



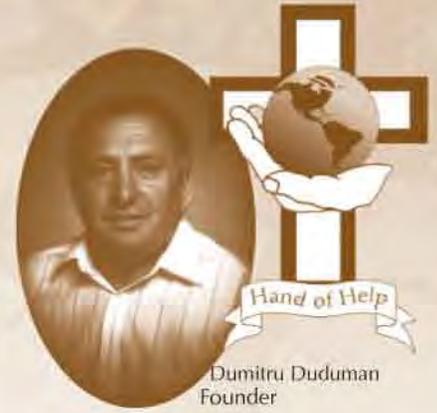
Hand of HELP

The Truth for Today

Hand of Help
P.O. Box 496719
Garland, TX 75049

Hand of Help Office
1012 South Third Street
Watertown, Wisconsin 53094

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



Dumitru Duduman
Founder

Aug, Sept., Oct., 2010

Then Came the Rain



will know the future tomorrow. If He is our Father, what have we to fear?

So back to the title of this article, and my initial intent for it: How can we have rest in a restless world? How can we see everything that is happening and still be at peace?

Short answer, trust in God and know that you are in His will. We must remember that although the Disciples of Christ were hysterical with fear, inquiring of Him if He did not care that they were perishing, all it took for Jesus to calm the windstorm and the waves beating into the boat and filling it were three simple words: 'Peace, be still!'

It was after this that Jesus asked them a question that many believers should ask themselves today, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?'

Jesus did not ask His disciples why they had so little faith, or why their faith wasn't strong enough, but rather He asked them why they had no faith at all. I realize I am not ingratiating myself to anyone by saying this, but it must be said, it is time some of us looked in the mirror and asked ourselves the same question Jesus asked of His disciples.

'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?'

From the correspondence I've been receiving lately it would seem that many believers are working themselves up into a fervor, each 'alert' or 'breaking intelligence report' more fear filled and imminent than the last. Ten different sources telling believers to do ten different things to avoid some calamitous event, whether the oil spill, the possible methane explosion, the coming earthquake, the New Madrid fault line, and the list goes on, but of all the 'advice' I've seen none of it was simply 'peace, be still!'

We know these things are coming! We have known it for decades now, but this is no time for panic, but rather a time to dig deeper into our faith, to cement our relationship with God, and know His will for our lives as individuals. This is no time to cry out 'do you not care that we are perishing', but rather a time to say, 'I have enough faith in my heavenly Father, I trust Him enough, that nothing will move me, nothing will shake me, nothing will hinder my stride toward eternity.'

We can have rest in a restless world precisely because the One we serve, the One who has saved us from the mire of sin and darkness has the power to speak to the storm and still it. We can have rest in a restless world because the One we serve is omnipotent and omniscient, all knowing and all powerful, and He promised His beloved that He would watch over them, protect them, and let no harm come to them.

This pace of alarming, disturbing, calamitous, and catastrophic 'alerts' is unsustainable, because we will all be shell shocked by the time the real trouble comes. God forewarned, not that you might fear, but rather that you might prepare, that you might have peace, be still, and know that He is forever and always, Alpha and Omega.

*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>

Dear Brethren

Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

There are many opinions flying about as to why a once great nation is so rapidly descending into chaos. There are opinions from economic minds, there are opinions from moral authorities, there are opinions from historians and scholars, but when we get right down to it, when we get to the heart of the matter and peel back the layers of pseudo-intellectualism, there is only one answer as to why not only America, but the world as a whole is spiraling out of control, and headed toward a sure and frightful end. The answer is sin!

Some small words have a big impact, and the word 'sin' is one of those words. We can theorize, we can deduce, we can look back on the histories of other once great empires and get clues as to why they descended into ruin, but the Word of God is simple and straightforward: sin has brought us to this place; sin has robbed us of our convictions; sin has stained our conscience; sin has blinded us to truth; sin has paved the way for our destruction!

Some are attempting to get back on track, to rediscover their roots, to pull themselves up by their bootlaces, and once more become that exalted nation. Especially of late, it seems we've been hearing more and more opinions on what exalts a nation, at least in the eyes of the world, yet none of these opinions seem to be lining up with the word of God. It is righteousness that exalts a nation, and nothing but righteousness. It is not wealth, not opulence, not military might, not poverty, not weakness, not rhetoric or politics, but righteousness as defined by the Word of God that makes a nation great. Righteousness exalts a nation, and until we return to righteousness, until we return to faith, until we return to the truth of God's Holy Word, we will continue to be a reproach.

