

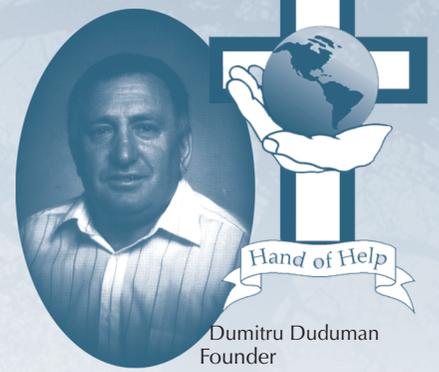


Hand of HELP

The Truth for Today

Hand of Help Hand of Help Office
P.O. Box 496719 1012 South Third Street
Garland, TX 75049 Watertown, Wisconsin 53094

Toll Free: (866) 371-7636 Ph: (920) 206-9910
<http://www.handofhelp.com> • Email: handofhelpoffice@aol.com



Dumitru Duduman
Founder

The Work

May, June, July, 2010



There is one constant in the work we do, and that is feeding, clothing and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children God has entrusted us with. Everything else is variable, depending on the need of the individual, and our ability to meet that need.

On any given week we get a wide range of requests for help, whether something as simple as someone needing a pair of shoes, or something more complex like someone needing a place to stay because their landlord threw all their earthly belongings out in the street. Although some requests might seem trivial to us, to the person standing before us with tears streaming down their face, they are anything but.

Requests for basic necessities such as food and shelter have increased, as we knew they would due to the continued and precipitous downturn of the economy. With retirements and pensions slashed by 50% across the board, and jobs being even more scarce than before, many are at their wits' end, seeing no way of surviving and feeding their families save a miracle.

People are angry, and reminiscent of the late 1980's they have once more taken to the streets in protest. It isn't just farmers, or single mothers, even law enforcement officials have been out protesting, due to the 25% across the board pay cuts they've had to endure. As yet, thankfully, there has been no violence, but with the level of animosity toward a bloated and unconcerned government continuing to spike, it is only a matter of time. We are bracing for a volatile summer as tensions will continue to grow more pronounced, and the leadership will be unable to do anything to ease the fears, concerns and angers of the people.

Among the general requests for food and other basic necessities we have also seen an increase in requests for cattle and livestock, as well as chickens, turkeys, goats, and other farm animals that are able to provide basic sustenance. There have even been a large number who have approached us for animal feed as they had no way of feeding their animals.

Other than repairing and repainting an apartment which had caught fire for a family that would have been left destitute, we have taken on no large projects for fear of being unable to complete them. We hope to be able to continue buying land lots for families, or even homes, but for now, realistically speaking we are more concerned with providing the absolute basics, and helping families make it through the harsh days that have descended like a storm cloud over much of Eastern Europe.

We covet your prayers, and support of this work, knowing that when we reach out and do for the least of these, we do it as unto the Lord.

*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*





(The following letter is printed with the permission of the author. It was received via e-mail to the Hand of Help Staff, and we believe it gives powerful insight as to what the love of Jesus can do.

Psalm 27:10 "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.")

Greetings Anne,

Thank you so much for your quick reply. I have exchanged an email with you a few times before in the past, have spoken to your husband and my husband and I have send clothes to Romania and have been so blessed by all of you-many times.

We have actually had no less than 5 orphans we support thru Orphans Tears, which is David [Kirkwood] Servants Ministry,-Heavens Family. We have done this since 2003 I believe. We try to add one more as the Lord leads. I was looking at some of the Blog teachings of Michaels that we receive by RSS, and noticed the link to the new site. It is very nice and everything is very easy to find. That picture of Paula jumped out at me. I too was an orphan. I never knew my mother and had been told all my life by my father she had tried to kill me, so I of course believed that. I found out just a few months ago that this was a lie and I am now 56, but truth always prevails! My father who was alcoholic placed me with whomever would care for me and then take me back to live with him whenever he had a new wife or girlfriend and when I was about 11 he told me we were to take a ride one morning and without explaining anything we arrived at an orphanage. We walked in and he announced to the lady at the desk "take her, I don't want her anymore". I was in shock, the lady was angry and explained that he could not just walk in and give his child away, that he must go to court to do that. It was very long walk back to the car, a silent ride home, not a word spoken. About two weeks later I was told not to go to school, but to take the box kept beneath my bed, fill it with everything I wanted to keep and needed and a few hours a later a knock on the door produced a lady who I was only told " go with her and take your box" and I found myself an orphan. I did not know my father had signed away his parental rights, I only knew that I had heard him argue with his girlfriend that he would not tolerate her going to the bars at night, and he would "get rid of her babysitter" to put a stop to it. I was that babysitter. Of course even if our mother and father forsake us, the Lord will pick us up. And that promise is true. I was a foster care child until I "aged out" of the system at 18, and met the Lord at the age of 19. Father God is a good Father and a merciful God. Paula, the child in the picture reminded me so much of myself at that age. My hair was the same color, and fine, and cut the same way, the look in her eyes, is the same that was in mine, and immediately I knew the Lord had given us another daughter.

