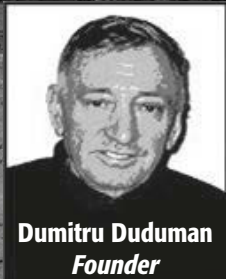


Hand of **HELP**



Grateful



Dumitru Duduman
Founder



November - December 2021

HAND OF HELP

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Missionary Red

According to my extensive research, also known as a google search, there are at least 50 shades of red. Unfortunately, I do not know if there is an authority that establishes the names of the colors; in this administration, it would probably be the CDC, but regardless, I submit for your consideration what I am calling missionary red.

Somewhere between cinnabar and vermilion, at least as far as I can tell, this unique color carries more significance than meets the eye. This, you-will-have-to-get-out-and-push-the-car-soon shade of red depicts the resources that are often available to the missionaries going about fulfilling their callings on shoestring budgets.



In Western culture, it is pretty commonplace to pull over and fill 'er up. On many mission fields, however, such luxuries are rare occurrences.

While visiting a village devastated by wildfires during my last trip to Ukraine, I peeked over to check out the fuel gauge and see what we were working with that day.



Don't get me wrong, I am unlike my brother Michael who refuels the minute his gauge falls before the $\frac{1}{2}$ tank mark, and I have been known to pray for a downhill incline in order to get to the next gas station as I had procrastinated for far too many miles. However, in this case, I was concerned about where we might get stuck since we were driving in the opposite direction of the gas station already 20 kilometers away. As an added bonus, there was also no cell phone service to be had in the area.



Our driver and area missionary, Ruslan, said while chuckling, "This is nothing brothers, we have plenty of gas. You should've seen the gauge last week."

I do not think the gauge needle could've been any further down without actually being snapped in half.



Supporting a missionary in the area full-time costs around \$200-\$250 per month. Gauging, pun intended, by how much fuel our brother had in his vehicle, this is barely enough to get by, but they are incredibly grateful for the Lord's provision and share that they have never gone without. The cupboards have been bare, the gas tank has run dry, but God always comes through, sometimes at what seems the last possible moment.

As he drove, brother Ruslan shared about the area and how a total of over 400 homes had been destroyed. The government stepped in to help, but the support only stretched so far. He then started tearing up as he shared the pain they see daily among those displaced by the fires and how difficult it is to meet their immediate needs selectively.



Ruslan went on to share his and his wife Sveta's personal testimonies, both having been set free from close to a decade of drug addiction. They both resolved that their life's mission would be to share the Gospel and speak of the only Power that could set one free from the bondage of sin and addiction.



We blessed them with a full tank of fuel, our brother admitting that it had been years since he has been able to fill up, and left behind a financial blessing for their family's needs.

As we travel to Ukraine in December, we would like to come alongside these missionaries financially so that they may have some extra resources, including fuel over the long winter.

Together they take care of 5 recovering addicts, who have come to know Jesus, and now help them with area ministry outreach. Ruslan and his wife look forward to welcoming more individuals as needed.

Won't you join us in praying for these missionaries and missionaries worldwide? Will you please pray for the work they are doing and the people they are serving that hearts be softened and transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Daniel Boldea



Pascar Family Home Update

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of our brother Pascar who was just featured in the last newsletter. Thank you to all those who generously gave for this family's home project. Tremendous progress has been made, and we are committed to

seeing this house project through to completion. Thank you for making this life-changing blessing for this widow and her three precious ones possible. Please keep Elisabeta and her children in your prayers during this difficult time of grieving.



From the Other Side

As I was getting ready to send the text of this newsletter for editing, I received a desperate recorded video plea from a pastor that we work with on the occupied side of Ukraine to pray for his congregation and help in any way we can. His identity and location will not be disclosed for the safety of his family and congregation.

With tears rolling down his eyes, he shared that over 20 church members are very sick from Covid; 4 of them are also disabled. Unfortunately, medical treatment in the local hospital is unobtainable due to a lack of resources and overcrowding.

A team at the church is taking care of the sick and the elderly they usually look after. However, this new

need has put a significant strain on their resources which are already running very thin.

The pastor thanked us for our support of their ministry and shared that there have been times when our team has been the only lifeline and financial support of their work which involves 12 additional missionaries. He has also asked that we keep his wife in our prayers as she is suspected of having cancer.

