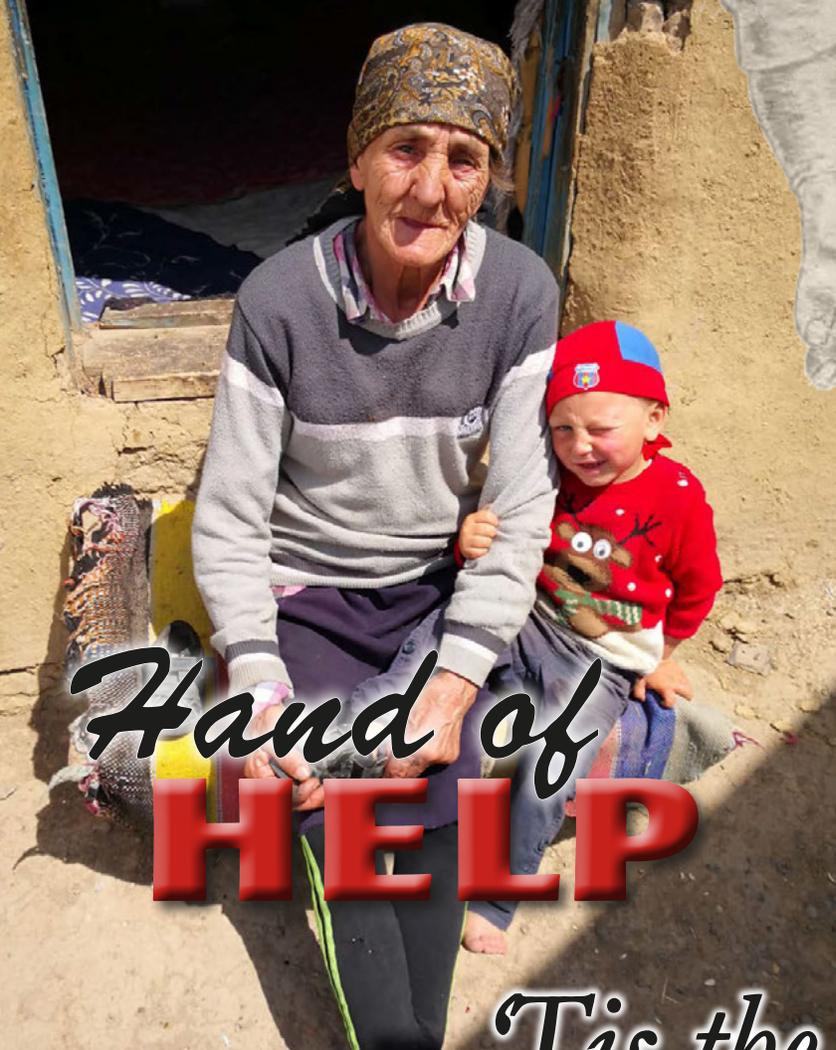
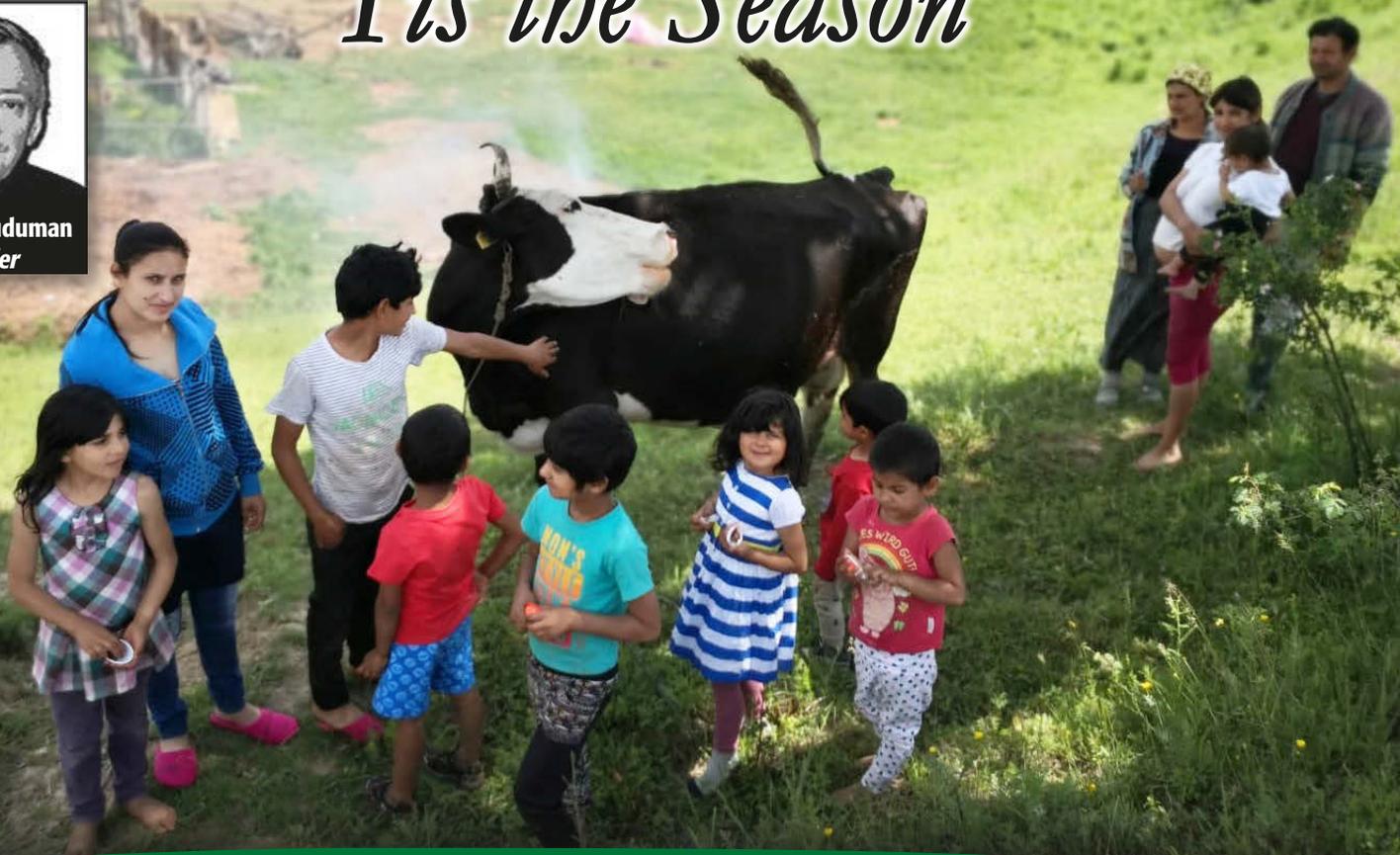
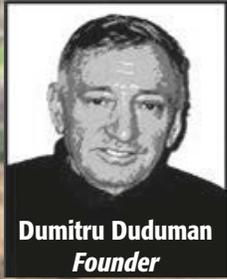


