



Hand of **HELP**



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The Truth for Today

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The Dreams of Men



The Dreams of *Men*

Not all men dream alike. Not all men dream of the same things. Some men's dreams are loftier and more extravagant than the dreams of others. While some dream of private jets and built-to-order mansions in gated communities, others dream of a roof over their heads, a day without pain, or as was the case during a recent visit to Baranca, a mattress upon which to sleep.

Since our winter here in Romania was not as bad as some feared it would be, my father, my brother Sergiu and I have been going out to neighboring villages pretty regularly for the past few months. Some villages we visit to distribute food, clothing, and finances to, while others we visit to assess the situation, identify the needs, and return at a later date, hopefully with a met need in tow.

As we have always been big proponents of helping out where help was needed rather than giving everyone the same thing, making a preliminary visit to see what the needs are goes a long way to our being able to meet the individual needs, and be an answer to prayer.

When my dad said we would be going to Baranca to assess the situation, my first reaction was to point out that we'd been to Baranca before, and we knew the needs of the place quite well. It was then that I discovered there are two villages named Baranca, and the one we would be venturing out to visit was new to us, and we had never been before.

My dad had gotten ahold of the local pastor asking him to pick seven of the neediest families he knew of, and after loading the car with food packages and clothing, we headed for the *other* Baranca.

Even though the needs of each family may be unique, such as a cow, a pig, chickens, a stove, roof repairs, or a mattress, there are some needs which are general. It is a certainty that the families we visit are in need of food and clothing. As such, even during a preliminary visit, we make it policy to never go empty handed, and to always take these two essentials with us.

Poverty is nothing new to me. Ever since I was little more than a teenager visiting people, bringing them food, and seeing to their needs has been my life to a certain extent,



and throughout these twenty odd years of doing it, I've seen varying degrees of poverty. That said, rarely have I seen poverty on such a scale as I did in Baranca.

When we inquired as to their needs, six out of seven of the families said their greatest prayer, and their grandest dream was the acquisition of a mattress. When I asked what they currently slept on, they pulled back a blanket the thickness of a sheet, to show pieces of plywood. One of them had laid out straw on their piece of plywood, but other than that one, these people slept on nothing more than scavenged, discarded pieces of wood.

Some of these families have five, six, even eight children, and seeing as there was only one 'bed', I asked where they all slept, and I was dutifully informed by one of the oldest children that they and their parents usually sleep on the floor, while they cram as many of the youngest children as they can on the 'bed'.

The dreams to which these families aspire are simple and easily fulfilled. Most dream of a mattress, others of a pot to boil water in, forks and spoons were also mentioned, simple things, things we take for granted, things we don't even consider a blessing anymore.

A decent secondhand mattress costs the equivalent of \$80 here, while a new one starts at around \$150. It would be great if we could start with ten and work our way up from there. As far as the pots, pans and utensils are concerned, when I told my wife what I'd witnessed, she pretty much cleaned out our kitchen cabinets and put them all in the box, ready to be taken to the families of Baranca.

You are helping real people with real needs through this ministry. You are not financing one man's extravagant lifestyle, you're not pitching in for a multi-million dollar jet; you're helping a family get a mattress, or buy a cow, or receive a goat, or have some food, or put some clothing on their children's backs. You are saving lives.

You are doing what most self-anointed ministers of the gospel are failing to do nowadays; you are exhibiting selflessness. You are exhibiting the heart of Christ, and for this I thank you.

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.



The Dreams of
Men



What the Eyes *See*

It is said that when you buy a certain make and model of car you begin to notice all other cars of the same make and model. For some reason your eye is naturally drawn to the same car as your own, and although they have not multiplied overnight, you begin to notice inordinately more of them on the road than you did before. Although scientists have bandied about this phenomenon endlessly, it boils down to your mind making certain connections and causing these things to jump out at you.

Ever since our daughter Victoria came along, children, especially babies, have been jumping out at me every time we go visit families. It's not as though I'm actively looking to see if there are babies in the household. They naturally stand out, and every time I inquire as to their health, and whether or not they have certain necessities such as vitamin D for their newborns, the answer is always the same.

Either no one told them of the need for such things, or they can't afford to buy what they know they need. Some of the newborns also had noticeable coughs, coughs I know would trouble my wife and I endlessly if our daughter were to exhibit them. When asked if they had any cough syrup, once more the answer was the same.

It's not that these parents don't love their children, it's not that they don't take care of them to the best of their abilities, but nothing from nothing equals nothing, and that's pretty much what most of them have.

For most of us the cost of making sure a family has some cough syrup, and vitamin D on hand is minimal. To those who have no source of income and survive on only what they grow, it is a reach that far exceeds their grasp, and all they can do is hope and pray, and hope some more that God will make a way for them.

I have prayed about this long enough to know it's not just some synaptic effect of the brain, but rather God's urging to focus on this area of our ministry, and as such start a small fund that will be used exclusively for the purchase of vitamin D, cough syrup, and other infant related items, perhaps even



going so far as putting together a pamphlet for those living in rural areas regarding the day to day care of a newborn, what is normal, what isn't, and everything else pertinent to the raising of a baby.