I say this with the most sincerity. If you have never been an orphan, even one in America where we have so much, it's like nothing you can imagine, the rejection and abandonment and fear of wondering what will happen to me, and what did I do wrong? But my foster parents who did not know the Lord could not touch the pain, and my family has always been the true believers who walked the walk, and Father God always brought people who belonged to Him across my path, Your obedience to the Lord, and the seed you are sowing into these children is beyond anything you can imagine.

I spent two years with a Baptist family just prior to going to live with my dad and then before he gave up his rights to me. They were true believers and we had devotions and prayer every night, we went to Church Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, Wednesday evenings and every other time the doors were open, and all the years following after I was taken away from them by my father, until the age of 19 when I received Christ, the seed planted in my heart by that family kept me. At the darkest times, I would sing every Hymn I could remember, from Jesus loves me, to the Old rugged Cross, and I never forgot the Lord was near. Had I not had that year and a half and found out what it meant to know the true love of God, I do not think I would be alive today. So, one look at Paula, and I knew she was the one we had been waiting on every time we prayed and asked if we should add another orphan thru Orphan tears the Lord seemed to say "no, not yet wait". Our waiting ended yesterday.

Thank you so much for this blessing.

We love you all so much, and the people of Romania have always been close to my heart and I have never known why, it just one of those things God has done that we don't always have an answer for.

May the Lord continue to bless all of you, and draw those to you who will help meet the needs of the ministry.

Thank you for allowing me to share, and thank you for Paula, she is a miracle, beloved of God, wonderfully and fearfully made, and all her days are written in the Fathers book, His plans for her a good and not evil, and Father in His merciful kindness has allowed us to be a very small part, Father God is so awesome and gives such good gifts to us.

*Blessings In Jesus Name
Rachele & Michael Rumbaugh*

The State of the Ministry

Job 13:15, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

For the past few days I have been meditating on this verse. They were words penned by Job, after having lost everything he had, after having been beaten into the ground by life, sitting on a heap of ashes, scraping himself with a potsherd. After analyzing his current predicament, after seeing the heights from which he had fallen with no end in sight to his suffering, Job came to this wondrous conclusion that though God slay him, yet he would continue to trust God.

I have always strived to be honest with you, even when it was difficult. Many of you have been with this ministry since I was a pre-teen translating for my grandfather, and if statistics of ministries in general are any barometer, we have some of the most faithful supporters any ministry has ever had the privilege of calling its partners, family and friends.

Today I will once again be brutally honest, even though it is difficult. We are hurting. Ask any ministry and they will tell you that summers are notoriously slow, and with the economy being what it is I realize some are simply unable to support in any way. I cannot ask anyone to increase their giving, I will not ask anyone to sacrifice in greater measure, because I believe giving should be between God and the individual, without external pressures. What I can do however, and what I will do is ask you to pray for this ministry as never before.

The road this ministry has walked for the past quarter century has not been an easy one. Whenever you combine an unpopular message, with a call to repentance, absent the empty promises of thousand percent returns on investment that make people perk their ears, a difficult journey is almost a certainty. Even when fellow believers thought us madmen and fools, we continued being faithful to the message that God placed on our hearts, and now that those things which were foretold over twenty five years ago are beginning to come to pass, some are even

calling and apologizing for having so viciously attacked us.