'Brother Mike, how can you say something so mean? How are we a reproach?'

It's not me it's the Word of God. Sin is a reproach to any people, and before we can fix what has been broken, before we can build what has been torn down, we must return to righteousness.

When we attempt to bypass or otherwise minimize righteousness, and still have the expectation of exaltation, we are doing nothing but deceiving ourselves, and in due time will suffer the disappointment of having fallen short of our expectations. Righteousness exalts a nation! It is

simple, and straightforward, yet less and less people want to hear this divine truth.

In order to fix the multitudes of problems that we are facing as a nation dear friend, we must return to righteousness. There is no way around it, there is no substituting it; righteousness must be our goal, our quest, and our purpose.

We often focus on the symptoms rather than the root cause of our nation's ills, and this is why we rarely come to a right and true conclusion. The root cause for our nation's ills is sin, plain and simple. The sin I speak of is not exclusive to the world, but is prevalent even within the house of God. Because we knew the truth, because we ought to have obeyed it, we will be held all the more accountable for the reproach we have brought upon our own heads by believing that we could play games with God, or that we could substitute the gospel of self for the gospel of Christ.

What is alarming to me at least, is that we are no longer making hesitant strides toward destruction, we are galloping toward it. We have been uncorked and that which was within us all along is spilling out. Men are showing their true colors, and even those who claimed to be of Christ are pulling off the mask and revealing their true nature.

They stand behind pulpits and scream at the top of their lungs, 'this is not God, this is not God', all the while His Word tells us that it is indeed God.

Job 37:5-7, "God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. For He says to the snow, 'be on the earth'; likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work."

Job 37:13, "He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy."

How will we now react toward God? How will we now react toward His rod of correction I wonder? It is our rejection of righteousness that has brought us to this place, the selfsame righteousness that once exalted us as a nation.

In 1865, four years before his death, a man by the name of Joseph Charles Philpot wrote a book called 'Steps of Thankful Praise'. In it, he said something truly profound concerning sin that I would like to share with you today.

'Sin has thoroughly diseased us, and poisoned our very blood. Sin has diseased our understanding, so as to disable it from receiving truth. Sin has diseased our conscience, so as to make it dull and heavy, and undiscerning of right and wrong. Sin has diseased our imagination, polluting it with every idle, foolish and licentious fancy. Sin has diseased our memory, making it swift to retain what is evil, slow to retain what is good. Sin has diseased our affections, perverting them from all that is heavenly and holy, and fixing them on all that is earthly and vile.' And this he wrote in 1865.

There is only one remedy for sin, and that is Jesus, there is only one way by which our understanding, our conscience, our imagination, our memory and our affections can be transformed and made new, and that is by

being washed clean by the blood of Christ our Lord and Savior. If we desire to be an exalted nation once more, we must deal with the root cause of sin that has corrupted and destroyed so many minds, hearts and lives.

Lamentations 4:1-2, "How the gold has become dim! How changed the fine gold! The stones of the sanctuary are scattered at the head of every street. The precious sons of Zion, valuable as fine gold, how they are regarded as clay pots, the work of the hands of the potter!"

*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*

Orphan Update Requests



If you would like an update regarding a child and/or family you sponsor, you may contact Romania directly through emailing simona@handofhelp.com. Simona works directly with the children and can answer your specific questions regarding their needs, sizes of clothes they wear, and current interest's and hobbies. Please excuse her broken English and spelling, English is her second language.

If you are unable to send an e-mail, fill out the following request and we will send your inquiry and respond as we receive the information.

Name of Sponsored Child and/or Family _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

continued Then Came the Rain

The news that all government employees including teachers, doctors and policemen would have their salaries slashed by 25% had already broken, so had the news that the value added tax would be increased from 19% to 24%. The mood of the general population was already dark and bitter; then came the rain.

