

August 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Faith,

We greet you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As summer arrived, we have had the opportunity once again to reach the younger generation through the summer camps. In spite of new opposition this year, the Lord is doing wonderful things. Under the leadership of National Missionary Nicu Bodea, we were able to come alongside him and hold a 3-day Vacation Bible School for 50 children aged 8-16, including our own, in the village of Nicopole, Romania. A team of 4 from the Shepherd of the Lakes Church in Wisconsin joined us. As the VBS was being organized, the director of the local school approached Brother Nicu demanding that he show his government license to host the event. But through perseverance and prayer the camp was held. Twenty years after the Revolution in Romania, there are still many families that have never heard the Good News or own a Bible. Among these we have the testimony of 14-year-old Angela, who came to thank us for receiving a Bible. She said "I never had the chance to see people like this family who invest their time and resources for the lives of other children. It is most rewarding."



The VBS in Nicopole, Romania under the leadership of national missionary Nicu Bodea hosted 50 children, ages 8-16.

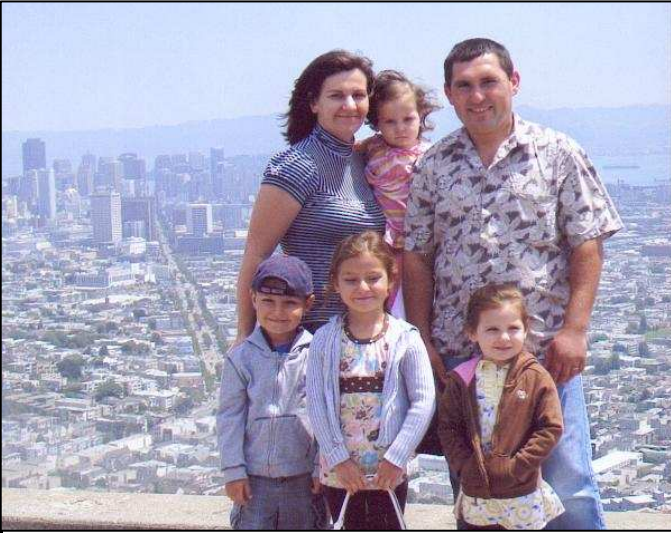
In spite of the opposition held by the director of the local school, Brother Nicu continues to receive encouraging testimonies from the children's parents and teachers as a result of VBS. He offered a ride to one of the older school teachers. She said "Thank you for the people who came to help and invest. Such joy and change has happened in the lives of our pupils. I personally thought there was not much that could be done for their situation. But it is amazing to see the effect of the acceptance and love mixed with treats and games that you showed them." Philippians 2:4 instructs us to "look not only to your own interests but to the interests of others." When we obey the word, we will see the fruit. A new church was planted in Nicopole, and testimonies like this will give our national missionary an opportunity to minister to the families of the children and youth.

Jesus told us to rejoice when we suffer persecution, and the saints organizing the summer camps have faced it this year. Doors that were once wide open to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ are now slowly beginning to close

In Moldova, two of the summer camps were closed down by the government because they stated that hygiene standards did not meet government requirements. But where one door closed another one opened. In a government-run orphanage children were participating in a secular summer camp in Larga, Moldova. Many children in these nations are not really orphaned but abandoned by parents who are drawn away to other nations who want cheap labor. The parents never return for their children. The mayor of this village, a member of the Communist Party, is in her third term of office. She is open to the Gospel. One of our national missionaries pastors a new church plant in Larga, and the CPA at the orphanage is a member of that church. The Lord used the CPA to gain permission for a musical group to come and provide music for the 50 orphans attending the camp. Ghiorghe ministered to them, and all 50 children and the staff received the Lord. Now the mayor has asked the CPA to teach a Bible study for the children during the school year. This is a great miracle from God. Please pray for the mayor and her husband



The mayor of Larga, Romania (a new convert) allowed us to share at a secular summer camp with 50 children accepting the Lord as their Savior.



National Missionary Sasha, his wife Lilia and family pictured here during their stay in Sacramento before returning to Moldova.

that they will be saved and able to withstand any opposition. Pray for the children to grow spiritually as they are discipled in Jesus Christ.

A recent radio advertisement on a Christian station in the U.S. is using an alarming statistic recently. They say that 74% of people in the U.S. have been impacted by alcohol or drug abuse. It is a worldwide problem. During a recent trip across Moldova we made an unscheduled stop at a new rehabilitation center opened by a GMI-sponsored national missionary. Four recent converts had become the first residents during the past month. To our surprise, the pastor whom God called to oversee this center had been forced to move in with his wife and children when their apartment was sold out from under them. They had spent 4 years in Sacramento, living a good life when God called them back. Now here they were, with 4 children between the ages of 2 and 7, living in a dilapidated house with no water and no electricity. Yet they were not complaining. When we made the unannounced visit we found them without food, a situation we immediately remedied. We praise God for interrupting our plans.



Here the men sing and praise the Lord at the rehabilitation center.

Fourteen men are on a waiting list, but as we shared in the June newsletter, until we are able to purchase the property to make improvements, the government will not allow them to come, since the facilities do not meet government standards and it is not licensed as a rehabilitation center. Please pray for these precious men who are waiting for the chance to restore their lives and be reunited with their broken families. Please be in prayer for this national missionary family and this center. We believe this is an important work the Lord would have us be involved in and very much in alignment with our vision to Change Lives, Restore Families, and Transform Nations by Making Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We celebrated another changed life this week. Many years ago a Muslim man visiting Romania fell in love and took his Romanian wife with him to his home in Nigeria. A sudden car accident took his life and she was seriously injured. Doctors in Nigeria wanted to remove her hand after infection set in, but a relative sent her to the U.S., where we met her in 1996. She was a convert to the Muslim religion, but we told her the Good News and she became a Christian and was baptized at our home church in St. Louis. She returned to Nigeria and raised her 2 sons. One became a Christian but the other was rooted in the Muslim religion.

In 2002 she visited us in Romania, bringing both of her sons to Iasi to study at the university. She asked us to continue to pray for her unsaved son, Jiniclu, and to share the Gospel. We did, and he accepted the Lord Jesus and was baptized. This month we attended his wedding. He married a young Romanian woman we introduced him to, and they began a strong Christian marriage. What a celebration in the Lord! We thank the Lord for the opportunities to share His love as He leads us.

Our daughter Nicoleta underwent her 28th surgery in June. While it was not as successful as we hoped, we know that even through this, all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord! Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

We are so thankful for you and your continued faithful prayer and support even during these difficult times. We pray for you, your families and that the Lord will continue to bless you.

May the Lord find us faithful at His coming.

Ghiorghi, Cristina, Nicoleta, Hadassah, David, Leah, and Daniel