Even those with no spiritual insight or acuity can sense that something is very wrong and something far worse than what has already been is well on its way. As tragic as it might sound, I have spoken to nonbelievers that are more aware of the times that they are living in than some believers who consider themselves mature in the faith. As a wise man once said, ‘the darkness is upon us; who will warn of the need for light?’

We have been faithful to the call of God, we have lived by faith, and trusted His providence, and we continue to do so.

Yes, times are hard but we are still here, and we will continue to be here feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and comforting the hurting for as long as God will allow. Barring a miracle we will be discontinuing airing our television program ‘the truth for today’ beginning on July 1st. It has bore much spiritual fruit, the calls and e-mails we’ve received testify to this, but we simply cannot afford to continue funding it with our current budget. We are, and have always been a small ministry, but by the power and providence of God we have been able to do great things in Him and through Him.

Today I ask only that you pray for God to do a miracle. It is easy to trust God when the seas are calm and all is well, but it is when He slays us that we must trust Him all the more. We are His vessels, we are in His hands, and we remain in His service. Since we know by way of His word that our God is a God of miracles, since we know that He answers the prayers of His children, please pray for this work, and if the Father should speak to you to be that miracle, then simply do as He directs.

*With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.*

The “Truth for Today” Television Show With Michael Boldea Program Guide.

Inspiration Network (Available on most home cable systems)

BROADCAST TIMES:

Tuesday: 9:30 PM Pacific Time • 10:30 PM Mountain Time • 11:30 PM Central Time

Wednesday: 12:30 AM Eastern Time

The web-site and contact number for INSP is: <http://www.insp.com> • Phone: 803.578.1000

I.N.S.P. • PO Box 7750 • Charlotte, NC 28241

If you have a Christian Television Channel and would like us to contact them about airing the program please contact Gene Schmidt at <http://www.handofhelpoffice@aol.com>

The Ends of the Earth

Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

It began as an idea birthed of passion, and it ended up being a once in a lifetime experience. Marius Buliga has been working for Hand of Help for a few years now, and he also serves as youth leader in the local church. When he first approached us with his idea, it was his sheer enthusiasm that compelled us to listen to what he believed God had placed on his heart.

“We want to take a group of young people from the church and go evangelize, but we want to do it in the most remote and out of the way regions of Romania. We want to go to the ends of the earth, and reach out to those who would never come into the city and attend a crusade, or be found in a conventional church.”

After four months of spiritual preparation which consisted of much fasting and prayer, and our commitment to finance this expedition into the unknown, the team was finally ready to go forth and be witnesses as Jesus instructed His followers. Since taking children from the orphanage would have been a logistical impossibility, the youth in our church stepped up and volunteered to go into the Oltenia region of Romania, consisting of Mehedinti, Dolj, and Gorj counties for two entire weeks.

Usually when one throws out a term such as ‘remote’ it is an issue of subjectivity, wherein one can readily determine based on personal experience, what it means. The villages we chose to minister to in these counties were by any definition, subjective or otherwise, remote. When we first arrived in the region and asked for directions to the village of Butoiesti, the first village on our list, an elderly man just smiled and said, ‘take a left at where the world ends, and go another three kilometers.’

We realized even before arriving in the area that these people would never attend a traditional crusade. All the



the fliers and pamphlets in the world would not get them to break from their routine, and so if we were to make any sort of impact, we would have to go to them. Although our approach was somewhat unconventional, it resonated with the people on a far greater scale than we could have anticipated. We went where they were, whether the stream where the women of the village go to do laundry, in the street in the middle of town, or from home to home passing out Bibles and New Testaments, telling them of the love of Jesus, and His power to save and transform.

What one quickly realizes upon arrival in one of these remote villages is that these are hard people, who live hard lives, and hope, if it ever had breath has long since expired from the constant blows of reality. Witchcraft and paganism are prevalent in this area, and the idea that someone would approach them simply to talk, and share the good news of the gospel with them was alien. At first they were skeptical of us, wondering what our agenda was, but that suspicion and skepticism gave way to a willingness to hear what we had to say when they realized we were not there to ask anything of them.