At first the rain was a welcome reprieve from the heat wave that Romania had been experiencing since May, but as the light showers turned into unceasing torrential rains, the mood quickly became one of concern. Some days hail peppered entire regions of the country, destroying the wheat crop, while other days the heavens would simply open up and the rain would descend like someone had just turned on a high powered hose. The rainfall was unprecedented, and since over twenty people are confirmed dead due to the subsequent flooding, some did not see the danger these rains posed in time.

While our neighbors to the east have had to contend with the worst drought in over 130 years, we have had to contend with the worst flooding since records started being kept. Regions that were never considered as having been in flood areas, in fact regions that have never been flooded were suddenly underwater, and the government scrambled to do what they could in order to save as many as they could.

In the words of a reporter, the scenes of levies not holding, dams giving way, and people running for their lives having abandoned everything they'd worked for up to that point in their existence seemed unreal, almost like an apocalyptic movie about the end of days. This however was no movie, it was real life, and as such real people were being uprooted, real people were losing their homes, real people were hungry and hurting.

The devastation the recent floods caused must be seen to be believed. The floodwaters came with such force and violence that hundred year old trees were uprooted from the ground, some homes were literally torn off their foundations, cars were tossed about like some mere playthings, and anyone who did not get to higher ground in time yet survived, survived by providence alone.

Vast regions of our wheat and corn fields are still underwater, and a preliminary report by the department of agriculture says that close to half of this year's crop is no longer viable. The people were already bracing for a difficult winter before the rains came, before they lost their livestock and their homes, now some simply don't know how they will survive.

For some the worst is over, for some the worst is just beginning as they attempt to rebuild their lives, returning to the mud caked edifices that were once their homes in an attempt to salvage whatever little they can.

We are doing what we can as we can, and we ask for your prayers for this ministry, as well as for the people of Romania in this time of great trial.



*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*

Aftermath

As soon as the waters receded enough for us to get through, we packed up the Hand of Help vehicles with food packages and clothes, took as much money as we could spare, and headed for the city of Dorohoi, one of the hardest hit by the floods. We had been in contact with the assistant pastor of the Betel Pentecostal church in Dorohoi, but didn't really know what to expect as we made our way into the city.

The scene that confronted us was chaotic at best, with soldiers and police officers ever present on the flooded streets, citizens either trying to wash away the mud from their furniture in the middle of the street or just sitting beside a heap of mud brick and mortar that was once their home, shell shocked at the devastation. One third of the entire city was flooded, something that was not only unexpected, but unprecedented.

