective? If it is anything else than glorifying God, hard stop here. It is not about winning an argument; it is about glorifying God and winning your brother (Matthew 18:15).

I keep Ephesians 4:29 at the forefront of my mind as I go into tough conversations: “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Other translations add “according to the need of the moment.”

Self-restraint is stressed: only what is good for edification, according to the need of the moment.

The purpose is spelled out: edification and impartation of grace.

Galatians 6:1 speaks of a “spirit of gentleness” required with a mission of restoration in mind and Matthew 5:24 on the importance of actively pursuing reconciliation.

We are called to a high standard to love as we have been loved (John 13:34-35) and forgive as we have been given (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14).

Oh, how we all fall short of the perfect example of love and grace that we have in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let us work according to these Biblical truths and strive to be men and women that the Lord would use for His glory!

I long for the day when my sight will no longer be distorted by sin, when planks and specks shall be no more, and we will behold Him face to face and forever be in awe of He who is worthy of all worship; the One who has given sight to this blind man.

A fellow planker,
Daniel Boldea



Still

“Be still, and know that I am God (...).” Psalm 46:10 Eight simple words depicting a life’s worth of trusting in His sovereignty and yielding to His plan. They encapsulate a snapshot of a life well lived according to His will and purpose, without the pain and torment of uncertainty or doubt. He is God. Therefore, I am at peace. He is God. Therefore, my way is clear. He is God; therefore, He is able to heal, restore, and make the crooked paths straight before me.

There are seasons of life when leaning into this verse requires little effort. In times of plenty, we have no qualms about following through with this passage of Scripture. But how about during prolonged seasons of waiting, years of testing, sifting, pruning, and nights of endless pain?

If we are honest with ourselves, during times of pressure in our lives, unless we intentionally run to the Lord in prayer, and anchor ourselves in the Word, we are about as “still” as a three-year-old who swallowed a candy bar whole, washed it down with an espresso, and is being told it is nap time at noon.

Whether our instinct is to immediately try to fix things by ourselves, in our own understanding, or to just cave under the weight upon our shoulders and break down in sobs, the Word of God offers the same resolution. Yield; submit; be still; don’t be reactive; trust; yield again; God, who is fully aware, is working on your behalf. “Be still, and know that I am God (...).”

Psalm 55:22, “Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

How far out have you cast your burden? Have you truly cast it far enough never to see it again, or have you laid it down by your feet only to pick it back up? Perhaps you have launched it into the depths of the sea as commanded but have attached a tether to

it just in case you relapse to believing there is no resolution in sight, that your faith might weaken and you fall back to fears and anxiety, and you feel you might have to help the Lord out and carry it again.

Whether you are waiting on a dreaded test result or praying for your prodigal; whether you are interceding for an unbelieving spouse or serving your declining elderly parent; whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one or welcoming a baby into this world and are gripped with the anxiety of whether you’ll succeed in being a good parent; “Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you.”

Our omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent Lord shall sustain us!

Time and time again, we see how the Lord answers the cries of His people and sustains them through timely provision delivered through this ministry. Whether it be the long-time care of an orphan, the blessings of a cow for a large family, a food parcel for the hungry, a well for those without a freshwater source, or a load of firewood for those who are braving the cold, the Lord is using your prayers and support to meet the needs of the desperate who have placed their trust in the Lord and who have cast their burden on Him.

Thank you for the intricate part you play in serving the least of these!

