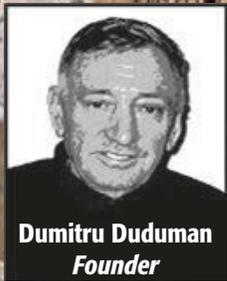


Hand of **HELP**



April - May 2021



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Founder



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Keep the Light On!

Amid the chaos, rubble, bare concrete and looming danger, someone is keeping the light on.

“We may never know their name or their motivation, but we witness their refusal to crumble along with everything else that has been destroyed around them. Rain or shine, sleet or snow, one thing is certain - their light is always on.”

One of the many stops we made during our time ministering in Ukraine was in Avdiivka, Donetsk Oblast Province of Ukraine. After a special time of ministry and proclaiming the Gospel to over 70 people, the local pastor took some time to show us around the area that had seen intense shelling and is known as one of the hotspots of the war in the Donbas region.

It's surreal and almost otherworldly. We stood in front of an entire neighborhood of buildings, destroyed by shelling from the war. Bare concrete slabs and piles upon piles of rubble now stood where families once thrived, enormous communist-era apartment buildings currently serving as giant tombstones of sorts, pleading with the onlooker, hoping to remind us of what was once there.

As we stood there in now complete silence, I could not help but close my eyes and try to imagine what those children might've lived through. How many bombs did they count going off before losing track? Did they have to flee in the night? Were they able to get everyone out in time? Where are they now?

Specific moments in my life will forever remain vivid in my memory, and the few minutes I spent here will most certainly be etched in my mind forever.

As I took the apocalyptic images in, I noticed that an apartment was still occupied in the very far right corner of one of the buildings, and a lone light bulb was on.



It was in my bewildered state that the pastor leaned in and shared the quote above.

“The light is always on” has been on repeat in my brain ever since. My heart is thrilled that the light is still on! There is still one who perseveres and against all hardships, endures, and refuses to budge.

I cannot help but draw a few parallels from this short encounter of resistance, of holding the line.

Many of my missionary brothers and sisters in Ukraine have lost their ministry helpers due to discouragement during this very tough year of Covid restrictions and the inability to assemble. Still,

even so, their light continues to burn ever so strong – they are keeping the light on!

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



1 Peter 2:12 *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

We can certainly bring this analogy home and across the pond to many of us who are getting distraught over the rapid decline of our country. The current leaders of our beloved Union, founded on Judeo-Christian values, are now no longer obfuscating their agenda but rushing to use conservatives as cannon fodder.

Truly the impending persecution of the believer has swiftly gone from possible, to probable, to certain in what seems like a moment.

What shall we do? KEEP THE LIGHT ON! Get out from under that bushel!

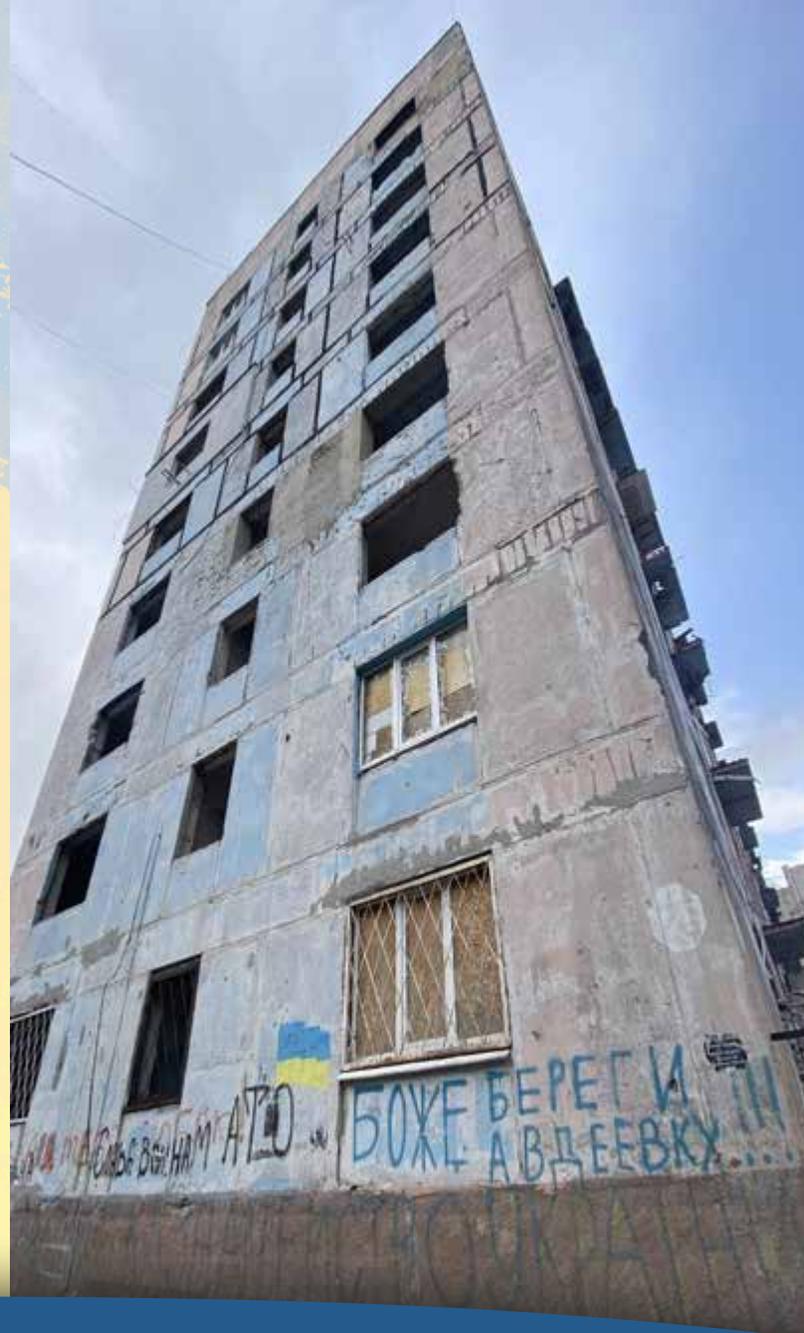
Yes, it is undoubtedly easier speaking with the like-minded or retreating to a place of hiding, but believer, hold the line, keep the light on!

