

Hand of HELP

The Truth for Today

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Dumitru Duduman
Founder



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Romania



If last year's winter was comparable to a puppy, this winter can be more readily compared to a wolf bearing its fangs. Just as in much of the United States, this winter in Romania has brought us record colds, and record snows. We hoped, in hindsight vainly so, that this winter would be as mild as last year's but we prepared for a Romanian winter nevertheless, earmarking funds for firewood, and food packages.

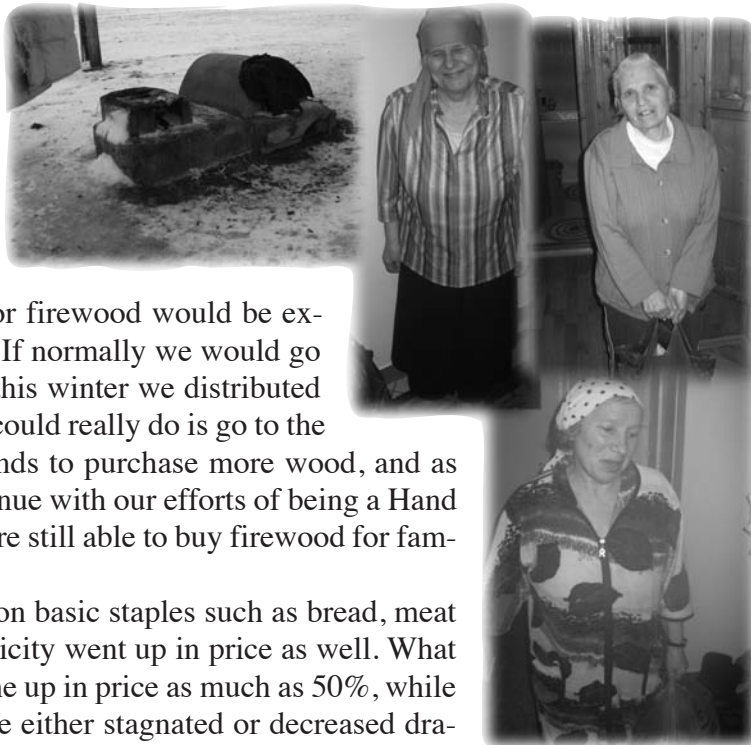
We realized early on that what we had budgeted for firewood would be exhausted within the first six weeks of the winter season. If normally we would go through five hundred cords of wood the entire winter, this winter we distributed five hundred cords within the first two months. All we could really do is go to the Father in prayer, that we would have the necessary funds to purchase more wood, and as God is always gracious and good, we were able to continue with our efforts of being a Hand of Help to the surrounding villages, and to this day we are still able to buy firewood for families as needed.

The beginning of the New Year brought new taxes on basic staples such as bread, meat and cheese, and other necessities such as gas and electricity went up in price as well. What is most concerning is the fact that basic staples have gone up in price as much as 50%, while the pensions of the retired population of Romania, have either stagnated or decreased dramatically. What is difficult for some to comprehend is that in a country of twenty million people where only five million have jobs, there are six million retired persons receiving a pension. By all standards and statistics, the outlook for the near future is a grim and troubling one to say the least. Within the last six months over one hundred thousand companies have either shut their doors or declared bankruptcy, January of this year being the worst of the lot. We are beginning to see pockets of civil unrest, and although thus far the authorities have been quick to deal with any protests, there is a feeling in the air, this growing sense that it will take one more straw, one more event, one more tax or price hike to bring the people into the streets yet again.

Due to the current situation, the main focus of our ministry this coming year will be to help people survive. We realize this might sound dramatic, but it is the reality with which we are faced. Seeing as many ministries that were once operating in our area have shut their doors and no longer operate here, we are one of a handful of places in the region where people can turn to in their most desperate moments.

Thank you for making it possible for us to continue helping the helpless. Our prayers are with you, and our gratitude is beyond words.

*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*



The "Truth for Today" Television Show With Michael Boldea Program Guide.