Philippians 4:19, *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Hand of Help Staff

Child of the Month

We first met Maria (born in 2009) when the local authorities asked us to offer her and Rares, her brother, a home. The two children had witnessed emotional conflicts and fights between their parents. Being deprived of parental affection, poorly dressed, dirty, and hungry, they were in desperate need.

After the parents' divorce, the mother and her two children were shunned from their grandmother's house, and things progressively worsened for Maria and Rares. Their father (employed abroad) made it clear that he had no interest in his children, while their mother, lacking a stable home and finances, was in no position to take care of them properly. Left in the sporadic care of their neighbors and relatives, the children were often neglected, unsupervised, without the most basic care at a very young age.

Despite all these obstacles, God opened the way for Maria and Rares to become a part of our Hand of Help

family in 2013. The two siblings quickly adapted to their new life and friends, and we were overjoyed to see them grow harmoniously.



A local family regularly invited Maria to spend her weekends, holidays, and summers with them for several years. Since strong bonds formed between them, the couple asked to foster Maria. After obtaining approval from the court, they welcomed Maria into their foster care for over two years. However, since they can no longer continue fostering Maria, the local authorities asked us to step in and take care of her once again.

Maria is a joyous child, always involved in various activities at school, is persistent, and works hard until she obtains the results she strives for. She started the 6th grade in the fall of 2021. We pray that our God will guide her in her time re-adjusting, comfort her and surround her with His divine peace, leading her to become a faithful servant of His.

More Blessings



A Hand of Help

Dumitru, Stela, and their 11 children, ages three to eighteen, live in the village of Dumbravita in Botosani County. I had the opportunity to visit them on numerous occasions and have been blessed by their gratefulness toward God for His provision and blessing through the years.



Hand of Help purchased a cow for them two years ago, and they have taken excellent care of it. The cow has been a tremendous blessing for them, thank you!



The Atomeis have an incredible work ethic, and every time they were given a small amount of money, they were great stewards and improved the quality of life for their children. As a result, they have built a two-room addition to their home for their 11 growing children.

Their most urgent need is changing the roof on the older portion of their home, as it was covered with very poor quality asbestos and now has significant

gaps, and put a roof on the additional two rooms they built.

Some builders from Petrila have offered their labor free of charge, but the family needs \$5,000 for the necessary wood roof substructure and roofing sheets.

Thank you for making testimonies like these possible and giving a hand of help where needed most!

May God bless you!

Pastor Mircea Boldea, Sr.



Rough Beginnings

Religious opposition is an uncommon and somewhat foreign sentiment to many living in the West. Surprisingly, this opposition does not come via the heathen, the godless, or the depraved, but rather from well-established churches rooted in unbiblical tradition and compromised through their association with the government.



During the great unpleasantness, the few churches that were allowed to function in Eastern Europe were those the Communist dictators could manipulate via the Secret Police/KGB. In hindsight, it was a brilliant safety mechanism on the part of the State. If you could not get the populace to submit by force, you had the religious authorities encouraging you to do so as a backup plan.

To this day, the Orthodox Church shares special privileges with governing powers.



When Taras and Svetlana first arrived in the village of Novoaidar in Ukraine's Lugansk region in 2016, the villagers were less than welcoming. The local Orthodox priest immediately started a smear campaign, going from house to house not only to slander Taras and Svetlana, but forbidding his parishioners from attending their church. He went as far as telling them he would not bury them should they die if they disobeyed him in this regard.



“But time passed, the villagers saw our simple way of living and our love for God and people. Yes, there have been many difficulties, pains, and sorrows, but we want to share of the fruit that we are seeing by God's grace.”





Taras and Svetlana shared the opportunities God has given them to help through practical means while boldly proclaiming the Gospel. They meet needs as they arise, from providing walkers, wheelchairs, lamps, and food for the struggling local hospital to delivering potatoes and cabbage.



“People here are used to being forced to pay for everything. They cannot believe that we want to be a blessing to them. During street ministry, some have even tried to pay us for praying for them!”



Much of the Didych family’s outreach focuses on the children in the area, many of them lacking love and affection. Towards this end, they create a home away from home for them, where the children can hear the Gospel and see the love of God manifested through believers.



The testimonies of village problem children changed by the Holy Spirit are a testament to this work, and they no longer need to defend themselves to the villagers.

“When Covid rules wouldn’t allow us to congregate, we took the church to the streets and preached the Gospel.”



The Didychs minister to recovering addicts and have a heart for those dying alone, wanting to offer palliative care in their own home.