Galatians 6:9-10 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Please know that you are in our prayers during these difficult times; please keep us in yours. Let us burn bright; let us keep the light on!

All Glory be to Christ, our King!

Daniel Boldea



Greetings and Gratitude

Valy, Olea, and Ruben in Borscovo thank you all for your prayers and support to build a small dwelling that they can call home. Ruben is growing quickly and is a very active young boy. The family praises God for warmth. They are currently using pressed boards for their burner.



They look forward to finishing their living room/ local church meeting area so they can start inviting their neighbors into their home and sharing the Gospel with them. In the

meantime, they have potatoes sprouting indoors, as they are getting ready to plant them (likely already in the ground by the time this newsletter reaches you).



The Damian family has been praying for a cow for some time now. Simona and Florin grew up in state-run orphanages and have experienced hardship throughout their entire lives. Florin suffered severe burns as a child left unattended when he fell into a pot of boiling water. Florin and Simona have four children, and they are overjoyed that they will soon have dairy products for their children.



The cow is seven months along in her gestation, and the expected calf will bring a second blessing to this family.

The Damians have been the recipients of loving support and have heard the Gospel at the local church they attend. They have responded to the Good News by repenting, putting their faith in our Lord Jesus, and have asked to be baptized.

We praise God for the miracle of salvation in the lives of the Damians!



Igor and his growing family send their love and prayers. Due to Covid restrictions, they were unable to meet in the space they had been renting. This did not stop these dedicated missionaries! They immediately put up a makeshift gazebo and congregated outdoors, rain or shine, with temperatures in the 20s or 50s! Their soup kitchen continues its work as well, with volunteers ministering to the most desperate in the area.



Their home, soon-to-become church meeting room, is in desperate need of repair. We approximate that \$4,000 is needed to update the house, including windows, doors, roof repair, leveling the floor, and providing a new furnace.

During our meeting, they shared about a new project they had started, meeting with the children in the community for Sunday school and renting a cotton candy machine to provide a treat. They were also looking into raising money to send a few children to a Christian camp over a week this summer. After finding out that an industrial cotton candy machine was only \$200, we purchased one to use for their events and also to utilize at the local market to sell cotton candy and raise money for camp. As a dentist, I was torn. I will have to follow up and send some toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Thank you for making such a tremendous difference in the lives of these young missionaries!

Hand of Help Staff



Imminent War – Prayers Needed



As the situation in Eastern Ukraine escalates with over 100,000 - 150,000 Russian troops, tanks, and heavy artillery moving into pro-Russian separatist-held areas of Ukraine and illegally occupied Crimea, our hearts are heavy and burdened for those we have been ministering to on the frontlines.