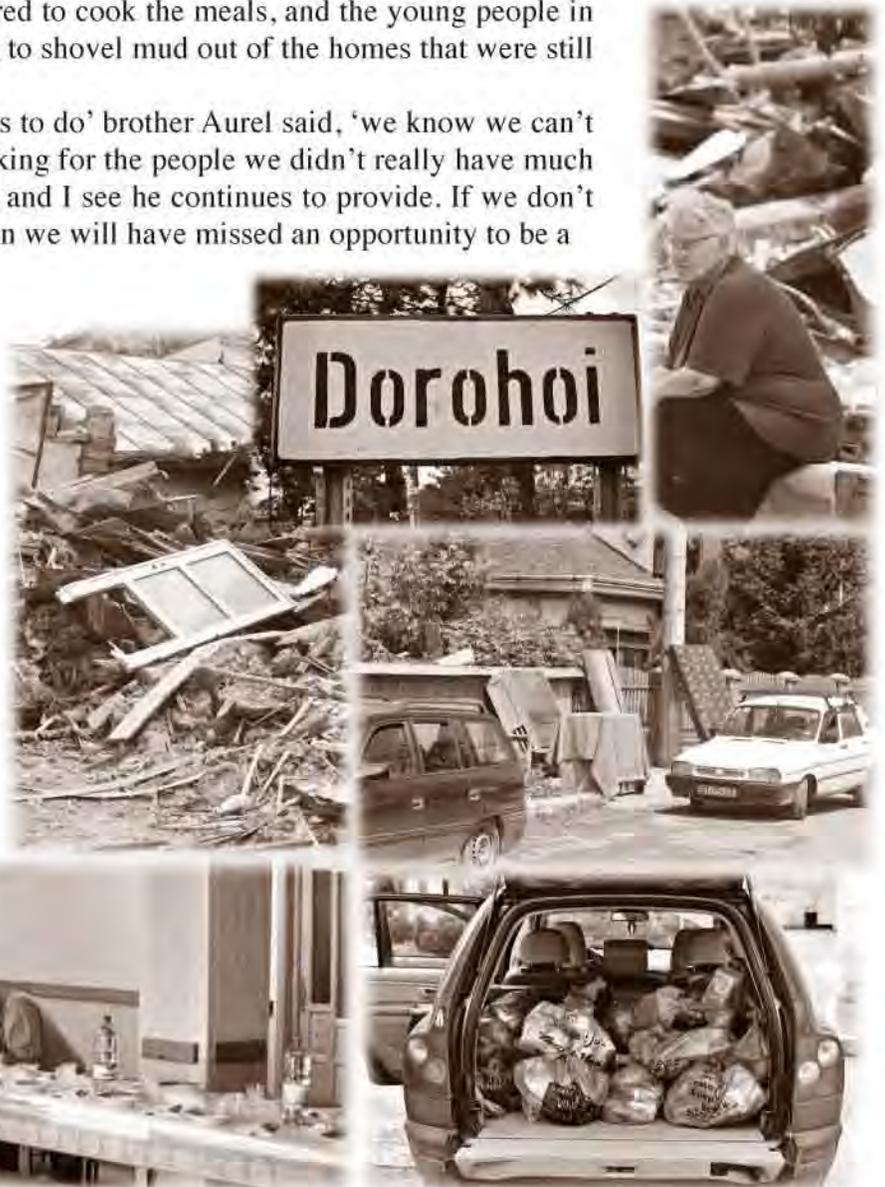
When we saw the extent of the damage, we realized there would be little use for the flour, oil, and other cooking essentials we had brought to distribute, since most of the people we ran into no longer had a stove on which to cook.

Once we got to the Betel church however, we realized the reason God had impressed it upon us to bring these items. When everyone else was disoriented and shell shocked, the body of Christ mobilized itself in a way that brought joy to my heart. Within a day of the floods Betel fellowship had set up a soup kitchen in the church basement where they could serve those whose homes had been completely destroyed, had no place to cook their meals, and had no place to go. Currently they are serving circa one hundred families every day.

Soltuzu Aurel, the assistant pastor, gave us a tour of the facility and informed us that from day one the sisters in the church had volunteered to cook the meals, and the young people in the church were going house to house offering to shovel mud out of the homes that were still standing for free.

"It is something we felt the Lord leading us to do" brother Aurel said, "we know we can't help everybody, and when we first started cooking for the people we didn't really have much in the way of supplies, but the Lord provided, and I see he continues to provide. If we don't help now, if we don't stand in the gap now, then we will have missed an opportunity to be a blessing, and to show the world the love of Christ in its purest form. We know we have a hard road ahead of us as the families in this community attempt to rebuild, but with God's help all things are possible."

We left the clothing, as well as the money we had brought with pastor Aurel, trusting that he would distribute them as he saw fit, and as the Lord led. As a ministry we have also committed to sending one shipment of supplies per week, including poultry, fish and beef for as long as the church needs it, and for as long as their soup kitchen is up and running.



There are certain things in this life that one never forgets for as long as they live, and the pain I saw etched on some of the faces we encountered as they witnessed their life's work evaporate in an instant is something that will stay with me for many years to come.

Thank you for your support of this ministry, and know that through your generosity and selfless giving we are able to save lives and bring a little hope in the lives of those for whom all hope was lost. Pray for us as we pray for you, and may the blessings of our heavenly Father be upon you always.

*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*



Strike the Shepherd

Poverty and hardship can be easily noticed in many corners of Romania. None of what I have seen until now has prepared me for the sights of the destruction left behind the floods in Dorohoi. Over 300 families have been affected and 80 homes needing to be demolished.

There is an often repeated axiom, that if you strike the shepherd, the sheep will scatter. Thankfully this was not the case for the church in Dorohoi, who in spite of their own pastor's home being ravaged by the flood, reached out to the community in a manner befitting a child of God.