No, we were not readily accepted everywhere we went and there were some who mocked and jeered, but Jesus never said that we would be welcome with open arms, or that the road would be easy, He simply said 'go'. One thing we realized as we concluded this two week outreach is that there is a great need to go and preach Jesus to the out of the way places that would not otherwise hear of Him. We will continue to be faithful in this endeavor, and have more such outreaches planned throughout the year. Thank you for making it possible for the lost to hear the good news of the gospel, and have the opportunity to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff



Mother's Day



As mother's day was quickly approaching, I began feeling an urging to do something special for the widows in our congregation. No matter how busy I got on any given day, at night as I was getting ready for sleep, this thought would return to me, until I finally decided to call our elder board and ask them their opinion on the matter.

Although most families with children celebrate their mothers on this day with a warm breakfast, or a card, there are a handful of widows in our church who have lost their husbands, and whose children are either long gone from home, or away working in other countries, who rarely if ever hear the words 'Thank You', or 'Happy Mother's Day'.

After consulting with the elders, we decided to put a meal together, and invite all the widows in the church to participate. This is how it came about, that I had the privilege of spending Mother's Day with around a dozen of our sisters in the Lord, encouraging them, and making them feel appreciated. Stories of their full lives were plentiful, as were broad smiles, and sad tears as they remembered the good times and the trying times of their lives.

Those that were unable to attend due to illness or other issues were surprised with a care package and a warm meal, and the looks on their faces as well as the tears in their eyes were something that I will not soon forget. And so, to all the mothers, a belated Happy Mother's Day!

*In Christ,
Michael Boldea Sr.*

Maria's Story

We were at the orphanage without a car to go out for the day, wondering what the Lord had for us, when Maria Aursulesei showed up at the orphanage. Maria is a 17 year-old girl with a 2 year-old boy named Narcis, who was conceived when she was violated by her stepfather. She has fled the situation at home and has a studio apartment. Her income from the government is one tenth of the amount of the rent. So, of course, she was behind on her rent and the landlord's patience was running out. We went with her to her apartment and met with the landlord and paid the back rent and the current rent so that she is paid up through the middle of June 2010. The apartment is for sale but the landlord said that, even if it sells, she can stay until the middle of June.

Maria is still in school and studying to become a seamstress. We are planning to buy her a sewing machine so that she can help support herself while finishing school. She is in need of monthly sponsorship to help her as she finishes school and tries to establish a clientel for a sewing business. Hand of Help is presently providing her with food.

We praise God that she did not abort the baby and that she was led by God to where she could find a Hand of Help from Him. She has been raised in the Orthodox church and they have not responded to her need. That, of course, provides Hand of Help with an opportunity to point her to Christ. Pray that as a result of her coming and receiving help she will come to know the Living and Loving God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We told her how much He loves her and how much we love her. She was very receptive.

May the Holy Spirit lead those whom He wants to have a part in helping her with her future needs. We thank God that He can turn even this evil that has come upon her for her good. Thank you for your prayers for her.

*Blessings,
Dave, Cheryl, and Hosanna*



Dear Brethren

Hebrews 11:24-27, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”

There are times in everyone’s life where the stresses and disappointments of everyday life reach their climax, where things have built up for so long, that it finally overflows. Young and old, male and female, all go through these seasons where emotions just bottleneck, and build up. Each disappointment serves to add just a little more pressure, each hardship just a little more steam until finally it all boils over.

A recent study done on divorced couples, shows that an overwhelming percentage of divorces do not occur because of just one big thing, but a building up of all of small things. It is the human condition, and with the fluctuations in the global economy, and uncertainty concerning tomorrow, men and women of all backgrounds seem to be reaching that breaking point more than ever before.

There is one silver lining in this otherwise dark cloud, and that silver lining is that we are not of the world. Yes, we as children of God might be in the world, but we are not of it. We tend to so readily forget the promise of Jesus that He would give us peace, but not as the world does. We tend so readily to overlook the source of joy, the source of comfort, the source of healing, and the source of peace, because we are trying to do it on our own, to employ earthly means, and follow steps by which we will attain our happiness.

Often times, the world looks to us, and at us to see how we handle these stresses, to see how we handle these hardships and trials that come upon us. The world wants to see if we react differently, if we follow through on our assertions that in Jesus we find our peace and our joy. So what can we learn from the life of Moses that will show us what we must do when we just can’t go on anymore? How are we to act and react when trials abound?