Inspiration Network (Available on most home cable systems)

BROADCAST TIMES:

Tuesday: 9:30 PM Pacific Time • 10:30 PM Mountain Time • 11:30 PM Central Time

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The web-site and contact number for INSP is: <http://www.insp.com> • Phone: 803.578.1000

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If you have a Christian Television Channel and would like us to contact them about airing the program please contact Gene Schmidt at <http://www.handofhelpoffice@aol.com>

Kindness

Although it is one of the ingredients that make up the fruit of the spirit, it would seem kindness is in short supply in the world today. Why would I say this? Because if kindness were abundant and ever present in the world, then true acts of kindness would not stand out so vividly upon the background of indifference and apathy that makes up much of this present generation.

I first heard about the Seliman family from my father, and I was so inspired by their story, and the kindness they showed that I had to meet them firsthand and thank them for having such loving hearts.

Vasile and Paraschiva Seliman have been married for over twenty years, and have two daughters, Lavinia who is eighteen, and Tabitha who is sixteen years old. As is the case for most families in Romania today, life has not been kind to the Seliman family, at least not from the world's point of view. At the age of twenty, Paraschiva began losing her eyesight gradually, and four years ago she was diagnosed legally blind. Vasile, her husband had an intracranial hematoma in 2002, which was large enough to necessitate surgery. The surgery was not fully successful, and as a result Vasile's eyesight as well as his hearing was severely affected, and he suffered partial paralysis of his right side.

Every year during the holidays we challenge our church, as well as other local churches to get involved and show the love of Christ by taking one of the Hand of Help children into their home for a week, just so they can be in a family setting. It has been a successful and worthwhile project both for the children who get to do something different for a week, as well as the families that take them in who understand in greater measure what it is to have the heart of Christ.

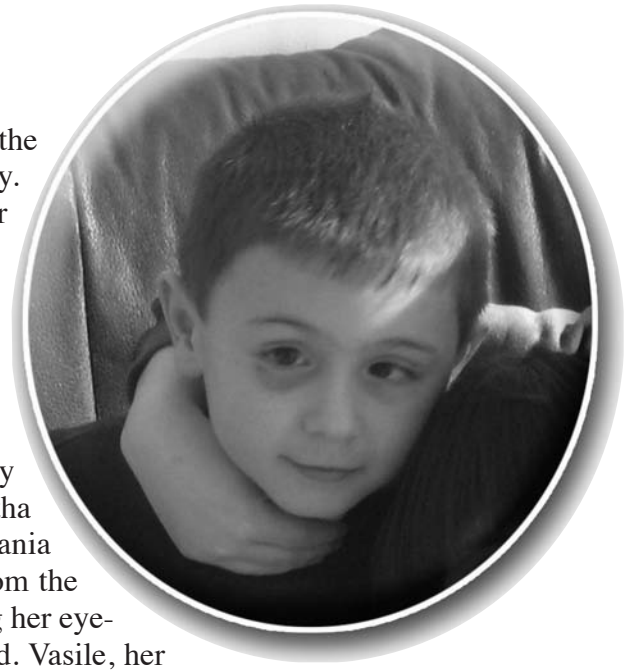
To our staff's surprise, the Seliman family came to the orphanage and requested that a child be placed with them for a week as well. The staff tried to inform them that it was a big responsibility taking care of a child, and that there were other families who were willing and more able bodied, but Paraschiva simply said, 'God has blessed us so much, we want to be a blessing in return.'

When our administrator heard these words, he decided to place Alexandru Arama with the Seliman family. Alexandru suffers from strabismus, which is the abnormal alignment of one or both eyes, and he was one of a handful of names still left on the list.

Our staff's concerns about the Seliman family's ability to care for Alexandru an entire week turned out to be unwarranted. The entire family accepted him and loved him, and Paraschiva even took him to her eye specialist, to see if anything could be done for him. What overwhelmed me about this family is that they had every reason to think to

themselves that someone else was more capable of taking a child in. Their financial situation is below average, their handicaps are limiting to say the least, yet they decided to put love into action and offer themselves the best way they knew how. Their trust in God causes them to be thankful of their present situation, when others would grow bitter and resentful. They have anchored themselves by faith in Jesus, and His promise that He will help us stand. When we visited and asked them if they had any needs, the Seliman family said their only need was a washing machine since it was very difficult to wash clothes, and hang them by feel.