From amongst the ruins the Church stands out again, being first responders to the devastation. The believers came together as one, ready to remove the mounds of mud from their neighbor's home, to house those left homeless, and to feed the hundreds left with nothing but the soggy clothes on their backs in the basement of the church. Behind the entire operation is a man, a pastor, teary-eyed and with Job-like faith, ready to set aside his loss for the well being of his flock.

Marcel Gradinaru, father of 9 children hurried home that evening knowing that his house would likely flood. This would not have been the first time; in fact his home had been flooded on five other occasions. He immediately embraced his youngest children and fled with them to higher ground toward the center of the city. His oldest children were instructed to turn all the animals loose, and to start filling sandbags. None of their past experiences prepared them for what they were about to witness. The children worked tirelessly doing as their father instructed, but their efforts in saving their home were in vain. The waters continued to rise with no end in sight, and as they were getting dangerously high the children pastor Marcel left behind to try and save their home were obligated to hurry to higher ground themselves and save their lives.

The Gradinaru home was flooded with over 7 feet of water barreling through the windows, taking with it everything that made their house a home, leaving nothing but bare muddied walls in its wake.

Pastor Gradinaru is continuing to tend to the needs of his church while someone has graciously offered them a temporary roof over their heads. He trusts God knowing that as he labors for others, our Provider will take care of his family.

Throughout this experience I reacquainted myself with a lesson that although I knew in my heart to be true, had started to fade, if ever so slightly. If our hearts belong to anything or anyone other than Christ, and Christ alone, the pain of loss will be too much to bear. If however the words we sing are true and living in our hearts, if Jesus is all we need, and want, and desire, then come what may, Jesus remains, ever true, ever faithful, an ever present help in time of trouble who is our comfort, our shelter, and our joy.

Daniel Boldea



Our Trip

Our church in America has helped support Hand of Help ministries for over 15 years. We have always been blessed when Mike Boldea Jr. comes to visit us. But no one from our church has ever come to Romania to see the work. Our family has wanted to come for many years and it finally worked out this year.

Having lived in Russia for three years, we have seen several different orphanages. What we found in Romania could not be compared with any other orphanage we have seen. The children are well fed, well clothed, and more so, well loved.

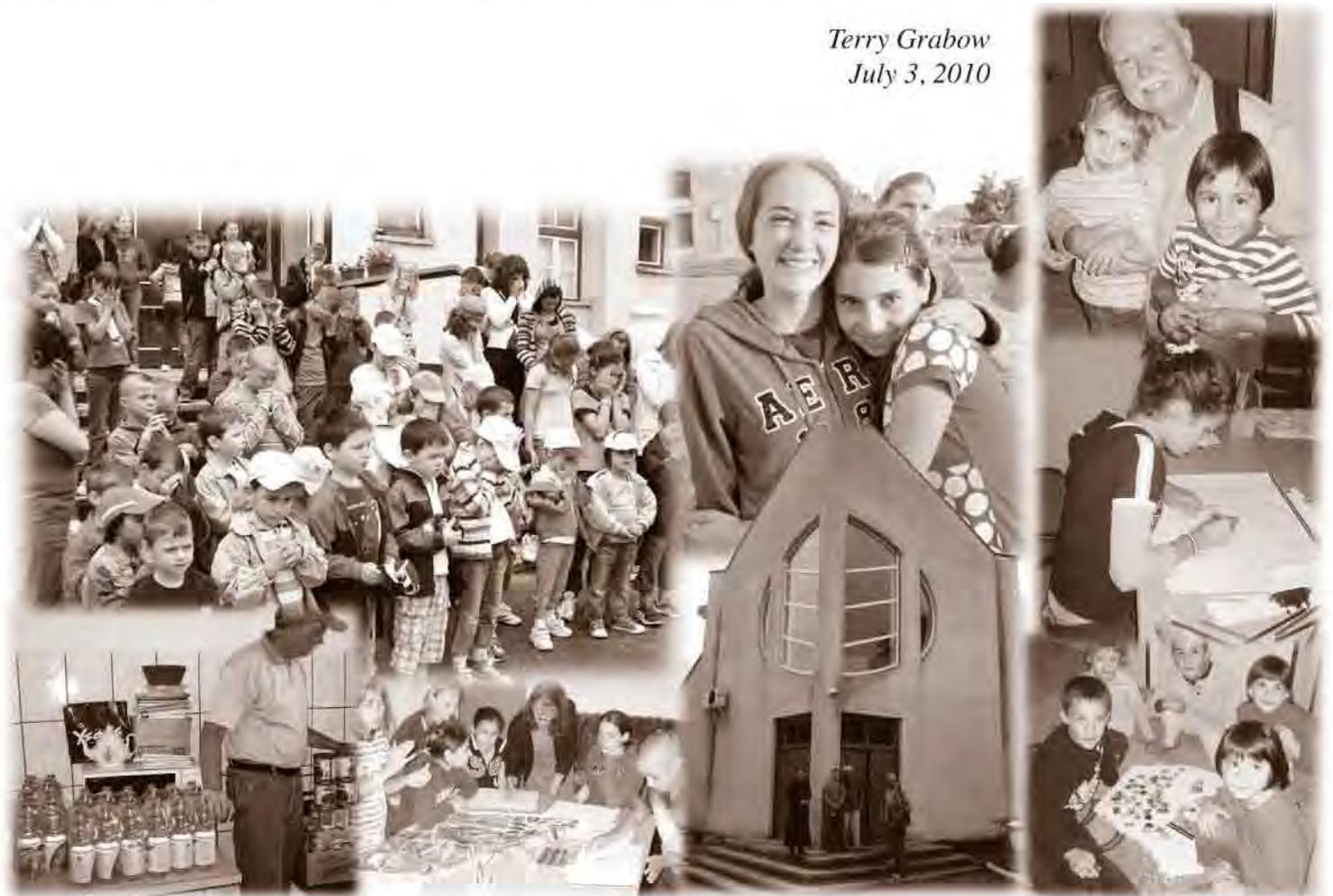
Hand of Help has a very loyal and dedicated staff that helps provide a very real family atmosphere. The children are well adjusted and well behaved. It was a special blessing for us to be able to spend a few days with the children at summer camp in the mountains. It was very rewarding to be able to spend time with the children playing and hiking.