“We desire to fulfill the will of God in every aspect of our lives.”

Rough Beginnings (cont.)



Taras, Svetlana, and their two children have transformed their attic into the local church open to all who would come to hear from the Word. While they have made tremendous progress, mainly with the support of visiting missionaries, they still need flooring, carpet, insulation, and at least 30 chairs as the ones they have are failing. We would also like to provide enough firewood to heat the church and their home through the winter and expect the above to cost around \$3,300.



Thank you for keeping the work of these dedicated missionaries in your prayers.

Hand of Help Staff



A Roof Before Winter

After reaching out to the area pastor and coordinator of projects in Severodonetsk and asking him what their greatest need was, he promptly responded, “food, firewood, and a roof for a missionaries’ home in Petro-Pavlovca.”



As always, thank you for praying for this project!

Hand of Help Staff

We are working on logistics for our December trip and plan to include Severodonetsk in our food and firewood distributions, but the roof cannot wait as winter gets ready to set in.

Volunteers are on standby, and this project can be completed as soon as \$1,500 is raised.



Orphanage Land Update

Thank you to all those who have self-sacrificially given for the orphanage land project. We have been able to raise over \$92,000, adjusting the amount needed to \$459,913. While this is impossible to fathom, we rest in the knowledge that we serve a Sovereign, Omnipotent God. Please continue to pray for this need.

Dear Brethren,

1 Peter 1:13, *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

For those who know what to look for, it is undeniable that we are drawing incrementally closer to fulfilling Christ's words regarding the last days. Among the many things Jesus forewarned of, the world's animosity towards the church was one He reiterated time and again.

We were warned that we would be hated, we were warned that we would be persecuted, we were warned that we would be betrayed by those closest to us, yet somehow the modern-day church took none of those warnings to heart. Instead, we've been living as though we were promised priority rapture, somehow being able to bypass all the things we were forewarned of.

Because we want to believe it, we bend ourselves into pretzels trying to reinterpret plainly written text because if we were to believe the words of Jesus outright, it would mean that we're in for some stormy weather and rough seas.

Even though many refuse to believe it, or rather choose not to believe it, the testing of our faith will soon be upon us, and there will be many who will bend and break. Many will fall because they have not prepared themselves for the season they are about to enter into.

Everything that is being done is a precursor to the times the Bible warns us are coming. Even though it may be veiled at the moment, every plot and scheme of the enemy has one goal in mind, and that is the destruction of the saints of God. The enemy is unconcerned with mandates, or freedoms, or any other human endeavors. His singular concern is how

he can attack the church, how he can weaken it, demoralize it, and cause the world to hate it evermore.

Whether we want to be in it or not, we are in a battle, and this is becoming ever clearer with each passing day and sitting on the sidelines, being a spectator, watching the world go by, and doing nothing are not viable options. Sooner or later, no matter how much you tried to keep your head down, no matter how much you tried to be nondescript, innocuous, and harmless, for the simple fact that you are a follower of Christ, they will come for you.

I write these words not to stir fear or anxiousness in your heart but rather to reignite hope. If everything Jesus said about us being hated for His Name's sake is proving itself to be true, then everything He said about our redemption drawing nigh and our reward coming with Him are also true. All that's left for us to do is hold fast and endure to the end. May God give us the strength to do so.

Mark 13:23, *But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.*

With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea, Jr.



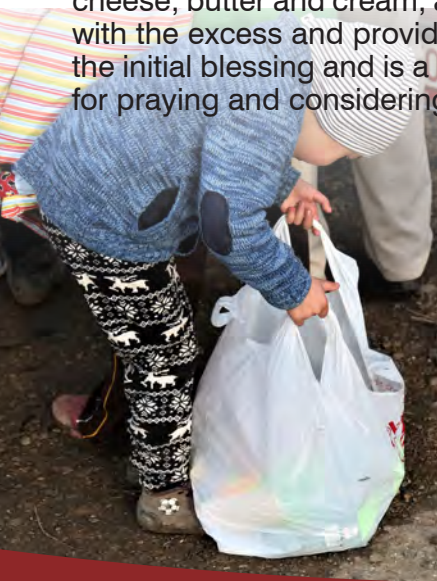
Basic Needs

There is no greater feeling of contentment than knowing that you are walking in the Lord's will and that He is using you as a conduit to touch the lives of many for His Glory. During our outreach we often show up at crucial times to find a large family praying for their next meal or dividing up the last of their dried up old mamaliga (polenta – corn meal mush).

