



Hand of **HELP**

February - March 2021



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Founder

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MUD

The title is not an acronym; it is merely the first thing that came to mind when I received the pictures for this edition of our newsletter.

I have always been on the heftier side, so mud has proven to be the most challenging terrain to walk on for me, safe for ice, or worse still, black ice. Often when I am out in the villages, I gaze at my lighter colleagues, who somehow walk without even getting the sides of their shoes dirty, while I gain a pound on each foot with every step. If I come home with no mud on my shirt, I count it as a good day.



Our mud here in the US and theirs is quite the same; however, the plumbing is not. The vast majority of these homes have no plumbing, and the sole outhouse is found halfway up the hill on a steep incline, a trek

that requires the training and stamina of a triathlete. Unfortunately, I have neither. The lack of balance and the propensity to slip on anything other than dry concrete is a trait all three of us brothers share.

Bath time is rather a bath day, a once-a-week event held on Saturday, to be exact. The household's mother bathes child after child in the same bathwater that she hauled by buckets from the closest well and has heated on a wood-burning stove to get the children clean for church the following morning.



I am pretty confident that they started using mud as the go-to construction material in hopes that it would somehow run out. People still have to build with mud and straw bricks or woven twigs and mud.





God has been gracious to us and has provided a team ready to bear the elements day after day. Rain or shine, they are out delivering the blessings that have been provided as a result of your generosity.

We have met most of the needs we have brought before you to consider prayerfully, and we do not take this blessing for granted. It is a grace to be the vehicle by which prayers are answered. It is humbling to

realize that God is using you and this work in such a manner.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Daniel Boldea



The Selfless One

Pastor Sergei is no stranger to hardship. He did not seek out a church that could cover his every financial need, nor did he pursue opportunities elsewhere. He chose to walk obediently in God's calling and serve the impoverished people of Sekureni.

The testimony of this father of seven in the local community is remarkable. If you happen to sit for a few

minutes with any one of the villagers, they will tell you that Pastor Sergei will stop whatever project he is working on in his own home to help others if he is called upon to do so. He often says, "You are even further in debt than I am; your trial is harder than mine; let me help."



The Sergei Svetenko family is now in need of our help. Most likely started by their wood-burning stove, a fire destroyed the family's home and all their possessions in the middle of winter.

Individuals from around the area were quick to contribute to this emergent need for the Sventenkos, who have always been the first in line to help others.



The construction of their new home is underway, and we would like to come alongside the final stretch of this building project and help with the furnishings and appliances needed.

Please pray for this shepherd of many that as he continues to proclaim the truth and demonstrate selflessness, many souls will be saved in the village of Sekureni. As he yields his life into the service of the Master, may the Lord and His people take care of him in this trying hour.

Hand of Help Staff



Warmth Provided



Food Delivered



Unnecessary Division

This morning I awoke and had an epiphany - we are just a few days shy of the longest two weeks ever recorded. We had two weeks to flatten the curve and possibly save the human race from extinction, and here we are nearly 52 weeks later, still being told that we should be incredibly fearful of yet another strain of this virus and that our demise might be imminent.

As families, communities, and churches unravel, bickering about double-masking, mask or no mask, vaccine or no vaccine, stockpiling food or purging, we NEED to be talking about more important things, actually the most important thing! **We need to be proclaiming the Gospel!**

Now, one year later, I ask myself, and you, dear reader, what effect has this ordeal had on your spiritual walk?

For me, after the dust of incipient anxiousness had settled, I was ready more than ever before to walk according to the God-birthed desire from within, living my days with purpose and giving Him all the glory He is due.

If my number is truly up, would I not want to be found carrying out the Lord's work? Have I been focused on building some false sense of security without drawing any true benefit and neglected the riches that I could have in God? Have I bartered my time in favor of consuming all that is thrown at me from various sources and wandered away from the Word?

Brothers and sisters, so many around us are trading the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding" and His promise to "keep our heart and mind through Christ Jesus" for self-built, sure-to-crumble earthly securities.

Our hearts have grown too attached to this world, and we look for peace, where no peace is to be found.

Pilgrim, this is not your home.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in*

weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Due to lockdowns and travel restrictions, Alexandra and I have been unable to travel back to Romania and Ukraine. Now over 11 months overdue, we pray that we can fly over on March 6th and serve.

We yearn to gather the orphanage children and have a proper memorial service for Dumitru. We pray that as we share the testimony of the incredible gift of salvation evidenced by the fruits of the Spirit in Dumitru's final days on this earth, the Holy Spirit would take hold of their hearts, that God would open their eyes to the truth and that they would repent and call upon the Lord.

I long to meet with the brothers and sisters in Ukraine that minister in unfathomable conditions and bring our support and prayers of encouragement.

I long to lay to death my creature comforts, forget about my measly trials, and focus on comforting those truly hurting and help awaken those dying in their sin.

As always, we thank you for supporting the work of Hand of Help. You are an intricate part that the Lord has woven into all that is Hand of Help, and our words are merely too lacking to relay our gratitude. Together, let us continue to work while it is still day!