For the first forty years of his life Moses wanted to be somebody. Moses wanted to be someone important, someone people would look up to, and someone with authority. Moses desired to know all the wisdom of Egypt and the Bible tells us that he succeeded in attaining this knowledge. We must also keep in mind that there were not a people more advanced, more educated, and more civilized than the Egyptians during that time in history. Recent archeological discoveries even point to the fact

that the Egyptians were practicing what amounts to modern medicine, performing surgeries and understanding human anatomy at a very advanced level. Never mind the fact that recently they discovered something very similar to light bulbs, and that the pyramids even to this day stand as a marvel of ancient craftsmanship. So when it says that Moses acquired all the wisdom of Egypt, it is not something to be readily dismissed.

It’s amazing to me that although thousands of years separate us from the time of Moses, man hasn’t changed much. We like to think of ourselves as progressive, as smarter than those that came before us, but the underlying nature of what makes us has remained the same throughout the history of man.

If the first forty years of the life of Moses is similar to the lives of many today, having achieved a certain level of education, soon to be promoted as ruler of the people of Egypt, the next forty years are very strange indeed. At the height of his learning, at the height of his success, Moses leaves it all behind and for forty years becomes a shepherd, tending sheep that weren’t even his.

So basically it took Moses forty years to become something, and it took him another forty years to become nothing. Before God could use him, Moses had to see himself as a mere vessel. He had to be molded and chiseled for forty years before God found him ready for service. So to summarize the life of this man who lived for one hundred and twenty years, forty years were spent learning to be someone, forty years were spent learning to be no one, and forty more years were spent in the service of God.

It is through the life of this great man of the Bible that we are taught what to do when we reach our wit’s end, when we can’t go on another step, when the proverbial straw breaks the proverbial camel’s back.

What do we do in those moments when we just want to throw our hands up in the air, and go find a quiet place somewhere far away to just be alone, by ourselves?

The first thing we must do is rediscover our identity. Remember who we are, remember who our Father is, and remember His promises to us. Now by your identity, I don’t mean your driver’s license number, or your social security number, but who you are. The knowledge of self is the knowledge of one’s true identity.

The Word of God tells us that He knows those who are His. The Word tells us that He knows His children by name. If you are a child of God, do you identify yourself as such? Do you acknowledge the beauty and majesty that is being reconciled unto Him, of being called His beloved?

The Word of God tells us that He knows those who are His. The Word tells us that He knows His children by name. If you are a child of God, do you identify yourself as such? Do you acknowledge the beauty and majesty that is being reconciled unto Him, of being called His beloved?

Some people can lose their identity even while sitting in church. As Jesus wrote to one of the seven churches in Revelation, 'you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'

Know thyself! Know that you are a child of the almighty God who spoke the universe into being.

Even though Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house, and everyone called him the son of the Pharaoh's daughter, Moses never forgot who he was. As we read in Hebrews, when he became of age, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, because he knew who he was. Instead of being comfortable, instead of enjoying the passing pleasures of sin, and instead of being in a place of privilege, he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God.

Moses never forgot that he was not Egyptian; he never forgot that He was a child of God; he never desired to be something other than what he was. Moses never forgot that God gave him an eternal name and that he had an eternal calling.

So many of us like to play the 'if only' game with ourselves. If only I was as handsome as that man, if only I was as beautiful as that woman, if only I had his money, if only I had his education, if only I had his charisma, if only we had their relationship. It seems everybody wants to be somebody else; everybody has adopted this mentality that the grass is greener on the neighbor's lawn. Surely they don't have any worries, surely they don't have any problems; surely they don't have any disappointments. Yet the people we aspire to be most often, the people we wish we were, seem to have the most miserable lives, the most horrible of addictions, and the most heartbreaking of divorces.

Moses didn't want to be somebody else, he said 'I don't want your name, I know who I am, and I am different.'

Once we rediscover our identity in Jesus, we realize that what we once deemed as worthless is priceless in the eyes of God. Yes, you are priceless in the eyes of God. God sent His Son to die, to expire upon a cross, for you, for me, for all of us. In God's eyes you are priceless!

Do you realize that at this moment in time, billions of angels are warring against billions of demons, for your

soul? A war is raging in the unseen realm for the soul of even the most irrelevant and unimportant of men. And such is the love of God for you that this war will rage until the return of Christ.