I thank God that such character is still exists, rare as it might be, and my hope and prayer is that we all aspire to a greater measure of the fruit of the spirit in our lives.



*With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.*

The Haiti Project

In lieu of the recent tragedy that has taken place in Haiti, Hand of Help ministries has opted to extend a helping hand to the Haitians. Although we are a small work, we feel it is incumbent upon us as children of God to do what we are able, and extend a Hand of Help wherever we can. Recent shipments of medical supplies, vitamins, and hygiene products have left our warehouse en-route to Haiti, these were in excess of what we were able to ship to Romania, and it is good to be able to put it to use, and help others. We are partnering with two already established missions organizations that have team members on site serving the Haitian people, namely New Reality International and Harvest Seed International.

Also soon to be released is a collaborative CD effort entitled 'Haiti unto the Least of These.' We will be making this available through our website to help the aforementioned ministries as they continue their long pursuit of re-building Haiti. We have learned firsthand the benefits of helping the widows and orphans, and have found that as we embrace them, our Father in heaven will not turn his face to our needs as well. We cannot shut our hearts up toward the needs of others, and whichever corner of the world they might be in, if it is possible, if we are able, we will extend a Hand of Help with love and joy.

When the body of Christ aids the wounded foot, we find that walking on the path once again is just around the corner.

*In His service,
Hand of Help Staff USA*

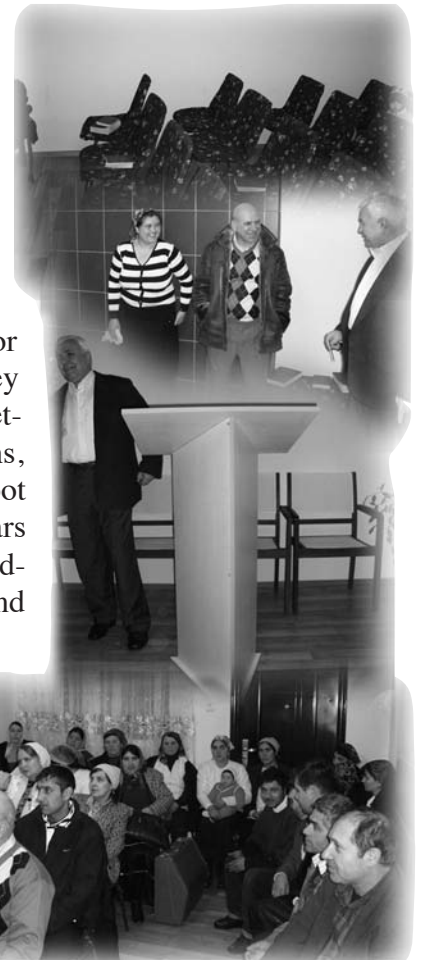
Praise Report

It has been a long road, but we are pleased to report that the Budeni Dolhasca Church, was recently completed, and dedicated to the Lord. In a country where there is a church on almost every street corner, it might be difficult to understand why a new church building would be an exciting thing. In a country where many believers have to walk for five or more miles to attend service however, the completion of a house of worship is a reason to praise God and be thankful to Him.

The believers of Budeni Dohlasca had no place to worship. Budeni is a small, poor village, and as such none of the worshippers had a large enough home wherein they could gather and fellowship. In the summer months they would gather in open air meetings, whether out in the field or in someone's garden, but during the winter months, they would either have to journey to the next village which is five miles away, by foot or by horse cart. At the insistence of the local pastor we began this project a few years ago, and whenever there were any extra funds, they would go toward this church building. It was slow going, but in the end, a beautiful new church had its first service, and the tears on the faces of the worshippers were something that cannot be readily forgotten.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

*In His Grace,
Hand of Help Staff*



Over Comers in Christ

Hebrews 10:35, “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.”

Throughout my life I have met certain people that have an undeniable characteristic. In every country, in every church there are those blessed few who have that certain something that sets them apart. What exactly is this certain something? Well, it has been called by different names, but in my estimation the best definition is having a sense of direction, and confidence in one’s final destination. Such individuals seem both unaffected and unconcerned by their hardships, their trials, and they press on, fearlessly so, toward the prize that awaits. They trust God in greater measure than many, and see every obstacle as a future victory, every hardship and trial as a future comfort and reward. There have been times in my own life wherein I have had to dig deep to find that all inclusive trust, wherein my human mind did not understand why some event had occurred, wherein reason failed me utterly, such as why God had chosen to take a loved one home at what seemed to us as before their time.