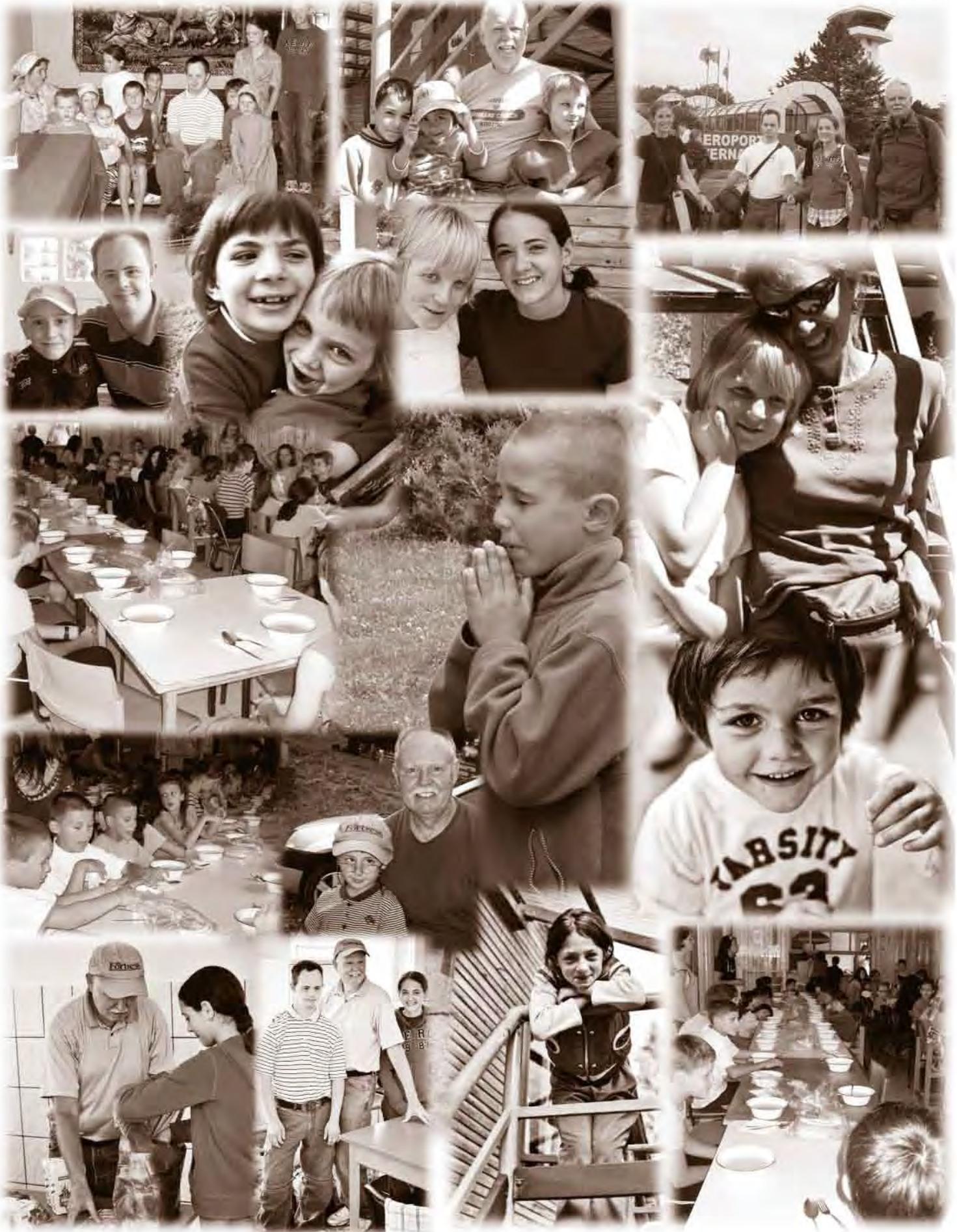
It was very encouraging to see the children participate in the church service. It seemed that most of the children from the oldest to the youngest got involved by sharing songs, praying and performing skits. They all seem to love Jesus and they have excellent examples to follow. The staff at Hand of Help work very well together as a team, and sincerely love the children.