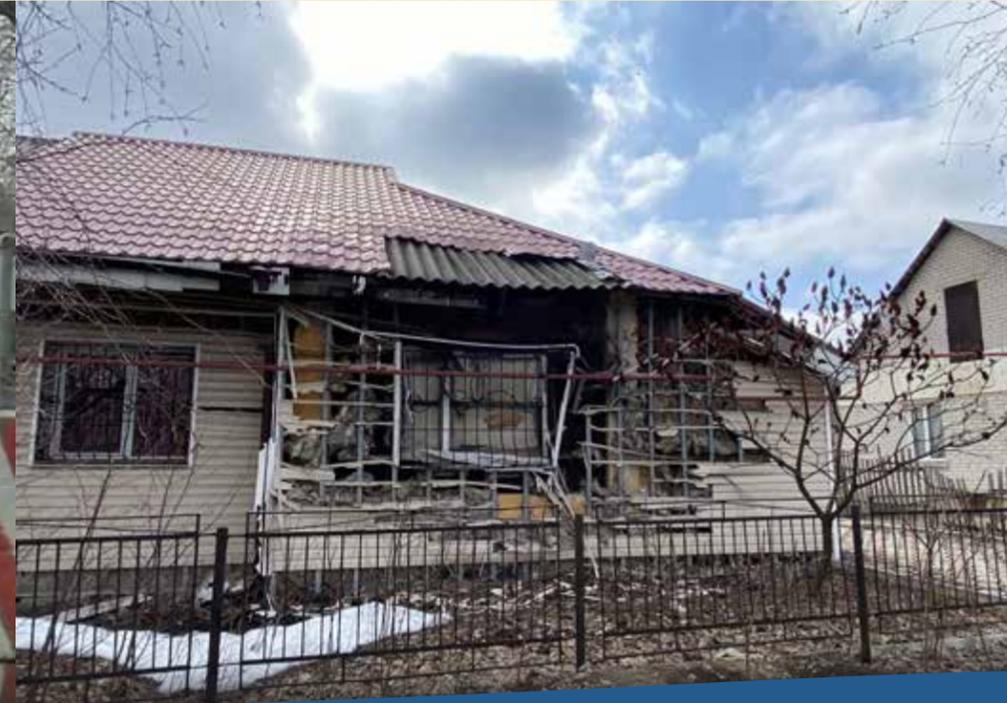
We praise God for His protection as we traveled to the area – the situation certainly more volatile than during our visit in November 2019. Just 24 hours after our departure, a village 18 miles from where we were ministering was bombed late in the night.

If you have been reading our newsletters, you know that the missionaries in that area do not pray for peace but rather that God allows whatever means necessary to reach the lost with the Gospel.

Please pray for the courageous and bold ministers and their families who daily put their lives on the line for the Gospel. Pray that the Holy Spirit would use them mightily in this dark hour in Ukraine's history and that many would come to saving faith in our Lord Jesus.

Let us also pray for the world leaders as this regional unrest can escalate into World War III.

1 Timothy 2:1–4 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



The Final Stretch

As time goes by, building in Romania gets more and more expensive. We can seldom cover the expense of building a home from the ground up. With the quality of life improving for some Romanians, they can now support their own and come alongside building projects within their communities. Local church congregations and other organizations collaborate in any good work and see projects through to completion together.

Since the weather is getting warmer, building projects and renovations have become our focus. The following three projects are further along than the pictures depict and need some final support for the interiors and furnishings.

Thank you for your prayers regarding these!

Mihai and Nicoleta Stefan of Tudora, Botosani have six children, ages 2-13. Due to extreme moisture, being made of mud brick, and lacking insulation, their house (a single room 13 X 16 feet) was structurally compromised.



The Stefans survive on foraging mushrooms and on whatever money Mihai can muster up, working occasional construction jobs.

With the financial support of others, a home made up of two rooms (13 X 9 feet each), a small hallway, and a kitchen has been built. We estimate another \$6,000 is needed to see this project through to completion.





Petru and Mariana Raileanu from Albesti live in a storage room with their five children, ages 3-12. The single room they had owned was condemned as severe water leaks, and excessive moisture led to a crumbling structure.

Brother Petru has some psychological setbacks but is quick to accept any work within their community. The family has two goats that provide much-needed nourishment for the children.

We also pray for provision for this project.



Marian and Iedera Cocalea and their two children are also in need of some support. The loan that Marian could qualify for to build their small home has proven insufficient.

Iedera grew up at the Hand of Help orphanage. Since they are both hard-working, we would like to help them finish their small building project to the point of making it livable so they can gradually pay down the loan and continue with the other less emergent projects in the home.