Know who you are in Jesus! Not because we are anything, but because He is everything. You were bought with a price, and it was not with anything as trivial as silver or gold, but with the blood of the only begotten Son of God. You have been redeemed, you have been plucked out of the darkness and brought into the light, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and as such you can stand before your heavenly Father, and speak to Him and He will hear you!

Just pour out your heart, just be honest with Him. He is Abba; He is Father, and when you feel like you can't go on, He will carry you. There is strength in Him, there is power in Him, there is peace in Him; there is comfort in Him. Go to Him; know who you are in Him.

You are not insignificant. You are the one for which the heavens parted, and the Son came down to be born in a manger and hang on a cross. You are the one for which the greatest price ever to be paid as ransom, was paid. How can you say nobody loves you, when He has already proven just how much He does?

Moses knew who he was, he knew he was a child of God, and he would not demean himself, he would not be less than what he truly was by saying he was the son of the Pharaoh's daughter. Moses knew he was not an orphan, and you my dear friend ought to know that you are not an orphan either. Our God reigns, He is King, and He is father.

The second thing we must do when we just can't go on, is remember where we belong! We live in a divided world, everyone belonging to their little factions, everyone congregating in their own groups. Yes, the world is divided between rich and poor, between educated and uneducated, between people with a name, and nameless people; one can see the divisions wherever they choose to look, even between literate and illiterate.

Although in the eyes of the world there are countless fractions, divisions, and camps God only divides the world in two, God only sees one distinction by which He forms two camps: The saved and the unsaved.

He doesn't see Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, He doesn't see sick and healthy, rich or poor. God knows only two categories. Saved and unsaved.

There aren't many paths; there are only two, the narrow path and the wide path. There aren't many doors; there are only two, the door that leads to the kingdom of

narrow path and the wide path. There aren't many doors; there are only two, the door that leads to the kingdom of God, and the door that leads to eternal sorrow. There aren't many foundations; there are only two foundations upon which we can build; the foundation built upon sand, and the foundation built upon the rock. Countless souls today are building their homes upon the sand, trusting in fleeting doctrines, and materialistic teaching, trusting in themselves, rather than the authority of God, countless souls build and build only to discover that it's sinking, crumbling and falling to the ground.

A happiness built upon possessions will cease to be when the possessions cease to be. A happiness built upon the pleasures of the flesh, will cease to be when good health ceases to be. Nothing built upon the temporal can last in perpetuity.

We need to know who we belong to; we need to know where we belong. If you are a child of God, then you belong to Him, you belong on the narrow path, you must walk through the door named Jesus, and build your house upon the rock that is the Word of God.

When we know who we belong to, when we know where we belong we walk in authority, because we know who our Father is. When David confronted Goliath, he said to him "you come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

David knew who he belonged to, and where he belonged. This knowledge fueled his courage, and as he looked upon the giant of a man, arrayed in his armor, carrying all manner of weapons, he was fearless in the face of his enemy.

The third thing we must do when we just can't go on, is understand that the entire purpose of our existence is knowing who to please. When we acknowledge that we exist to please God, we discover the joy of serving our Creator with love and zeal.

Consider the countless times Moses should have just thrown up his hands in frustration, if not for the knowledge that he belonged to God, and that God had a plan for him. For forty years he suffered in the depths of his heart because he could not be with his people, until finally one day he snapped, and killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew. He fled, and became a shepherd for another forty years, tending to the flock of another, until God spoke to him through a burning bush and told him to go and bring Israel out of Egypt.

We all know of the plagues, and the constant hardship

Moses endured while trying to get the Pharaoh to release the people of Israel from their bondage, until finally one day Pharaoh said, 'go; take your people and go.'

I imagine at this point Moses breathed a sigh of relief, thinking to himself that the road would get much easier from this point forward. At the age of eighty, as he was leading the people out of Egypt I doubt it crossed his mind that he would have to endure another forty years of the people murmuring every day, of the people doubting God, of building idols, of being hated by those who had forgotten the whips and the chains of their captivity, and now looked back on their time as slaves with fondness.

They even came to the point of wanting to kill Moses, crying out 'where is God, we're in the desert starving, and we miss the meat and bread of Egypt.'

