

February 2010

Grace and peace to you from Eastern Europe,

As the new year begins our hearts are filled with compassion for those who are suffering from the earthquake in Haiti. We know from where our help comes. We have many missionary friends in Haiti, and we are praying along with you for the strength of the believers to stay and be witnesses for God. Matthew 24:7 tells us that there will be earthquakes in place after place. We see the birthpangs of the last days and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and are making the most of every opportunity to tell others about the gift of salvation available to us from God our Father through His Son. We all need to be busy in our sphere of influence. Let us share with you what God is doing in Eastern Europe.



This shoe manufacturing plant in Moldova has prospered since they began providing thousands of winter shoes for the orphans and needy.

Seven years ago we met John, the owner of a shoe manufacturing company in Moldova. He was a new believer, and he has a heart for the orphans. He allowed us to buy shoes at his cost to help the children at the Cornesti Orphanage. Over the years his generosity grew and he donated many boots so the orphans and needy children from large families could go outside like other children during the winter. As he gave, God also prospered his business and he opened a second manufacturing plant. The economic crisis affected even the developing countries like Moldova, but he did not have to lay off anyone. He had done many good things, but now it was time to do something for the cause of Christ.



The owner shut this factory down so his employees could hear the Gospel, and all 72 received the Lord.

Men of God do not hold the message for themselves but share the joy with others. He made a bold decision to share the good news with all of his employees. Just before Christmas, John shut one of his plants down and served a special luncheon. I was invited to come and offer his employees the best gift, the saving knowledge and acceptance of Jesus Christ. They heard clearly for the first time the message of Luke 2:11 *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord.”* Seventy-two employees all stood to accept the Lord and offer their hearts to him as a gift to God. In Eastern Europe, as in the United States, there is opposition to the truth, but the Lord continues to open new doors.

The new year started with a powerful evangelistic meeting in Drochia City, Moldova. The church there had been fasting for 40 days, with different groups within the church fasting for 24 hours at a time. Every Friday the whole church fasted and met together. During this time of fasting they prayed and sought the Lord first for themselves, that they would live holy lives, and then for their lost friends and relatives.

Cristina was part of a Friday night prayer meeting. She noticed a woman weeping in the back and began to speak with her. Liuba had brought her brother to the meeting who hadn't intended to stay, but the teaching of the Word got his attention. Ten years earlier Liuba had become a Christian. Her husband told her if she did not deny Christ he would not live with her. She refused to renounce Christ and he left her with 3 children. Later he returned and begged her to take him back. Thinking he had a change of heart and would soon repent and serve the Lord, she allowed him to return. He impregnated her, but then told her that if she would not renounce Christ and have an abortion he would leave her. Again she refused and again he abandoned her. For each of us in our lifetime, there has been or will be a cost to serve God.

Liuba honored Jesus Christ in her decisions, but she had lost her joy for life due to unforgiveness. Cristina ministered to her and prayed for her. Together they prayed for her husband's salvation. Her countenance changed immediately and her smile returned as she received the fullness of joy promised in Christ. Liuba and her 4 children had to move in with her parents who earn only \$50 per month. Hearing the testimony of her courage to stand up for Jesus, the church took an offering for her. She had come to the meetings with nothing and no hope, but our God provided money for food for the children. If you would like to help our sister and her four children, a monthly commitment of \$25 would help and be a great blessing from the Lord in her life.

At the beginning of the fast a prophetic word came forth that the Drochia church building would not be big enough. At the end of the 40 days, the evangelistic meetings were held and all those who had been lifted up in prayer were invited. Between 150 and 200 people responded to the invitation during the 3-day meetings. Their building was filled and now they will be going to two services.

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” Mark 16:20. Among those who gave their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ was Anatol, a 58-year old man who suffered for 12 years with back problems and could not walk without crutches. His vertebrae deteriorated after a career of bus driving over the bumpy, holey roads of Moldova. When he was unable to work his wife left him and he was forced to live with his 84 year old mother. He had turned to alcohol. On Monday evening, the first night of the meetings, Anatol heard the Gospel. He stepped out and came to receive the Lord Jesus Christ. On Tuesday evening when prayer was offered for the healing of the sick, he came forward on the crutches.



Between 150 and 200 people responded to the salvation message during the 3-day meetings, such as the picture above.

The Lord healed him and he was able to walk home without crutches that evening. The next day the marketplace was buzzing as people heard how he was healed and many from the city came to the evangelistic meetings Wednesday night and received the Lord. As in the book of Acts Chapter 3, when the people of Israel were looking at Peter and John because they thought by their own power or godliness they had made a man to walk, they were quick to correct him. It was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob glorified by His Servant Jesus who delivered this man.



Anatol with crutches

Now, Anatol (r) without crutches

We had no bibles to give to the new converts at this meeting. A hardbound Bible which will last forever can be purchased for \$7 in Moldova. We know there are many worthy causes which cry out for resources, and we also give personally with compassion to those who are suffering. All of us who have food, clean water, and shelter have so much to be thankful for. We are daily reminded that everything we are comfortable with can be taken in a moment, and the number of our days is known only to the Lord. We must labor to assure that the souls of mankind all over the world are at peace with God our Father through Jesus Christ. One of the most important things we can do for people is to give them the living bread...the Word of God. Please pray about your giving and be obedient to the Lord in whatever He tells you.

We sold our belongings and moved to Romania 10 years ago, and we are amazed at what the Lord has done in one decade. All that has happened was made possible as you labored alongside us in person, in prayer, or in sacrificial giving. Our 6th Annual Partner Banquet is planned for Friday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the St. Louis airport. This will be an evening of celebration of all the Lord has done and is doing, and we want to thank you in person. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Kindly call the GMI office at 618-239-0215 to reserve a spot.

We thank the Lord for your faithful partnership to advance the Lord's Kingdom.

Ghiorghi, Cristina, Nicoleta Emanuela, Diana Hadasa, David Gheorghe, Lia Anamaria and Daniel Vasile