

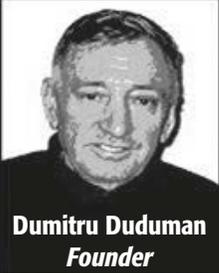


Hand of **HELP**

In His Hands



December 2020 - January 2021



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In His Hands

There is only one conclusion I can rightly come to as I look back on all the years, at all the trials, all the setbacks, and all the obstacles: if not for the grace of God, if not for His mighty hand keeping us and strengthening us, like so many others, we would be a long-forgotten work that met its end before it began.

It is humbling to look back and consciously underscore all the instances wherein God intervened and all the circumstances through which we came unscathed as if by miracle or divine providence. It is humbling to realize the profound truth that it is not by our might or power that we have weathered the storms. It is not by our ingenuity or savviness that we've survived for this long, but by the grace and providence of Almighty God. A God who in His infinite mercy, watches over a work even as small as ours.

To put our prayer request into context, we have to journey back to the beginning of our work here in Romania, to before we broke ground on the land upon which the Hand of Help Orphanage now stands.

In the early '90s, when we first received the vision of building the orphanage, it was unlawful for the state to

sell land. Rather than allow people to purchase the land outright, the state established 'lease contracts' whereby one could readily build upon the land they leased from the government, paying a minimal yearly stipend. The stipend has since gone up significantly.



It has always been our desire to own the land where the orphanage and Messiah Church stand outright, and just when we thought that the opportunity to purchase



would never come, it has arisen. The funny thing about opportunities, they always arise at the most inopportune of times.

The City of Botosani, where the orphanage is located, has been sued. The plaintiff is asking for compensation for a land lot that was seized during the communist regime. The rightful owner that stands to win the



lawsuit, realizing that the city could not afford to settle the matter, has reached out to us and asked if we would be interested in purchasing their right to land compensation. In turn, we would be made the rightful owners of the land we currently lease.

The land is assessed at \$688,000, but after a lengthy conversation with the owner, if we agree to purchase the land for the ministry, she would let us have it for \$575,000.

While this amount is beyond anything we can imagine, we are daily reminded of the Lord's goodness and mercy and trust Him with our everything. I look back on the life of this ministry and realize it is not my ministry or my family's ministry, but God's ministry. He will make a way when no way is visible. It wouldn't be the first time, and likely wouldn't be the last.



We are going to pray, make the situation known, and pray some more.

Please pray for this need, for we know that if it is God's will, He will bring it to fruition.

May God richly bless all of you,
Pastor Mircea Boldea Sr.



Boots for Every Child

Some of our favorite projects are the simple ones, the ones with no long-term planning, spreadsheets, breakdowns, or need for weighing out pros and cons. It may be the instant gratification of it, but we like



hearing of an immediate need and having the ability to provide a resolution instantaneously.

When your notes come in saying, “please use the money where needed most,” we apply it to these emergent needs, needs that are time-sensitive and cannot wait for the next newsletter cycle.



The needs we see every day and can meet are a direct result of your selfless acts of generosity, reflecting the love of God that has been lavished on us in calling us His children. There is no greater honor on earth than to be called a child of God, to know that you call Him Father, and He calls you son or daughter.

By God’s grace, what we have accomplished through the Hand of Help’s work far surpasses what we could condense into a 12-page newsletter every couple of months.

When some of our ministry contacts reached out to us and asked if we could help with a





project they were doing, ensuring that every child in the community they minister to has a pair of boots for winter, we didn't need time to think about it!

Thank you for allowing yourself to be used by our Father!

Hand of Help Team

These are the faces of the children you have blessed.



A Home for Others



A Home for Others

A team that we sent out to eastern Ukraine has just returned from a week of ministry, preaching the Gospel, delivering food, and distributing firewood by huge truckloads to those left behind to bear the repercussions of the war.

Your response to the last newsletter, especially the firewood project, was so immediate that we were able to wire money over there right away and distribute the wood within a few days of receiving your envelopes.

Hundreds heard the Good News and received a copy of the Word of God. The relief items distributed were a timely blessing as the unforgiving Soviet winter has started to settle in.

When I spoke to the team leader, I asked if he had heard of any specific needs he thinks we need to be aware of.

Without skipping a beat, he shared of Vania and Olia Kisileva, who have been missionaries to the Luhansk Region in Ukraine since 2017. They labor in the village of Borovskoe, where there is not a single believer.

Their prayer is to provide a home for their family and a dwelling where the village children may gather for assistance with their homework and, most importantly, for Bible study.



They are trying to save up enough money for the project from the minuscule financial support they receive to be on the mission field, to patch up the home. Still, such an endeavor is impossible without God's people lending a helping hand.

Thank you for praying for this need and all of the missionaries risking their lives to minister to the eastern Ukraine people.

Blessings to you and yours,

Daniel Boldea





Reminder: For donations to be included on your 2020 year-end receipt, please have them electronically processed or postmarked by December 31st.