They had seen God making a way for them, yet because of their murmuring rather than forty days, they wandered through the desert forty years. Through it all however, Moses kept his eyes firmly affixed on God. Moses didn't try to please everybody, sure he heard their opinions, he heard their quarreling, but in the end his desire was to please God, and only God.

So often in this life we try to please everybody and end up making a mess of our lives. We get stressed out and resentful and run ourselves ragged because we're just trying to please everyone all the time. We try to please our children, yet they are never pleased, we try to please our neighbors, yet they still won't talk to us, we try to please our leaders, yet they still take advantage of us. We care too much about what they might think, how they will view us, what they will whisper about us when we're not there. We're so busy wondering what people think of us that we forget to ask what God thinks of us. Stop trying to please everybody, and just try to please God and you will know comfort and peace and joy. When we please God, we have achieved our highest purpose.

I can't say that I know the key to success, as the world would view success, because my desire has always been to just walk humbly with my Lord, and work out my salvation with fear and trembling. I do however know the guaranteed path to failure, and that is trying to please everybody all the time.

Proverbs 16:7, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Just meditate on this verse for awhile, let it make its way into your heart that you may understand the true depth of its profundity. When you seek to please the Lord, and only the Lord, He will make even your enemies be

way into your heart that you may understand the true depth of its profundity. When you seek to please the Lord, and only the Lord, He will make even your enemies be at peace with you. You will never be able to please people, but if you desire to please the Lord, He will change the hearts of men that they might be at peace with you. Just please God, keep your eyes on God, follow after God, and He will work all things out.

If my ways please the Lord, I don't care who criticizes me; if my way please the Lord I don't care what people think of me; all that matters is that I please my Lord and my God.

The last thing we must do whenever we feel overwhelmed by the trials and circumstances of this life, is focus on our destination. Yes we are on a journey, and focusing on our destination gives us strength to carry on, to press ever onward, and to see the end that is in sight.

I drive many miles in any given year, and each time I am returning from a speaking engagement somewhere in the country, I always check the miles to my destination. Every thirty minutes or so, I know that I will have close to forty miles less to travel, and that I am forty miles closer to home. With each passing day, we are one day closer to our destination, we are one day closer to our eternal home; we are one day closer to Jesus. Focus on your destination, and let God plan your route.

Israel wandered through the desert for forty years not because they got lost, but because they did not follow God's plans. They rebelled against God's route, they rebelled against the destination that God had planned for them, and so they wandered through the desert for so long that at one point they even considered making the desert their home.

Always remember that this earth is not our destina-

tion, it is the desert we must traverse in order to get to where we are going. We are journeying toward our Canaan, toward the place that Jesus went to prepare for us, and this knowledge should serve to encourage and embolden us even in our darkest hour.

Of all the peoples of Israel, three men did not forget that their journey had a specific destination in mind. Moses, Caleb, and Joshua always remembered that their journey would end, for forty years they knew that one day they would reach Canaan.

You were not called to perish in the desert of this world, but to reach your eternal home, your destination, where there is no tear, no death, no sadness, where Jesus is our light, and where we will be in the presence of the Father for all eternity.

Today I pray from the depths of my heart that we would know who we are, that we would know we are the children of the most high God, that we would seek to please Him and only Him, that we would have our destination firmly at the forefront of our minds, and that we would walk, that we would persevere, that we would press ever onward, remembering all the benefits, all the blessings, all the mercy and all the grace that God has so bestowed upon all of us. I pray also that we never forget He is with us, He guides us whether by a pillar of fire by night, or a cloud by day, God is always there urging us on, ready and able to help us when we need it. We serve a good God, a God who loves His children, and a God who desires nothing less than eternal life for all who believe in His Son Jesus.

*With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.*

We are in the process of updating our database with current e-mail addresses.

Name (first) _____ Name (Last) _____

E-mail address _____

You may contact us online with this information by sending us an e-mail to handofhelpstaff@gmail.com or send via snail mail.

It is the policy of Hand of Help to use all contributions in the area of greatest need, unless a specific purpose is stated. The articles that we share are some of the most pressing needs. In Romania everyone has such difficulty and hardship obtaining even the most basic supplies for their families. If contributions exceed the amount needed to help a family, the extra contributions for that project will be used to help a family in a similar situation. It is our commitment to you before our Lord that we will be faithful in the disbursement of all contributions that we receive.

The Hand of Help Staff