June - July 2020



Hand of
HELP

Tis the Season



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Go Therefore

Go Therefore

...and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Those called into ministry in Ukraine are a different kind of breed than anyone else I have encountered in any of the places I have been to. When considering the sort of environment these servants are called to work in, being faint of heart is an immediate disqualifier.

Testimonies of those who were dramatically set free from drug addictions or who found the Lord while in prison are not the exception but rather the rule. Igor is no different. He spent nine years in detention, but it was the best time of his life. Not because he made amends, but because Jesus got ahold of him through the testimony of a cellmate.

It was not only a brief time of sharing the Gospel in passing and leaving with the promise of prayer, but the constant, unrelenting proclamation of the truth of God's Word and love manifested. Igor and Valeri spent their time wisely, in prayer and Bible study.

When he was done serving his sentence and had to leave Igor behind, Valeri was worried about his new brother in Christ, but he continued to keep in touch. When Igor was finally allowed to leave the prison, Valeri moved hours away from his home to be close to Igor and continue the discipleship started inside the prison walls.

Valeri knew that Igor was not yet ready to serve. As such, he did all he could to make sure that as he fulfilled the first part of the Great Commission, he would also follow through with teaching and instruction. Igor started ministering in a drug rehabilitation center, proclaiming that which the Lord had done in his own heart, breaking the chains of addiction and giving him abundant life and a mission.

Brother Valeri knew that the Great Commission would take more time than a good sermon and an altar call, and was relentless in teaching Igor God's Word and mentoring him back into life on the outside.



Igor now leads the area congregation where he resides with his wife and two children. They currently share their small home with 15 people during the day, ministering to and praying with the locals, and six guests overnight, a single mother with five children that desperately needed a place to stay after leaving a promiscuous life and desiring to change.



Igor and his family are currently without any financial support. He provides for their large family by taking a variety of third-shift jobs, like hauling produce through the night, so that he can continue his daily ministry to the desperate in his area. His heart is burdened as he sees need all around him and would like to serve full time.