Hand of Help Staff



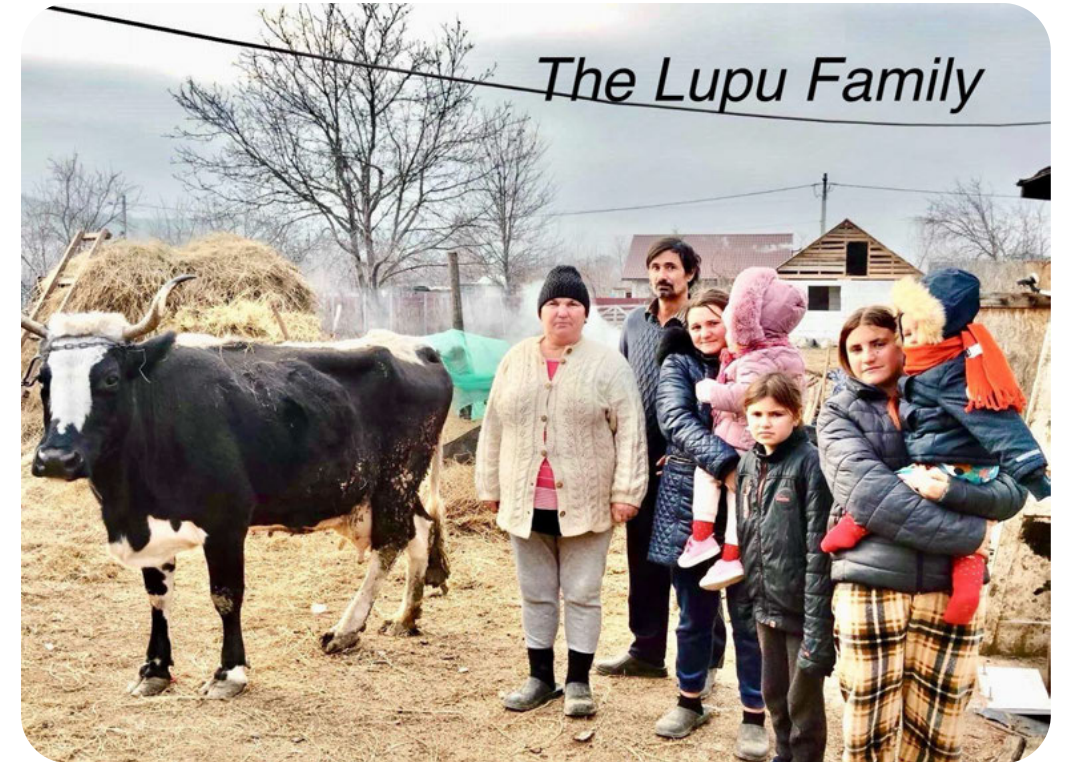


Herd of Blessings

The Duna Family



The Lupu Family



The Paval Family



The Balinga Family



The Sasu Family



The Balan Family



Specifics

To the intercessors and supporters of this work, thank you! You are an integral part of what makes the whole of this ministry since, without your prayers and support, we could not do what we have been called to do. Your obedience facilitates our obedience, and by the shared obedience we endeavor, lives are being saved.



We are continually humbled and encouraged by your co-laboring in the work God has entrusted to the ministry of Hand of Help.

The notes of encouragement and feedback that we receive from you are timely and providential blessings that assist us in our pursuit of and dedication to serving our Master as best we can. Seeing your encouragements and notes reminds us that we are not alone in this fight, even though it may seem so at times, but that God has set aside a remnant that continues to be faithful in the great and small things alike.



A few of you have shared that you miss the editions of the newsletter where specific families were highlighted, and would prefer those over general articles and photos of unnamed recipients of our support.

In that vein, we would like to share a few things that might shed light on the approach.

The distributions of foodstuffs and other sundry we undertake, whether in Romania or Ukraine, make the most sense to do on a large scale because of the distances required to be traveled and, most importantly, because of the overall expense of getting there. It's usually the out-of-the-way places no one ever goes to that we focus on because we know that's where the greatest needs are. When we visit an area, we plan on blessing 10, 20, or 30 families with a food parcel, or in remote regions of Ukraine, with a few hundred packages at a time.



Most needs we encounter we are able to meet right away from your support to our general fund or “where needed most” giving. This allows the team at Hand of Help to meet the needs we are presented with immediately and not have to be put off for two to three months until the need is featured in the newsletter and designated donations come in.



We realize that without the bios of the families or names, it is harder to be engaged. We have taken this into consideration and, as we are able, will feature more specific needs with greater detail regarding each family’s situation.



Hundreds of immediate needs are being met that have never been presented in our publications.



The Lord has also blessed us with ministry partners that come alongside our larger needs, and once again, many of those never make it to print. If a need arises and it is met before we have a chance to feature it in the newsletter, then there is no longer a reason to do so.

The entirety of this newsletter depicts needs that we have been able to meet right away as a result of the Lord’s blessing through your support.

Together for our King,
Hand of Help Staff

The work that goes unremarked or memorialized in the newsletter is nevertheless accounted for by One who sees all, and it is He who will one day reward all for all they have done.



Specifics (cont.)



Reminder!

Please note that the call-in option for Michael Boldea's radio show, The Light of Truth broadcast, is no longer available.

You can access the show by using the following links:

handofhelp.com/facebook

<https://rumble.com/user/handofhelp>

Child of the Month

Andreea P. is one of the teenagers we have recently welcomed to our family. She was born in 2010 to a young couple who was struggling with various vices. The episodes of trauma and lack of order encompass most of Andreea's early childhood memories; moments of harmony and familial understanding were very few and far between in her recollections.



Her mother was an alcoholic who spent much time in the neuropsychiatric hospital. Her father worked throughout the day and was mostly gone; in the evenings, he preferred drinking, leaving Andreea and her younger brother, Adi, on their own.