Daniel Boldea



Cow Project



Please pray:

For the salvation of the children in our care.

That many would come to the Lord as we proclaim the Gospel in our various outreaches.

For the safety of the Hand of Help staff as they travel to Romania and Ukraine.

For provision and discernment as to what He would have us do in continuing this work.

Child of the Month

Edera was only 5 when she came to the Hand of Help orphanage with her brother, Florin.

Having been moved away from their chaotic family environment and placed into foster care, a professional social worker looked after them for three years.

However, as the legal provisions prevented the social worker from fostering children after a certain age, and because Florin was suffering from a congenital disease, she could no longer take care of them. As a result, the local authorities contacted Hand of Help, hoping that they would find a home with us.

Edera has been with us ever since. In what seems to be a blink of an eye, she grew up under our watch and became a fine young woman. She has continually learned throughout the years from the many role models within our ministry. Edera dedicates her time to acquire essential skills and develop abilities that will help her in her independent life- she spends her time cleaning, cooking, taking care of the younger ones, and helping them with their homework. She also

loves playing the violin and is a part of our orchestra.

She has dedicated herself to working hard in school from an early age, and her efforts have paid off. Edera was admitted to one of our best local high schools and plans to pursue higher education upon graduation. She desires to

study Pharmacology, a challenging specialty that will require a lot of hard work, dedication, and financial support.

As many of you know, what sets us apart from other orphanages is our desire to support our children through higher education, trade schools, job placement, and marriage.

We pray that God will lead her in His will and that He will make clear the path that she is to take!

Thank you for your love and support for this ministry and our children! We know that stories like Edera's would not be possible without you, and we give God all the glory for His faithfulness in providing a helping

hand for the widow and the fatherless through obedient servants like you!



New at Hand of Help:

At the prompting of a few donors, we are in the process of implementing ACH transactions for both recurring and one-time donations. This low-cost option will save almost 3% on credit card transaction fees and 2.2% on PayPal transactions and allow us to be an even greater hand of help to those in need. We will be announcing a start date in the following publication.

We have also set up a brokerage account for those who would like to donate stock to Hand of Help. The following is the information needed:

Stock Donation Instructions

Your broker may electronically transfer a gift of stock directly to our account as follows:

- DTC #: 0188
- Account Name: Hand of Help, Inc.
- Account Number: 945185109
- Brokerage Information TD Ameritrade, Inc
Attn: Transfer of Accounts
Department
200 S 108th Ave
Omaha, NE 68154
- Contact at Hand of Help Daniel Boldea
920-206-9910
daniel@handofhelp.com

It is important that you (or your broker) alert us via phone (920-206-9910) or email (daniel@handofhelp.com) that the gift is being transferred to our account, as the stock will arrive in our account without identification. Please include a mailing address if you are not already in our database.

A year-end tax receipt will be mailed stating the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the value of the stock on the date it was received by Hand of Help, Inc.



Dear Brethren,

Matthew 24:13 *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

If everyone who started a race got a prize just for starting it, there would never be a need to finish. Receiving your prize at the beginning of a competition defeats the purpose of the contest itself because the goal is the prize; the goal is the crown.

Not only must one finish in order to receive their crown, but they must also compete according to the predetermined rules of the competition. If one chooses to enter a race, it is a given that they do so, knowing they will have to abide by the rules thereof. You can't cheat your way to a crown and expect everyone not to notice or not to say anything.

For the past few weeks, the preeminent question I've been getting from various people is "what now?" Seeing all that we are seeing, witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy in what seems like hyper-speed, what do we do? Since this question has been so overwhelming, I thought I'd address it in my letter to you, if for no other reason than a purely selfish one, so I wouldn't have to write sixty-odd individual letters saying the same thing.

What we do know is what we've been doing ever since the moment we decided to run our race, which is to finish it! Whether it becomes more challenging, whether we will have to exert ourselves more, whether we will have to deal with obstructions and difficulties is irrelevant. The singular purpose we have before us is to finish the race.

Between those who want the prize while still at the starting line and those making up their own rules as they go along, the number of those who are not only running to finish but likewise competing according to the rules is dwindling. What this will inevitably do is create a large swath of bitter individuals who will endlessly cry foul, and insist that rules and competing to win are demonstrably unfair, and everyone should get a prize just because.

We are swiftly coming up on the portion of the last days where many will be offended, will betray one another, and



will hate one another. We knew it would be so because Jesus said it would. It will not be a pleasant season for those caught unaware, nor will it be a pleasant time for those willfully ignorant of the times they are living in.

There will always be something to distract us if we allow it. Not only are we competing against others, but we must also overcome an enemy who is dead set against us, reaching the finish line. You will hear that the race is over, and you should stop running it. You will hear that you're just a glutton for punishment if you persist because everyone gets a prize anyway. You will hear there is a shortcut, and you can be assured a crown without putting in the work of competing. You may even hear that God can't disqualify everyone if we all band together and choose not to play by the rules.

When you hear these things, remember, you are not accountable for others' actions, but you are accountable for your actions. The truth has set you free, and the race is yours for the taking if only you endure. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.