His prayer is that they would have their own space since the landlord of the small building they are currently renting is forcing them to leave as soon as the service is over. The time of fellowship is critical since many of the people are recovering addicts and in need of constant support, admonishment, and encouragement.

The couple started a soup kitchen that cooks twice a week for the local homeless, the impoverished elderly, and also delivers large glass jars of soup to ailing seniors.



Please pray for selfless, perseverant ministers that would be relentless in raising disciples, taking the time and making the sacrifice to invest years into those who are to carry on the work.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

The soup kitchen runs on \$25-30 per day, which is only enough to provide a simple broth, boiled pasta, or rice. Igor's wife gladly does the cooking, feeding as many as 40 people at a time.

Please pray that we would be able to sponsor Igor and the other dedicated missionaries that are on the frontlines of Ukraine. Pray for wisdom and direction regarding a church building with enough space for a soup kitchen and also for provision that they may serve a nourishing meal to the locals.

Most importantly, please pray that the people in this community would see Christ in all this, that they would be pierced by the Gospel and become followers of Jesus.

prayer
REQUESTS

Please pray that all of our needs be met and if any are lacking, for divine provision.

'Tis the Season

With COVID-19 travel restrictions coming to an end and the warm summer months finally here, we are resuming the regular distribution of food packages, the purchase of livestock, and the building projects. Our focus continues to be the impoverished villages of Madarjac, Bojila, and Frumusica.



Thank you to all those who have been praying for and giving toward these projects! As the Lord provides, we continue to labor in reaching the lost, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry and comforting the distraught.

...Continued on page 6



We are overjoyed when we visit these families and see children adequately fed, animals well-kept, milk readily available, and farmers' cheese hanging in cheesecloth for a future meal. These are all signs that the blessings of livestock given to these families will provide for many years to come.

Know that you are making a tremendous difference in the lives of these forgotten and marginalized souls. We are praying and petitioning local authorities for a piece of land so that we may build a house of worship to evangelize these communities and that revival might spark. Please continue to pray for this project and the salvation of many!



Sustainability

From the multitudes of projects that we support, there is one word that I have learned to look for in any project that is not an emergent need, and that is sustainability.

Pastor Slava from Bakhmut is not only a reliable spiritual leader with a heart of gold but also understands that we need to be the best possible stewards of what God entrusts to us with.



Pastor Slava has been serving in the Bakhmut area for over 12 years. When the need for a rehabilitation clinic presented itself, he did not hesitate to move as the Lord directed him. When the opportunity to purchase a well-built brick building with the necessary land for pennies on the dollar arose, the team did not hesitate, but in faith made a down payment and trusted the Lord for the rest.

The work that God accomplishes through their obedience is nothing short of remarkable. Without any medical experience or protocols, they are taking addicts off the street, praying them through withdrawals, preaching the Gospel to them, and letting the Holy Spirit accomplish the rest. After a time of supervised ministry, they are encouraged to attend a missionary school or even Bible school, followed by dedicated service to other addicts, or ministry time spent in dangerous areas affected by war.



With the wisdom God has given him, Slava has a plan to make the entire operation of the drug rehabilitation outreach self-sustainable within three years. The solution? Livestock.



The help that they need is to cover the construction materials for making the building habitable, and the initial investment to purchase the animals. We have blessed them with an initial donation and pray that we can continue to see this work through to completion – making this incredible life-changing project sustainable.



Not only will the farm ultimately finance the rehabilitation project, but it will allow those set free from addiction to learn a skill, work, and give back to the center.



I can hardly wait to travel back to Ukraine and see a new group of believers, set free from the chains of addiction, passionately ready to serve their Redeemer, Savior, and King.

Daniel Boldea

Below, please see two of the many testimonies that God has accomplished through the diligent work of the team at Bakhmut Drug Rehabilitation Center:

My name is Alexander, and I live in Bakhmut. A series of bad choices landed me in jail, where I became addicted to drugs and alcohol. I was an addict, friendless, and with nowhere to lay my head. I spent the nights where I had to, didn't eat for days, and due to my heavy drug usage, my legs began to fail me, and I started having sporadic seizures.



All of my acquaintances pretended they did not recognize me. I had lost all hope. In my darkest hour of countless miserable days of existence, a group of believers came up to me, picked me up, since I no longer had use of my legs, and placed me in their car.

They took me to their rehabilitation center, where they introduced me to God. There I realized that there is another life, a real life, a new life to be found in God alone. Now I have a strong, blessed family, united by Him, the family of God.

