



January 2010

Happy New Year from Eastern Europe!

God created families, and we trust that you had a beautiful Christmas celebration with the precious ones He gave to be your own family



Nicoleta after her 30th surgery.

Nicoleta had her 30th surgery in mid-December. We have had her since she was 6, and we see the emotional and spiritual transformation which has already taken place. We have prayed that the Lord will use her pain and suffering for His glory and honor, and she will be a witness to what great things He has done for her. All of the children traveled with us to evangelistic meetings during their Christmas break. We see how quickly time passes as they grow. As they hear the Word of God and see the Lord in action, we urge you to pray for their Kingdom purpose to be fulfilled and each of them to lead many souls to the Lord before His soon return. We pray that 2010 will be the year when your own children get saved or begin to serve the Lord at a greater level.

As we arrived at the Cornesti Orphanage there was a great anticipation and emotion from all 86 kids, as we brought the winter shoes and sweet gifts. We also had a program for them with the national missionaries to present the Gospel message. We are glad to meet their physical needs but this is only temporary. The main difference we want to make is to bring the salvation message which puts hope in their hearts. The physical gifts of shoes, babydolls, musical clocks and boys trucks were all made possible through our faithful partners.

You bring the love of Jesus to the orphans and the forgotten ones.



With the help of our partners, children at the orphanage received winter boots and gifts.

A 12 year old boy there touched our hearts as he was quick to tell us what he knew from God's Word...the creation, the birth of Christ, His death and resurrection. This will sustain him for his entire life. We also gave shoes to the Home of Hope children, the families of several national missionaries, and another small orphanage. Every gift we give has your handprints on it and is sharing your love and care to the needy in the Name of our Lord. Thank you for loving us and trusting us with your resources.

On the other end of earthly life's short span is the forgotten elderly. This year we visited two elderly homes and blessed them during the Christmas season. Alongside National Missionary Ionel Morar, we visited a center which is home to 450 people. It is set in an isolated location in Moldova surrounded by nothing but open fields. Many there are not elderly, but had no place to go after the orphanage so they spend their entire lives in an institution. They had no central meeting room, so we went from room to room, bed to bed. Many are mentally or physically challenged. Cristina was holding 2 year old Daniel, and several people wanted a touch from her, calling her "mama." She asked one such man who appeared to be about 35 how old he was and he replied, "I am 2." Brother Morar is supported monthly by GMI. He has 7 churches under his leadership. As we encouraged the local churches in their work we challenged them to come together and help meet these needs from their own resources. They collected clothing and baked goods and seized the opportunity to share in the joy of giving.



Local churches donated clothing and baked goods to this elderly center in Moldova.



Some pictured here at the Bender Elderly Center have been institutionalized their entire lives. But God has not forgotten them."

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Our encouragement to you this season is from Philippians 4:4-8. "We ought to remember to rejoice always and be thankful." Looking ahead to 2010, we will continue to do the work of the Lord awaiting His return. We pray that this will be the most fruitful year you have ever had as you minister to those around you. May we all manifest the compassion and love of Christ toward God's people. This is the time when we must let our light shine. *"Arise (from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life!) Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness all peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you (O Jerusalem) and His glory shall be seen on you."* Isaiah 60:1-2 Amplified

As you make your vacation plans for 2010, pray about taking a mission trip this summer. Partners Ken and Cheryl Massey share their most recent experience with us:

Since December 2007, we have made four short-term mission trips to Romania and the Republic of Moldova. It seems that each trip builds on the previous ones and that the Lord finds ways to bless us that we could never have imagined. In December, while traveling in the Republic of Moldova with Ghiorghii and Cristina Cazacu, we were able to minister in churches, orphanages, mental health facilities and private homes.

One morning, while driving down a narrow dirt road in Moldova, we met Vera, an elderly woman walking along the side of the road. She was hunched over and appeared to be in great pain. It was a very cold morning so we offered to give her a ride. She thanked us, but said she lived nearby and was almost home. When we asked her how she was feeling she answered that she was doing well. She then began praising God for His goodness to her. When most people would have been complaining about the cold, and about their aches and pains, she was praising the Lord. She explained that she had been saved 60 years ago at age 16, and, even though she had lived under the persecution of the former Communist regime, she could not stop recounting all the different ways that God had blessed her.



Vera (center) had her hearing restored and her back miraculously straightened when Ken and Cheryl Massey prayed for her.

When we inquired about her health, Vera told us that she had injured her back as a young woman, when she fell out of a cherry tree while picking cherries. On another occasion, she had fallen off the back of a farm truck, striking her head. She had lost the hearing in her left ear and had chronic headaches ever since. We laid hands on her and anointed her with oil and her hearing was immediately restored. She was still hunched over, though, so we prayed for her again. When we finished praying, she was able to stand up straight for the first time in many years. It was a beautiful experience for us to see God's healing power demonstrated in our midst and as a direct result of our prayers. Prior to leaving her, we were able to provide Vera with a pair of warm gloves and a sweater for which she was very grateful.

When we discussed this experience later, we realized that if we had not gone on this trip, it was likely that Ghiorghii would not have encountered Vera that morning, and that she would not have experienced God's healing touch when she did. My encouragement to anyone considering a short-term missions trip, would be to go for it and to see what God will do through you.

Our annual partner banquet will be held on March 12 in St. Louis, Missouri. We invite you to come to celebrate with us ten years on the mission field. We appreciate you more than words can express, and we hope to see you there.

May the grace of God abound toward you in 2010,

Ghiorghii, Cristina, Nicoleta Emmanuela, Diana Hadassah, David Ghiorghii, Leah Ana-Maria, and Daniel.