It is easy to say we trust God, until we are faced with no other option than to trust Him fully, and completely. It is easy to say we trust God when His blessing is upon us, when our family is healthy and no tragedy befalls us, but it is in the dark hours, those unpredictable moments in life when in an instant your world is turned upside down and everything we thought we were certain of evaporates like a morning mist at the first rays of the sun, that our faith and trust in God is tested, and it is in those moments that we must overcome.

Within the span of two verses, the apostle Paul succeeded in confirming an often overlooked truth, that when hardships befall us, when dark clouds extend as far as the eye can see, it is only through our faith in Christ, it is only in Christ, that we will be able to overcome.

Philippians 4:12-13, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Recently I was blessed to meet a man who exemplifies this characteristic, this mindset of trusting God fully, even when we only understand in part. Condriuc Mihai had a good job and a loving family. Fourteen years ago, his back started bothering him, and after going to his doctor, was told he needed surgery to correct what was ailing him. He was told that the surgery was a simple enough procedure, and the risks of anything going wrong were minimal. Something went terribly wrong during the surgery, and when he woke up, he realized he could not move his legs. Ever since, he has been in a wheelchair, and the doctors give him no hope of walking again.

“Was I shaken?” Mihai said as we sat in his home, “of course I was shaken, but my confidence in God remained. At a certain point in our lives we are called to ascend from passive worship of God, to active worship, wherein we stand on our faith, employ our trust in Him, and not merely talk about them. If anything, throughout the years my faith has only increased, and I have learned to accept the providence of God whatever that might entail. I do not know why, I do not know for how long, but what I do know is that God has a plan in all this.”

Although he is confined to a wheelchair, brother Mihai does more for the kingdom of God, than most of us who are able bodied and suffer from no malady. He holds three weekly Bible studies in his home, helps distribute Bibles when the outreach team goes to meetings, and is always willing to have a time of prayer in his home if someone happens to visit.

“Just because I can’t walk, it doesn’t mean I can’t serve,” Mihai said smiling. “The Lord has made a way for me to serve Him in my infirmity and for this I am ever thankful.”

Please pray for brother Mihai, and men such as him, who devote themselves fully to the service of the father. Also pray that the lord would provide a wheelchair for him, the only request he had as we asked him if there were any immediate needs. I pray that Mihai’s testimony will be a challenge to you, as it was to me, to devote not some of ourselves, but all of ourselves to the work of God.



*In Christ,
Michael Boldea Sr.*

Three Men in a Wheat Field

Shortly after returning to the United States I began having a recurring dream. I have prayed many nights as to whether or not I should share this dream, and I finally received confirmation that I should. There are some dreams or visions that I receive wherein I know instantly that it was either meant for me personally, or that it was intended to be shared. This was not such a dream. After seeking the Lord on the matter however, I know I was supposed to make this dream public.

I dreamt I stood in front of a large wheat field. By the golden hew the wheat stalks had taken on, in my dream, I knew that it was close to harvest time, either late summer or early autumn. It was beautiful and peaceful watching the wheat sway gently in the breeze under a picture perfect blue sky.

As I grew familiar with the scene before me, I began looking around and saw three men, evenly spaced at the edge of the field. One man stood on the left corner of the rectangular field, the second man stood in the middle, and the third man stood on the far right edge.

All three men were dressed in white, and since I was seeing them from behind I could not make out their faces. Each of the three men held something in their right hand. The man on the left held a burning torch, the man in the middle held something that looked like a wineskin, and the man in the far right corner held an old fashioned sickle, and a basket lay on the ground next to him. I recognized the sickle, because I used to play with one in my adolescence while living in Romania.

As I stood and watched this strange scene before me, the man on the far left tipped his torch slightly, and touched one of the wheat stalks with the lit torch. Suddenly about one third of the entire wheat field burst into flame. The fire went out as quickly as it began a sudden burst of flame, followed by the scorched remnants of a once beautiful wheat field.