While preparing to come to Romania, we planned to come and serve. But we got here and saw how well organized and how well staffed Hand of Help was, it was as if the Holy Spirit said, 'I have not called you to come and serve but to come and see.'

We can see that the monies that have been sent over the years have been well spent. More than having spent money on buildings, equipment and clothing, Hand of Help has made a very wise investment in the hearts and lives of these children who had an unfortunate beginning but having received a hand of help, are going on to lead productive and blessed lives.

*Terry Grabow
July 3, 2010*





Obstacles

There are times in this life when even the best laid plans come to naught. Since we had a group of visitors that was eager to see what we did as a ministry, one morning it was decided that we would go visit the senior citizen home in the village of Podeni. Whenever we visit a facility for senior citizens, we like to bring what they would otherwise never get, and so we went to the local market and bought some bananas, oranges, apples, chocolate bars, cookies, and other treats that would bring a smile to their faces.

After the team divided everything into individual packages, we loaded the car and made our way toward Podeni not knowing that instead of reaching our destination we would be witness to a race against the clock, wherein people would be trying to save their livestock before the floodwaters came roiling through.

It was only when we got to the bridge that separated the village of Podeni from the rest of the landmass that we realized something was seriously wrong. People were leading cattle and horses out of barns, pigs were crossing the bridge on their own, and there was a general sense of unease that could not be denied. We pulled over to the side of the road, and began asking the locals what was going on. The streets into the village were already flooded over, but it did not seem deep enough wherein we could not get through it.

As we asked what was going on, and why everyone seemed so agitated one of the locals turned and simply said, 'the waters are coming.'

'By the looks of it they're already here' I answered, 'we're trying to get to the senior citizen home in town.'

'We've been told than an hour from now the real flood is coming,' the man said with panic in his eyes. 'If I were you I wouldn't risk it unless you plan on spending a few days in Podeni.'

Since there was nothing we could do but sit there, feeling helpless, and useless we returned to our vehicles and watched as the people took their livestock and moved it to higher ground. Upon returning to Botosani we made a few phone calls, inquiring as to the senior citizen's home and were glad to hear that it was built high enough atop a hill that it was in no danger of being flooded. We later found out that for three days their food was brought to them by boat, and as soon as we are able, we will return to Podeni, with newly purchased fruit and sweets for them.