The Little Ones

Time is the great equalizer. It leaves its mark on one and all regardless of their status. With a new wrinkle here, a gray hair there, achy joints, creaking elbows, or sore hips, we are daily reminded that this fleeting thing we call life has an end as well as a beginning, and we are hurtling towards that end with abandon.



The closer we get to the end of our journey, for some reason, we seem to notice those at the beginning of theirs more readily. Even with the madness of shutdowns and endless fearmongering, you still see those in the twilight of their life take a moment and gaze upon a toddler or an infant with joy and a contemplative look in their eye. Perhaps they remember their own beginning, perhaps they realize they are gazing upon the future, but whatever it is, the face of contentment and serenity is unmistakable.



It is also, perhaps, because they've been around for so long that those entering the latter stages of their lives can perceive whether a child is happy or sad, hungry or fed, well-tended for or ignored in an instant. Even with no outward sign of there being anything wrong, there exists this innate awareness wherein they just know.



Sadly, when it comes to some of the homes we visit and some of the situations we are confronted with, no innate awareness is required about the well-being of the child or what the immediate need is. Hunger has a way of making itself known on the countenance, whether that countenance belongs to an adult or a toddler. If you gaze upon it long enough, you learn to spot it instantly, and it's the faces of



those hungry little ones who have no voice of their own or means to fend for themselves that motivate us to keep working, keep pressing, and keep doing what we've been called to do.

It's not easy. We all have families of our own, and concern regarding the future, both near term and long term, weighs heavily on everyone here. Oftentimes it is a battle kissing one's children goodbye and going out to do the work, aware that you are putting yourself at risk, however large or small that risk might be. We work because we must. We go because, in these uncertain times, very few are willing to. We feed the hungry, we clothe the naked, and we comfort the hurting because it's what Jesus would do, and if we desire to be like Him, it must be in deed and not in word only.



Without you doing what you do, we could not do what we do, and together we are fulfilling the calling of God to care for those who are unable to care for themselves, whether young or old. Thank you! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

Hand of Help Team



Dear Brethren,

Roaring lions are not civil. They do not care about feelings, opinions, optics, or decorum. Roaring lions seek to devour, and they let nothing stand in the way of their being satiated. When Peter compared the devil to a roaring lion, he was not being hyperbolic; he was being accurate and factual. If Paul had done it, you could chalk it up to literary flair, but Peter was a fisherman, and literary flourishes were not in his wheelhouse. He wrote in a direct, matter-of-fact way to warn those who would dare to step onto the battlefield that their enemy was ruthless and cunning and merciless.

Somewhere along the way, it seems the church has forgotten Peter's warnings or chosen to dismiss them out of hand. Supposed spiritual leaders are doing their best to convince the sheep that the wolves mean them no harm, and the sheep, being trusting and credulous, go along with the narrative until it's too late.

The devil has not changed, but the church has. That is a dangerous and frightening truth with which we must contend if we hope to navigate the choppy waters that lie ahead. We've read for long and long how the hearts of many would grow cold, how there would be a great falling away, how false prophets and false Christs would arise and deceive many, but we always assumed it was for some other time, for some other generation. Perhaps our children's children would have to contend with the prospect of a church in name only, or a generation worshipping gods of its own making. That was the hope, at least, but now it is evident that the times are upon us.

The church has always been the canary in the coal mine. As the church went, so did the nation, and eventually, the world. Once we stopped being offended by sin, then tolerating it, embracing it, and ultimately celebrating it, we knew that it was only a matter of time. At some point, it has to dawn on people that though their gods are permissive, requiring nothing and allowing for everything, they are also dead, nothing more than inventions of duplicitous minds and unrepentant hearts. What use is it to worship dead gods, permissive though they might be? When those who have gone the way of Baal cry out in despair, who will hear them?

Although many might not be, it is good to take Peter's counsel to heart. Knowing that our adversary, the devil,



walks about like a roaring lion, we must be sober and vigilant. No, not fearful, cowardly, or apprehensive, but aware of the reality that we are living, and on guard as to the enemy's devices.

If we fail to be watchful, if we fail to be vigilant, if we are not sober-minded in all we do, we will not be among those left standing when the dust settles. I write these words with a heavy heart because I know what is coming, and I know the church is not ready for it. Yes, pockets of saints here and there might be prepared, awake, on guard, and fully armored up, but for the most part, the church is passively trying to run out the clock until Christ's return. They think if they can keep their head down long enough, be silent long enough, not attract attention or the ire of the devil, then they will be spared what Jesus warned of, namely that all nations will hate us for His Name's sake, or that we will be persecuted because we are His.

Do not faint in the face of adversity. Do not faint in the face of hardship. Though the devil may be like a roaring lion, always remember that you serve the God who can shut the mouths of lions. He is your protector, He is your provider, He is your comfort, your joy, and your peace, and one day soon, He will be your rewarder for all you've done in His Name.

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea, Jr.