As I continued watching, the second man uncorked the wineskin, raised it about shoulder level, and tipped it slightly. One solitary drop of water poured out of the wineskin, but as it made contact with the wheat another third of the field was leveled as though a great wave had just swept through it.

I did not understand what I was seeing but I continued to watch the scene unfold. I was expecting the third man to do something as dramatic as the first two, but instead he simply bent from the waist, grabbed a handful of wheat stalk with his left hand, and with a practiced

swing of the sickle cut through it. He then laid the wheat he had cut in the basket. Although there was a solemnity in the actions of all three men, the gentleness and care with which the third man laid the wheat in the basket stood out for some reason. The man continued the process of cutting wheat and putting it in the basket until it was full, then with practiced ease, tied the wheat into a small bushel with a piece of twine he removed from his waist. He laid the bushel aside, and returned to swinging the sickle and filling the basket. This went on for some time as the man methodically and quickly made bushel after bushel of wheat.

For the first two nights, this is where my dream ended, and as I knew this could not be the end of it, I began to pray that I might either see the conclusion of the dream, or receive the interpretation.

On the third night, the dream began as the previous two nights, with the first man setting fire to one third of the field, the second man flooding one third, and the third man meticulously harvesting the last third, I thought it would be the same dream yet again, until the man with the sickle turned, looked at me and said, ‘the world will know hunger, the faithful will know the power of their God.’ I recognized him; I had seen him both in my dreams and my visions before.

I woke up, and went about my day thinking that I would have the dream again that night, but the dream did not return. I received no further insight or interpretation, but this is what I believe in regards to its meaning:

I believe that a worldwide food shortage is imminent. Whether due to too much sun and not enough rain, or too much rain and unprecedented weather patterns, global agriculture will suffer a severe blow very shortly. I also believe that God has already prepared provision for His children, that He will provide for them, and miraculously so. I do not believe God reveals coming events to His children that they might grow fearful or panic, but rather that they might learn to trust Him, knowing that He who is already into tomorrow, has already made provision for it.

Matthew 6:25-26, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

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Matthew 6:31-33, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.

Dear Brethren

There are some who have a romanticized view of the past who contend that men absent of integrity have only started sprouting up like mushrooms after a spring rain within the past few decades. The truth of the matter however, is that there have always been men lacking in integrity, or otherwise completely absent of integrity, and even men such as Apostle Paul had to contend with them from time to time.

Now when I speak of integrity, I do not speak of it in broad terms such as business dealings, or dealing with the world at large, but in the more focused arena of rightly handling and dividing the Word of God. Men who would pervert, or otherwise twist the word of God for personal gain have always existed, and Paul did his best to both disassociate himself from such men, and rebuke their conduct.

2 Corinthians 2:17, “For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”

Most theologians and learned men agree that the second epistle to the Corinthians was written some time during the latter end of 56 A.D. It had not been long since Jesus had walked among them, it had not been long since the death and resurrection of Christ, yet as Paul pens these words, he feels the need to point out that he along with Titus and the other man with whom he entrusted this epistle, were not as so many, peddling the word of God.

A handful of years had passed, yet already there were many who were peddling the word of God, many who adulterated and twisted it for gain. It is not a new phenomenon, but one that the Word warns us will only grow in intensity. The Word speaks of a future time, when false teachers will abound and secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

What the Word once spoke of in future tense has now become the present, and as the Word forewarned, many are following these destructive heresies, and because of these men who have brought them in, the way of truth is

being blasphemed.

2 Peter 2:3, “By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

What we are seeing in this present age, is that men who call themselves preachers, pastors, and evangelists, are actively denying the divinity of Christ, and also exploiting the sheep of God’s house by promoting an envious eagerness to possess something. In short, these men are using greed, to manipulate the innocents of God’s house.

So the question that we must ask ourselves as individuals, is are we part of the many who are peddling the word of God, or part of the few who out of sincerity speak as from God, and in the sight of God in Christ?

When it comes to handling and rightly dividing the word of God, we must have absolute and unwavering integrity. We cannot choose to have integrity only when it suits us, we cannot choose to employ integrity only when it is profitable to us, but in perpetuity, regardless of the aftereffects we might be confronted with.

