



April 2011

Greetings from the United States!

The Lord has blessed us abundantly with wonderful friends in the family of God. As we have traveled throughout the Midwest, South, and Southwestern United States, many have opened their homes to our large family, fed us, provided transportation, and cared for us in every way. We are so thankful. Our children have experienced such a great outpouring of love towards them, and they feel they now have friends as close as family all over America.



*One hundred twenty five of our friends and partners were able to join us for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Partner Banquet in St. Louis.*

One hundred and twenty five of you were able to join us for our Seventh Annual Partner Banquet in St. Louis, and it was a joyous time as we celebrated what the Lord has done through this ministry. We are so thankful for faithful friends who traveled from Texas, California, Wisconsin, and Tennessee to stand with us once again. The theme of the banquet was "As For Me and My House We Will Serve the Lord," appropriately named with our six children alongside us. The children sang songs in Romanian and English and our partners were delighted to meet them and hear them praise the Lord. Nicoleta boldly took the platform and shared her appreciation and thankfulness for her family and for all those who have consistently prayed for her over the years. It was her first time to speak publicly, and she did a wonderful job in expressing her heart's desire to serve the Lord. God blessed us with the worship of the Avram Donica family whom we knew in Moldova. They have since immigrated to the U.S. They drove all night from North Carolina to participate in the banquet.



*It was a great blessing to see our daughters, Nicoleta and Diana, commit their lives to the Lord through water baptism at our home church in Warrenton, MO. All of our children received a prayer of dedication to the Lord from Pastor Terry Roberts and his wife.*

One of our greatest blessings during our time in the United States was to see Nicoleta and Diana commit their lives to the Lord through water baptism. It was their desire to have Pastor Terry Roberts, our home church pastor, administer the celebration of Holy Baptism as they professed their faith in Jesus Christ. The younger children all came forward for a prayer of dedication, and there were many tears of joy around the room from those who have seen dramatic changes in them since they came to be with us. There is no greater satisfaction than to see your own children come to the Lord.

In Moldova, Romania, and Transnistria, church leaders are busy preparing to disciple hundreds of children and youth who will attend a summer camp. God prepared our own hearts for our summer assignment by bringing a young Moldovan man named Iurie to Faith Christian Family Church in Warrenton, Missouri, to be reunited with the Donica family on the day of our girls' baptism. Our tears started to flow as Iurie shared his story.



*Iurie, a young man who was abandoned as a newborn on the steps of a Moldovan orphanage, shared his testimony with us. His wife, Diana, is expecting their second child.*

*"My mother had placed me in a box as a newborn, and left the box on the steps of a Moldovan orphanage. I spent my entire childhood in the orphanage. I watched from behind the iron fence as mothers walked down the street holding the hands of their children. My greatest longing was to have someone hold my hand. Sometimes missionaries came to see us. The missionaries smiled at us, and they were the only ones who did. They told us about Jesus. Once a year we got to go to a summer camp where we would learn about Jesus and His love for us. It was our only hope in life. At the age of 16 I had finished my schooling and the time approached for me to be turned out of the orphanage. I was terrified. It felt like a death sentence, like I was leaving to die.*

*I had nowhere to go, no money, no skills, no one who cared about me, and no future. As I was leaving, a staff member of the orphanage told me I had a brother and I found him. He had grown up on the streets, surviving with many other children by picking through garbage, stealing, or begging. My brother hated our mother for abandoning him, but he agreed to take me to meet her. For 16 years I had longed to meet her, to see what she looked like, to meet the woman who should have been holding my hand. When she opened the door of her house, my brother told her 'this is your son.' She hugged me once, but then immediately told me that her husband did not know about me, and I was to lie about who I was. I never saw her again."*



*The Lord blessed us with the praise and worship of the Donica family, whom we knew in Moldova, at our Annual Partner Banquet.*

But God cares about the orphans, and the Donica family took Iurie in and protected him until they could arrange for him to go to America to be with others who would take care of him. He now has a wife and 2 children and has the security of knowing Jesus Christ. Only his relationship with Jesus is helping this 27 year old man to overcome the sadness of his history. The cry of God for his heart is for him to help other abandoned children.

The Lord sent him to us and he tearfully shared his testimony. It inspired us to continue to do all the Lord had put in our hearts. Ten percent of orphans turned out of the orphanages in Eastern Europe will commit suicide. One third will spend time in prison. Iurie's testimony confirmed the importance of the summer camps, the visits to orphanages, and the Homes of Hope. Some of you have come with us to hug an orphan, to help with a summer camp, or have helped to finance the Homes of Hope. What each of you does makes a difference. We praise God for the privilege of serving the children and for the compassion in your own hearts.

We appreciate your prayer that the Lord will help us send 700 children to attend the annual Summer Camps so they can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For \$30 you can help send one of these children for five days. The Gospel can save lives and encourage abandoned children to endure the hardship and have hope for their future.

We thank you again for everyone who ministered to us during our stay in the United States. We hope that your time with our family blessed you as it did us. We look forward to seeing you in Iasi!

May the grace of God abound in your lives,

***Ghiorghi, Cristina, Nicoleta, Diana, David, Lia, Daniel, and Timotei***