Most of the fruit and sweets ended up going to the children of the Hand of Help orphanage, which were already at camp, and we distributed some to families we visited that day as well.

Plan as we might, sometimes there are obstacles that stand in our way which we can't get around. It is then that we must bow our heads and simply say, 'God's will be done!'

*In Christ,
Michael Boldea Sr.*



Rest in a Restless World

Even the most committed among the sunshine and lollipops crowd are starting to show stress fractures. Yes, as yet they are still smiling, but their chemically whitened pearly teeth are so forcefully clenched together that just an ounce or so more pressure and the veneers will crack. Even when the prosperity-positivity bus veered off track, suffered a couple flat tires and clipped a few cars by the side of the road, it seemed there were those who were still content with fastening their seat belts, sitting back, and waiting patiently to reach their final destination, having bypassed all the chaos of the world, having bypassed hardships and trials, and exiting the bus into the arms of a tolerant, all embracing deity who would usher them into their eternal rest, ever grateful that they gave him a try, and raised a limp hand in a church service.

Recently I attended a pastor's conference, wherein the topic of discussion was whether we should give our people the truth, or give them hope instead. What many of the pastors in attendance failed to realize is that there is hope in truth, there is always hope in truth, but there is nothing but despair and agony in a false hope that never materializes.

The wise man prepares for the worst, the foolish man sits idly by and hopes against hope that things will either miraculously, or magically turn around or get back on track.

We have been fed a lie for so long that when we hear the truth it unnerves us, it shocks us, and compels us to choose what to believe. Either we are hours or days away from being caught up into the great beyond, or we will have to brace ourselves and prepare for the chaos that is about to descend upon the face of the earth like a whirlwind.

The stark, uncensored truth is that we are pulling pins on grenades faster than we can lob them, not only as a nation but the world in its entirety, and eventually, given enough time, when our arms get tired one of those grenades is liable to blow up in our faces.

It would be one thing if God were still with us as a nation, if every choice we made turned out to be the right one, and every turn we made at every fork in the road was the shortest route to our desired destination. As a friend of mine recently put it however, 'it seems that God is angry with the world', and calamity upon calamity is being visited upon the planet in its entirety. It's one thing to withstand economic downturns, recessions, and negative outlooks on future earnings; it is something wholly different when God removes His hand of blessing from a nation.

What so many fail to understand is that what we are seeing is not the judgment, or the wrath of God poured out upon mankind, it is merely the removal of His blessing. Judgment hasn't started yet!

All the positivity in the world will not spare us from the reality through which we will be living, and if we are caught unprepared it is no one's fault but our own. We chose to stay on the bus as it was teetering on the edge of the precipice rather than diligently study the Word and actively strive to understand the times that we are living in.

I started this article with something else in mind, but as is often the case emotions got the better of me. No, I do not write out of anger, but rather out of a sense of desperation because a frightening majority of believers today, sincere, honest believers, still cling to the idea that the worst is behind us, and we will shortly be removed from all the tumult and the brewing chaos of the world. I pray they are right! I pray with all my heart, and all my might that they are right!

Do I believe they are right? No, because the Word of God speaks of the times in which we are living, and if the Word was written exclusively for the children of God, then logic would dictate that those passages are in the Word as a warning to us that we might know what the future holds and not grow fearful.

Before going any further I need to make something perfectly clear. I do not doubt that the church will be caught up; I believe it with all my heart because the Bible speaks of this event. The issue is not 'if' but rather 'when.' It is the 'when' of this event that we must contend with and be aware of.

Another reason why God in His infinite wisdom forewarned us of the times and seasons that are upon us is so that we would not overreact as so much of the world has a tendency to, but rather trust, and implicitly so, that the One who foresaw these things also foresaw our means of shelter, protection and safety.

We must understand current events within the context of God's word, and by doing so we see what will transpire next. Once again, and I must stress this because only I know how many e-mails, letters and telephone calls I've gotten from believers looking for a place to hide, to escape, or otherwise flee. The purpose of knowing future events as presented in the Word of God is not for our fear, but for our encouragement; not for our restlessness, but rather for our rest; not for our despondency but rather for our peace. God knew the future then, He knows the future now, and He