Child of the Month

Denis Z. was born in 2005 in Botosani. After his parents' divorce, when Denis was only two years old, his mother obtained full custody of her son. She immediately left for Italy, asking her parents to take care of Denis; he was reunited with his mother at the age of four. A lifestyle of bouncing around from city to city and even time spent out of the country proved a challenge too great to handle for Denis. He went through seasons of living with his grandparents, living with his mother, and often running away and having to fend for himself wherever he could find a place to escape.

Once high school started, Denis was drawn into dangerous entourage. He started going missing for days, refusing to work things out with his family. In 2020, his grandfather decided to take him back to his mother, but the several weeks spent with her and her new children proved extremely difficult. He left his mother and started traveling around the country, always refusing to say where he was going or how he manages to secure the money for his survival.

His grandparents realized they could not properly deal with Denis; he felt nobody could understand him. Denis refused to receive counseling and wanted to live somewhere else. Abandoned by the most important people in his life, he found his worth in various groups that dragged him in their webs and left him empty.

We seldom receive children into our care as teenagers, though it is occurring more and more frequently. Denis has much terrain to recover and addictions to break, but we believe that our God can completely turn his life around, and in the short time he will be with us, make a great impact on his life.

Denis is in a trade school learning to do car body repair. He spends lots of time in the local repair shop as he is passionate about his work and is looking forward to being financially independent.



Thank you for your support and prayers in changing one life at a time!

Orphanage Land Update

We cannot put into words how grateful and humbled we are by your prayers, notes of encouragement, and generous support towards the purchase of the orphanage land.

After meeting with city authorities and the attorney for the seller, we are confident that a firm agreement is in sight if we can raise the necessary funds.

We are happy to report that a small portion of the land has been acquired, roughly 5%, through a land swap agreement with the city, bringing the total amount needed down to \$543,000 (down from \$575,000).

As of April 20th, we have raised \$72,169 through your generous support – adjusting the balance needed to \$470,831.

Thank you for your continued prayers regarding this need. Only God!

Hand of Help Staff



Dear Brethren,

John 9:4, *“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no man can work.”*

Chances are, we all know at least one, the perpetually bubbly individual who has all the promises of the Bible highlighted in yellow. They are the selfsame individuals whose dwelling is a menagerie of positivity, with either fragments of verses or quotes by modern-day spiritual gurus plastering the walls. Don't get me wrong, I draw much comfort and peace from the promises of God as well, but I must also be cognizant of the fact that though the promises of God are many, there are also a considerable number of warnings as well.

If we focus on just the promises and ignore the warnings, we tend to develop tunnel vision wherein all we can see, or all we are willing to see, are the promises. The warnings peppered throughout the Word of God are there for a reason. That most of the warnings have to do with the last days should give us all cause for pause and deep contemplation.

For the past few days, I've been going back to what many perceive as a throwaway line, something that really wasn't meant to mean anything more than what was contextually appropriate at the time. If not for the fact that they were Christ's words, I would be inclined to go along. However, Jesus was the one who spoke the words, and that changes everything. Sometimes it's who says a thing that gives it a deeper profundity regardless of how seemingly offhanded the remark was.

If I said I thought someone was a killer, it makes no nevermind to anyone in particular. If a world leader said it about another world leader, well, in no time flat, you could be on the precipice of war. That's just one example, but such examples are plentiful.

There are two things that Jesus said that give me a reason for pause, the first being that night was coming, the second being that no man can work when the night comes. It's not that men would not have the desire to work; it's not that they wouldn't have the opportunity, but that they would be unable to.

For the longest time, the church has comforted itself with the idea that the darkness would only extend so far. We indulged our indifference and apathy with the notion that



darkness would not dare to infringe upon the household of faith. While we were busy calling each other warriors and fearless defenders of truth contently sitting on our hands and watching the world burn, the darkness did encroach and now threatens to choke out the light altogether.

The coming night that Jesus warned of is descending and is almost upon us. If you are among those sitting on the sidelines, conserving your energy for some future time, know that soon you will be unable to do that which you've always hoped of doing, which is work. Work now, exert yourself now, pour yourself out now, because, by tomorrow or the day after, the night may have already come. When the night comes, try as one might, Jesus said that no man would be able to work.

Yes, the promises of God are glorious, they give peace and hope in a world growing exceedingly chaotic and cruel, but the warnings of God also serve a purpose, one exclusive to His children. Jesus didn't warn the godless of the coming night. He warned us! Jesus didn't warn the godless that they would be unable to work once night came; He warned His own. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Ecclesiastes 3:1, *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under the sun.”*

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea Jr.