Numerous times, the local social workers and various other people from the community tried to help the parents and convince them to give up alcohol and take care of their children and their home. They would make some effort for a few days but then fall back into their usual patterns. Along with taking care of her younger brother, Andreea had to tend to the family's animals and often missed school for days on end as a result. There was no place of refuge for the children when their parents would fight. Eventually, they became numb to the endless quarreling and paralyzed by fear and shock. Watching the authorities attempt to reconcile the parents to no avail became the norm.

One day, Andreea participated in a local event where representatives of Hand of Help were present distributing clothing, school supplies, and sweets to the children in the area. That was the day Andreea learned about our ministry and the hand of help we provide to children in need.

With the assistance of the local social worker, Andreea was able to join our family in the fall of 2024. Two months later, her mother passed away. We give God the glory for orchestrating all things and entrusting Andreea to us at the time He did, allowing us to support her through the prolonged season of grieving while also providing her with the care and affection she needed at a crucial time.



Andreea has adjusted rapidly to our family. She is actively involved in school activities and various chores around the house. Andreea loves painting and baking various scrumptious delights.

She keeps in touch with her father and will spend her school breaks with her relatives. Her biggest desire is for her brother to also come to Hand of Help. We are hoping that this will happen in the coming year, Lord willing.

Please join us in praying for Andreea. May the Holy Spirit open her eyes to the truths of the Word. We serve a God who promised never to leave or forsake His children. May Andreea come to know the only God who saves and dedicate her life to serving Him!



Dear Brethren,

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Whenever unprecedented events overtake us, whether on an individual level or a global scale, we have the agency to choose how we react to them. Those of the world have no such choice and so ultimately react in the flesh, for the flesh is all they have and all they know. As children of God, however, those who have been brought out of darkness into His marvelous light, we can choose to react in the flesh or the spirit. Granted, it's unbecoming and ill-advised for the children of God to respond in the flesh, but more and more seem to be choosing it, becoming as despondent and fractured as those of the world.

By any objective metric, it seems the world is in a tailspin. Wherever you look, whatever continent or region you choose to focus on, there's conflict, unease, uncertainty, and a simmering discontentment that threatens to boil over at any moment. For those who understand the times and seasons they are living in, it's no surprise.

Men can pray for peace, hope for peace, and even negotiate for it, but they cannot manufacture it. Only God can give peace, for He is the source of peace, and when He wills that peace be snatched from the earth, there is nothing man can do to stop it.

Given all that is occurring and the pace at which everything is unfolding, the one question we must answer as faithful servants of God is how we should react, given what we know. Although opinions vary, running the gamut from having no reaction at all to digging spider holes wherever we happen to find some soft soil, in the end, they are just that, opinions.

When the Word of God offers clarity, it is to the Word we must submit and follow its counsel, as it will never lead us astray or convince us to pursue avenues God never directed us to pursue.

Scripture commands us to do three things. Whether times are good or less so, whether the sun is shining or the tempest is roaring, if we would heed its direction, far fewer individuals within the body of Christ would be having panic attacks, and adopting the expression of a frightened hare, frozen in place, and not knowing which way to turn.

The first thing we are commanded to do is to rejoice always. In certain circumstances, it's easier said than done, but there was no caveat to exempt us from rejoicing, whether ill health,

global strife, uncertainty, or despondency. We can rejoice always, and not only when life is good, because the hope of His appearing is ever present in our hearts. That is the goal. That is the finish line, and we must run the race faithfully until we cross it.

The second thing we must endeavor to do is pray without ceasing. I've never met anyone in some forty years of ministry who had run out of people and situations to pray for. There is no shortage of individuals, circumstances, needs, and situations to pray for, and our duty as faithful children of God is to pray without ceasing. Prayer also has the added benefit of bringing calm to our racing minds, causing us to focus on the One who is above everything, in control of everything, and to whom all things bow.

Not only is my worry, concern, or even outright fear of what tomorrow might bring thoroughly eliminated, but I also come to realize that any fear is unwarranted because the God I serve is in control.

The third and final thing required for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us, is that we give thanks in everything. Whether it's always or everything, these are all-encompassing words, deep and wide in their scope, which allow for no interpretation as to choosing what we should or shouldn't be thankful for.

When we learn to lean on God and give Him thanks for our blessings as well as our trials, for our victories as well as our setbacks, we acknowledge His supremacy, sovereignty, and preeminence in all things. We declare that although we may not fully understand the reason for some circumstance or situation in our lives, we nevertheless trust His promise that all things work together for good to those who love God.

The shaking has only begun. These may well be the birth pangs, the beginning of sorrows the Word forewarns of, but given the Bible's description of these last days, we've not yet entered the thick of it. It can be overwhelming, especially for those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but for us who look forward to the day of His appearing, it is reason to rejoice.

Luke 12:32, “Do not fear little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea, Jr.