The written word of God has a single purpose on this earth, that of bringing the wayward man into the heavenly Father’s house, to remake him in the image and likeness of God after these were lost due to man’s fall. The written word of God reveals the Christ to us, the one by which man might be saved. In the Word we see the Son of God in all His glory, and all His humility. We behold Him as he pays the ultimate price for our redemption and as he ascends into heaven to take His rightful place.

John 20:30-31, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

A believer in possession of integrity will always bring Christ to the forefront, and present Him to those who are willing to hear. It is not difficult to identify those who are

bring Christ to the forefront, and present Him to those who are willing to hear. It is not difficult to identify those who are peddling the word, if you know what to look for. When someone speaks more about themselves, their possessions, their exploits or their recent acquisitions of high end items than they do about Jesus, chances are they are counted among the many that do nothing more than peddle the Word of God for personal gain. When someone omits certain scriptural and fundamental truths for fear of offending or being deemed an extremist or a zealot, they are doing nothing more than peddling the word of God.

It would seem many today are struggling not to lift high the name of Christ, or to preach Jesus, but to distance themselves as far as humanly possible from certain affirmations that Jesus Himself made.

It was Jesus who said that He is the way, the truth and the life. It was Jesus who said that no man comes to the Father but by Him, but some are taking it upon themselves to question the veracity of Christ's affirmations, or denying this truth altogether. Those who are questioning or outright denying these words of Jesus, are neither atheists nor worldly men, but the selfsame men that stand behind pulpits and call themselves the mouthpieces of God.

This is just one of many examples, one of many issues that need to be confronted and dealt with within the house of God. There is simplicity in integrity, but there is also power and conviction.

2 Corinthians 1:12, "For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you."

In the life of every believer, the most steadfast and consistent watchman, second only to the Word of God, is the conscience that has been enlightened by the Holy Spirit. When our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world by the grace of God, in simplicity and godly sincerity, it gives us boldness and courage in our confession. It is also when we walk in simplicity and godly sincerity that we learn not to trust in our own wisdom, our own intellect or our own abilities. We learn that earthly wisdom can do nothing when it comes to reaching the hearts of men, and drawing them toward truth and light. We lean on the wisdom of God,

we trust in the power of God, and we walk in the grace of God. When we speak with sincerity, as from God, and in His sight, we have the unshakable trust that God will be faithful in watering the seed that is planted by the simple words we utter, and the good news of the gospel that we present.

Walk in integrity, and you will walk in wisdom. Walk in integrity and you will walk in victory. Walk in integrity, and you will walk in the knowledge that God will fight on your behalf, and touch the hearts of those with which you share. Yes, there are many who peddle the word of God, but there are still those faithful few who will not compromise the truth, who will stand on the word of God, and who will boldly proclaim the name of Christ. Pray for such individuals, and aspire to be such individuals. As an old adage so aptly puts it, the greater the darkness the greater the need for light; and the greater the deception, the greater the need for truth.

I learned the following from a man whom I greatly admired, who went home to be with the Lord some thirteen years ago: "There are two rules you must abide by in ministry. The first, is make sure that when you stand before God on that fateful day, you will have done all to stand, and you will have said all that He commanded you to say. The second rule is to conduct your ministry in such a way, that whether someone gave ten dollars, or ten thousand dollars to the work, you will be able to shake their hand, look them in the eye, and not blush."

Ever since his passing, I have strived to abide by those two rules, and with the help of God will continue to do so until the day I breathe my last. From the bottom of my heart thank you for your prayers, for your support, for your kind words and your encouragements.

Matthew 25:34-36, "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to me.'"

*With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.*

It is the policy of Hand of Help to use all contributions in the area of greatest need, unless a specific purpose is stated. The articles that we share are some of the most pressing needs. In Romania everyone has such difficulty and hardship obtaining even the most basic supplies for their families.

If contributions exceed the amount needed to help a family, the extra contributions for that project will be used to help a family in a similar situation. It is our commitment to you before our Lord that we will be faithful in the disbursement of all contributions that we receive.

The Hand of Help Staff