I gave my life to the Lord, was freed from addiction, and became a member of the church. Shortly after, I graduated from Bible school and have dedicated my life to helping people like me.

I now have a cozy house, a car, and a small business. Everything I have I acknowledge as a gift from Him.

Thank you to all those who serve people like me. There is new life in Jesus Christ!

My name is Vadim, and I was a drug addict for over 24 years. After unsuccessfully undergoing conventional drug rehabilitation 15 times, I reached a new low in life. I sedated myself to try and find comfort only to become even more bound to the drugs. Because of my addiction, I wanted to commit suicide as I did not see the point in living. I thought it was better to die than to live as I was, from one fix to the next.

While I was out hunting for my next fix, I met a group of believers. They told me that there is One who can help me. They also shared that at one point, they too were addicts. When I looked up at them, I couldn't even believe that former drug addicts stood in front of me. I thought that if they managed to break out of this "hell," then I could too. Seeing them gave me hope.

The believers asked the rehabilitation center to take me in, and in September 2018, the rehabilitation outreach became my home.

It is there that I was set free from addiction and where I committed my life to serving God and the people.

In March 2019, after graduating from a missionary school, I joined a team of missionaries in a nearby village that is on the border, in an area of conflict. The local church they started now has 20 in attendance, 8 of which have been baptized.

Everything is possible with God! Do not look at the circumstances around you; look with faith to the almighty God! And you will surely succeed! Amen!



A Letter of Gratitude

From Georgiana who was raised at the Hand of Help Orphanage

Dear Ones,

Almost 22 years have gone by since a time in my life that was by no means beautiful. For most children, the first ten years of their lives are probably the greatest. A time when one's life is full of games, school, no stress, toys, and playtime. A time when one is surrounded by parents that try to give their children the best. For me, that was not the case.

The first ten years of my life were very difficult. I recall many nights when my two sisters, brother, and I went to bed hungry; when the firewood had run out, and it seemed like no one cared that the house went without heat; the times when we were left without electricity, and so on. We were alone, left without any affection or parental care, even though our parents and some uncles were around.

All of the neglect ended on a specific day that I will vividly remember for the rest of my life. I will never forget the moment when Virginia Boldea came through our door to visit. I still recall the baked goods that they brought us as being the best goodies we had tasted up until that point, or since.

And so began our time at the Hand of Help Orphanage, a new season of 10 years that would change my life forever. The dark days, days without food or affection were replaced with a new life, a life that offered everything we needed in order to grow and develop, and most importantly become who God desired. This was the result of now being surrounded by loving individuals that made it their mission to provide for us and love us.

What was most important to me during my time at the orphanage was the love that I saw bestowed on us children from individuals that were not biological parents or even friends of the family. They showed us this level of love because they knew our Lord Jesus.

Through their actions and consistent counsel, I too came to know our Lord Jesus as the only One who can truly change a life. In 2004 I gave my life to the Lord and was baptized at the Orphanage's Messiah Church.

God provided for us, and He never stopped surprising us. We were blessed with an apartment at our wedding, and it is our home to this day. The greatest blessings in my life are the children God has given us, Ruth (12), Ioana (9) and Luca (6).



Another important step in my life was the career that I was encouraged to pursue by the Hand of Help family. With the training I received, I am now able to work and provide a steady income, our family's primary income, which allows my husband to be involved in ministry full time, by starting my own hair salon. My husband is a deacon in the local church and serves as a missionary to an impoverished area of Romania, where he oversees three soup kitchens and five small churches.

Looking back, I see how valuable my time at the Hand of Orphanage was. I wanted to write this letter to thank God for the manner in which He used you and also to thank all those who invested their financial resources and prayers to shape my life into what it is today. My words are certainly not enough, but THANK YOU!

I also wanted to encourage those who didn't have an opportunity to support me to pray about doing so for other children. Though the fruit will not be seen immediately, it will become evident over the years. It will be seen in all those who surrender their life to the Lord. It will be seen in the families that are formed, and in the communities they are a part of.

If you are still praying as to where to invest your energy, time, finances, and affection, I suggest you do so in children. To quote someone wiser than I, "Children are the only people that will become adults."

With profound gratitude and respect,
Georgiana (Miron) Ciocan



Child of the Month

Emanuela V., born in February 2013, was abruptly separated from Naomi and Lorenzo in 2019 when the older siblings moved to our center. Because she was not yet seven years old, the social protection laws (recently revised) did not permit her to stay with her siblings at Hand of Help but had her temporarily move to a foster family. The separation was traumatic for the siblings, and throughout the months of waiting for Emanuela to turn seven, we had to work hard with Naomi and Lorenzo to help them adjust to our family. We knew from the beginning that we would make every effort to reunite them as soon as possible.