Along with the tears of joy and the big smiles, we are encouraged to hear the children cry out, "Mom, dad, you were right! God does answer our prayers!"

A food package consists of dry goods that bless a family with enough food to get them through a crucial week or two, depending on the size of the family. It only takes \$25 per family to bless them in this manner and create life-long testimonies of God's provision in their most desperate of times.

We are strong believers in the proverb *give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.* Our cow project allows a family to step up and learn to take care of a cow that in turn will bless them with milk for the younger children, cheese, butter and cream, and even give them the opportunity to barter with the excess and provide for their family. A foreseeable calf adds to the initial blessing and is a constant reminder of God's love. Thank you for praying and considering being a part of these projects!



Love Thy Neighbor – Ukraine Project

The Lord has broadened our ministry vision and has sent us to impact the people of Ukraine as they anguish over recovering from the ruins of where their homes and lives once stood.

As with other times of persecution and war, the Ukrainians are looking for their only hope, which is in Jesus Christ. The constant turmoil on the eastern side of the country has not only led to tens of thousands of refugees and desperate individuals left behind, but an incredible time to reach that side of the country with the Gospel, along with the emergency relief provided.

All of our outreach is Gospel-centered, taking advantage of every opportunity we get to sow the seed of the Good News into their lives.

From distributing food, medicine and clean water, to funding indigenous missionaries that are present on the frontlines, this fund encompasses all of our outreach to our neighbors in Ukraine.



I John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Hand Of Help • 1-866-371-7636 • PO Box 496719 • Garland, TX 75049

Outreach



... an ever-outstretched hand



Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

www.handofhelp.com



Orphanage Project:

- I would like to support the orphanage by:
 - Praying for the orphans, that they may come to the knowledge of Jesus and experience the love of our Heavenly Father and that the provision for their care be met.
 - Enrolling in the Orphanage Sponsor Program with a monthly sponsorship of \$ _____ or a one-time donation of \$ _____.

F.I.R.E. - Firewood Initiative for Romania's Elderly:

- I would like to contribute \$ _____ towards the firewood project (\$75.00 for one month's supply of wood; \$300.00 for a full winter household supply)

Basic Needs:

- I would like to contribute \$ _____ for _____ food packages at \$25/piece for families in need.
- I would like to contribute \$ _____ towards the purchase of a cow (they average \$800 - \$1,000).

Love Thy Neighbor - Ukraine Project:

- I would like to contribute \$ _____ towards the work of reaching the people of Ukraine for the Gospel.

- I would like to receive an e-newsletter. Email: _____
- I would like to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

F.I.R.E.

Firewood Initiative for Romania's Elderly

Transition to a free market economy has left Romania a staggering 8 times poorer than 10 years ago with 44% of Romanians living in poverty. The Northeast area is more deprived than the average, and poverty rises to 80% in the rural parts.

Many of the Romania's elderly live in poor, isolated rural areas having to struggle with very low incomes that are hardly enough for their daily food. This is because the elderly of today are those who used to work in collective farms during the communist era and their current pension is subsequently very low.

The situation has become so desperate that many Romanian widows and widowers freeze to death in their homes because they cannot afford to pay for heat. In addition to the poverty they endure, many must pass their remaining days isolated and alone.

Please pray and consider helping an elderly person make it through this winter.



Hand of Help Orphanage

Since the orphanage doors opened in 1995, with the loving work of our Hand of Help family staff, we have seen the transformation of over 500 children's lives in the safe arms of our Heavenly Father. From the doctors and nurses who treat their physical wounds, to the teachers, social workers, ministers and proxy parents that deal with the much deeper issues of abandonment, neglect, anger or lack of trust and love, we are all humbled to see God's faithfulness in this work.

Currently we house approximately 80 children and are overwhelmed by the evident change we see reflected in their eyes, shifting from hurt to gratitude. We give praise, honor and glory, as only God can redeem the lost days robbed of so many of these children, many of whom were forced to make do when the parents left them to fend for themselves while they went to seek work in other countries, never to return. Our Heavenly Father, whose eyes see all, has not forsaken them.

Our approach is unique by seeing the children through higher education, a trade school, employment and even marriage.

Please join us by praying for the orphans, that they may come to the knowledge of Jesus and experience the love of our Heavenly Father, and that the provision for their care be met.

For more information and children biographies, please go to

www.handofhelp.com

