



March 2010

Greetings with love from Eastern Europe!

The vision that God gave us ten years ago when we returned to Eastern Europe to serve Him has never changed...“Changing Lives, Restoring Families, and Transforming Nations by Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.” May those of you whose hearts cry out for the hurting and downtrodden rejoice in His response to your prayers as you read these testimonies.



Andrei, now a GMI national missionary, was delivered from alcoholism and is now serving the Lord.

Forty-six year old Andrei Petru Cvavenco lived his adult life battling alcoholism. Ten years ago his wife Clarissa gave up on their marriage and moved to Russia with their three sons, who were 6, 13, and 15. His drinking had ruined their lives. At the low point of his life one of the GMI national missionaries, Vadim Boltenco, came to him with a message of hope and a hand of help. Andrei moved into the GMI-sponsored Rehabilitation Center near Bender, Transnistria. The love of Jesus was ministered to him in Word and deed for six months. He helped to tend the garden. He cared for the chickens. His self-esteem began to return. He learned to praise God, to pray, and to trust the Lord. Our loving Savior delivered him from the clutches of alcoholism. He finished the initial recovery program at the Center and now has a room at the Grace Baptist Church, under the discipleship of Pastor Piotr Korotash, a GMI-sponsored national missionary. The first part of the vision: *a changed life*.

But the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Andrei is in the miracle business and He wasn't finished. By the grace of God, one of the local brothers located Clarissa in Russia. He bought her a train ticket. She came and saw her sober husband and her heart turned back toward him. Andrei rejoiced in tears to learn that he has two daughters-in-law and a grandson. Their youngest son, Constantine, now 16, has agreed to return to Moldova with his mother and begin a new life with his father. They will return at the end of the school year in June. Andrei is skilled in construction and we believe that a Christian businessman will be able to give him a job in Chisinau. The second part of the vision: *a family restored*.



Men at the rehabilitation center near Bender, Transnistria with Bro. Ghiorgi Cazacu.

Only seven months ago a church partner of GMI ministries provided the funds to secure the property for the Bender Rehabilitation Center. Located in a tranquil rural setting, the center has reached capacity of 15 men in residence in that short time. Spiritual cover is provided by Brother Anatoly Gurgarov, a GMI-sponsored national missionary and pastor of Salvation Church which is a Pentecostal fellowship. A former psychologist in the Russian army, himself delivered from alcoholism by the power of Jesus, is in charge of the rehabilitation. When the men complete the six-month program, they are relocated to the Baptist Church for discipleship and continued healing. The GMI National Missionaries are coming together, not regarding their denominational differences, to proclaim the Gospel. It is the Gospel that changes lives. ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and***

also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16. As the people of God become one and focus on the Kingdom of God they lead souls to Christ and *nations are transformed*.

As Pastors Piotr and Anatoly come together for the salvation of souls, God is bringing alongside others to work in the streets with a heart of compassion. Liudmilla, a former witch, was considered an expert at sorcery. She used tarot cards to tell fortunes. One day in her fifth floor apartment she said an apparition threw a cat in her lap, rolled her up in a blanket, and tried to throw her out of the window to her death. She cried out to the Lord, “Jesus, help me! Jesus, help me! Jesus, help me!” She was set free. She went to a church and repented, turned her life around, and was instantly delivered from witchcraft. Married three times and widowed, she had no place to live. She was praying and asking God to help her serve Him. There was no work in her village so she came to Bender. Liudmilla was caring for an elderly woman



Ludmilla, a former witch, was set free from sorcery, upon repenting and accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior.



Sergei, the professional singer on the right, Ludmilla, center and Andrei, a GMI national missionary on the left.

who refused to let her off to attend church. But she went to a women's conference and there she heard about Pastor Piotr's church. The pastor's wife, Tanya, ministered to her and invited her to live at the church facility. Liudmilla is 64 and has been living there for eighteen months.

Sergei Lopopempo was a professional singer and pianist who performed at weddings and special events. But he developed a major vision problem and was forced into early retirement as "handicapped." Unable to provide for his family, he sank into depression and alcohol abuse. He started selling their furniture and household goods to buy alcohol. He sold their beds. He sold his young daughter's school shoes to drink and she couldn't go to school. His wife was going to Pastor Piotr Korotash for counsel. For seven years Pastor Piotr ministered to Sergei and for seven years he refused to listen. Finally Sergei gave his life to the Lord and was immediately delivered from his addiction. After he became a Christian his wife fell into a life of alcoholism and prostitution. Now the table was turned and for three years he did the wash, cooked, and cared for their daughter. When he wanted to give up, Pastor Piotr asked him, "How many years did your wife stand by you?" "Seven," came the reply. "Go back." Finally she repented and now both are baptized and serving the Lord with a passion for people suffering just as they had been. For 5 years Sergei brought homeless drunks into their tiny home in his own efforts to rehabilitate them. Now he works with a team to bring them into the GMI-sponsored Bender Rehabilitation Center. Our hearts were so moved by Sergei's testimony and the fruit of his work that we agreed to sponsor Sergei as a National Missionary with a minimum amount of \$100 per month.

Now every day Liudmilla, Andrei, and Sergei set out for the streets of Bender in search of the homeless, the drunks, and the ones who have nowhere to go. The Lord is using them to reach back to the streets from whence they came. They go to the trash dumps where the rejected ones of society search through the garbage for something to recycle. God is in the recycling business. Liudmilla asks them, "Did you find anything?" If they say "No!" she offers them a loaf of bread and

a yogurt. As they settle down to eat, the trio of evangelists start to share the love of God. They take the homeless people back to the church for care and ministry. When space is available and the man wants to change, they are taken to the Bender Rehabilitation Center.

We hope that you are encouraged as you hear about a few of the lives being changed and families being restored. As we support these National Missionaries and they reach out to lift up souls for recycling, your hand is reaching out as well.

- All of our needs are met through prayer. Please join us in prayer, asking God to show the way to meet all of these needs:
- ✓ Andrei and Clarissa: complete forgiveness and healing
 - ✓ Pastors Piotr and Anatoly: resources and unity as they continue to work together seeking ways to make a difference in Eastern Europe
 - ✓ Another rehabilitation center for men in Bender
 - ✓ A rehabilitation facility especially for women
 - ✓ An elderly center in Transnistria
 - ✓ Some cows for the Bender Rehabilitation Center
 - ✓ The rescue of many lives from addictions
 - ✓ A team of godly women to be raised up to go and minister to the women of the street
 - ✓ Bibles to give to these new believers (hardbound only \$7)
 - ✓ Protection over the Cazacu family and children as they travel
 - ✓ GMI to continue to expand and make a difference

The 6th Annual Gospel Ministries Partner Banquet is Friday, March 12, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Lindbergh & I-70. It is not too late to attend, but please call the GMI office immediately at 618-239-0215. We look forward to celebrating YOU and all the Lord has done in these past ten years.

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