The story of Naomi, Lorenzo, and their younger sister Emanuela is one we have sadly heard too many times before. The children were found by the local authorities alone, neglected, and having no one to take care of them properly. After their parents' divorce, the mother was granted sole custody of her children, and for a while, they continued living in their family home. However, when she decided to leave the country and start working abroad, the children were left alone, with no adult to take care of them. Naomi, 14 years of age at that time, had the responsibility to look after their small family.

Months had gone by, and the children started missing school and were in danger of getting involved in various entouragees with no one to offer them supervision or advice.

When we welcomed them into our family in November 2019, we immediately noticed how difficult it was for them to communicate and open up to us. They moved into one of our apartments at the orphanage, and our social workers immediately started working with them. However, after losing their parents, they were now having to deal with being separated from their beloved sister.



In February 2020, when Emanuela turned 7, we immediately filed all the necessary paperwork to bring her "home." After our case was approved, we had the joy of witnessing the moment the three siblings were reunited. So much emotion, so many tears of joy! Emanuela is now living with her brother and sister in the home at the orphanage named House of Peace. She is a smart young girl, always curious to discover new things, and loves school, music, and crafts. We are truly grateful to God for bringing them together, and we ask you to join us in praying for their whole family to be reunited. It is our desire that their time at Hand of Help would

be a time of growth, the first step into adulthood, and moreover, a time of getting to know our God and become obedient servants of His.

We are grateful for the chance that He has given us to sow His Word in their hearts. We thank you for continuing to make stories like these possible, and may He bless you abundantly for working while it is still day!

Dear Brethren,

Dear Brethren,

Hebrews 10:23, “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

It’s easy to grow numb. It’s easy to become indifferent, check out, and allow our senses to be dulled to the point that no matter what we hear, we just shrug our shoulders and shuffle along, never missing a beat. If, for no other reason, just because of the volume of stories we are bombarded with incessantly, we no longer react as we once would have. The deluge is so constant that catching one’s breath becomes difficult if not near to impossible, never mind contextualizing the information and seeing where it fits in regards to the days in which we are living.

With each passing day, the words of Jesus and Paul the Apostle echo clearer and louder, a reminder that what we are seeing is not something out of left field, but something of which the Bible warned long ago. It was hard to imagine the perilous times of which Paul spoke as little as six months ago, but here we are, and perilous times are on full display.

Even though we’ve only just begun to see the unfolding of Biblical prophecy before our eyes, some believers are already spent, exhausted, and altogether wearied. The battle has yet to begin, and they are ready to surrender, because even though they were warned time and again to prepare, to build up their endurance, to steel themselves, and to be purposefully unwavering, they saw the sunshine, heard the chirping birds, and could not bring themselves to believe that there was a storm on the horizon.

That storm of which so many dutifully warned is no longer some far off thing that will occur years and years hence, it is upon us, and now more than ever before we must guard our hearts to ensure that our love does not wane, that our love does not grow cold, and that our faith is not shaken.

What a cruel God He would be if having foreseen the events leading up to the return of Jesus, He didn’t prepare for the welfare and protection of His beloved. We know that He is not a cruel God. We know that His love for you and I reaches heights our limited intellect cannot even

grasp, yet is encompassed in the oft-repeated declaration that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Throughout my years in ministry, I have never strayed from the motto that it is better to deliver the bitter truth than a sugar-coated lie. I will not deviate from this motto now, for if I would, not only would I be betraying my principles, I would likewise be betraying your trust.

As long as our faces remain turned away from God and repentance does not flow from our lips as a nation, things will continue to escalate. Unrest, division, hate, and violence will consume more and more hearts because our sickness is spiritual, and only a spiritual cure will suffice.

All the while, we must be aware that what is occurring within our borders is not occurring in a vacuum. The world is watching, and long sworn enemies are rubbing their hands in anticipation of the perfect moment to lash out.

It is in the storm that the foundation upon which you’ve built your house becomes most relevant. Until the moment the storm begins to batter incessantly, it’s hard to tell the difference between those who built upon the sand and those who built upon the rock. In the storm, it becomes painfully apparent. In the storm, you will know.

Yes, it may be easy to grow numb, but easy isn’t always right, and especially in times such as these, we must remain strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Come what may, He is with us, and if He is with us, a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

Psalm 91:9-11, “Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.”

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea, Jr.