There are far too many instances wherein a little education regarding the topic would have prevented tragedy, such as telling a mother she cannot keep her newborn out in the sun while she is plowing the field, thereby having prevented burns to the face and hands.

There is no shortage of need here, and each day it seems a new need arises. This is yet another need I would ask you to pray about since it has to do with the most helpless of society, those who cannot fend for themselves, but are wholly dependent upon others for their sustenance, wellbeing and survival.

Thank you for praying about and considering this need. As we proceed with this new project, I will keep you updated.

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.

What the



Eyes See



The Blessing of Giving



As a tree is known by its fruit, a person is known by their deeds. An act of kindness is never lost even if at the outset it might seem as though there was no effect to be had. Even when it seems like we are making no headway or cannot physically see the result of an act of kindness, we must continue to sow love day in and day out, because there will come a day when you will reap a harvest from that which you have planted. By tirelessly and selflessly planting love and kindness, we eventually reap and gather the strongest of all responses: love.

For a couple of weeks now our children, together with our social workers, have been busy packing small bags of food and short, hand written notes of encouragement, and leaving them on a bench situated on a busy street near the Hand of Help orphanage building. The gifts are meant to bring a smile, a touch of warmth and some help, for the homeless, the helpless and the needy of Botosani, Romania. To some, this act of kindness might seem trivial or insignificant. It is after all just a bagged lunch and a note, but to someone who feels as though no one cares and like no one has for a very long time, it is a comfort and a balm. Every time a person stops to take a bag, they are compelled to read the notes, and if nothing else, they are made aware that someone cares. For our children, it is a chance to show others the love that they themselves have seen manifested in their own lives.

As I said, to some this might seem like such an unimportant gesture that it would not even be worth mentioning. But an act of kindness, however small, is never lost. It is not only the recipient of such an act who is blessed, but the giver as well. By doing so, our children don't just help the poor and the helpless; they show them their true worth in the eyes of the Lord, the only One who matters. It takes energy, discipline, an open heart and a desire to be a servant to do this on a consistent basis, and all Hand of Help children have embraced this new outreach with enthusiasm. They bring comfort and light in the lives of the least of these, but unknowingly, by doing so, they become the light and their own way is paved before their feet.

Thank you for creating a way for our children to manifest God's love toward others. Because you've been a blessing to them, they are now able to be a blessing to others. It is in giving, and in learning to give, that they themselves receive, and learn the blessing of giving for themselves.

The lessons learned during these experiences are more valuable than one can imagine. They will likely accompany these children for the rest of their lives, and they will remember that *he who waters will also be watered himself.* (Proverbs 11:25)

Acts 20:35, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

In Him,

Alexandra Boldea





He Answered

My Cry!

Our God is not only a God who hears, He is a God who answers. When we petition Him, when we come before Him, when we humble ourselves and cry out, He responds, He answers, and He intervenes in ways we can scarcely imagine at the moment of our petition.

The heart of a true father hears the cries of his children, and there is no truer father than our Father in heaven. It is in knowing that He is our Father that we have the boldness to run to Him, and cry out to Him, and petition Him whenever insurmountable odds confront us.

Valerica Terciu has not had an easy life. Orphaned at the age of four, she looks back on her life and testifies unabashedly about how she saw the Hand of God keeping her and protecting her throughout, even in her youth when she only knew of Him. It was later on in her teenage years that Valerica surrendered herself to the Hand of God fully, and along with Miron, the man she married, they had four beautiful children.

All four children are in good health save one. Alina, their ten year old daughter was diagnosed with Down syndrome at an early age, but with limitless love and patience her progress far exceeds the parameters of what a child with Down ought to be able to accomplish.



We heard about the Terciu family as we hear about many of the families we end up lending a hand of help to, via a resident of the same village they live in who came to inform us of their circumstances. It's one thing when someone seeks you out for help; it's quite another when a third party comes pleading their case unbeknownst to them.



Yes, even here, there are some who are just looking for a handout, and if the situation warrants it we might consider helping even such individuals, but we primarily focus on those who work hard and are still unable to meet the basic necessities in their life.

The Terciu family is a hard working family, who needed help, but the only one they asked for help was God. As always,

He was listening, and He answered their cry.

The Terciu family's biggest need was a cow, and this has been taken care of. We purchased it and had it delivered after our first initial visit and the joy on the faces of the children as well as Valerica was indescribable.

Valerica is with child, and she is due in May. This cow will cover the family's need of milk, cheese, and cream, and they can also barter for eggs, meat and other goods with the local villagers.

Valerica and her entire family thank all those who contributed to this project from the bottom of their hearts, and wanted to make certain we passed along their greetings, and the fact that you are all in their prayers.

As we were leaving the Terciu home, the neighbor who had first approached us about their situation came to thank us for bringing such a blessing into their home, and with an embarrassed look on her face said, 'You've already done so much, but did you see her hands? She'd never ask, but she could really use a washing machine.'

I glanced back at Valerica, as she was standing close enough to wherein I could see her hands, and sure enough, they were red, and cracked.

With the new baby well on the way, Valerica's hands will only get redder since she will be using cloth diapers which she will wash, and reuse until the baby grows out of them. Disposable diapers are expensive, and there is no way the family could afford them. If at all possible it would be an extra blessing to provide the Terciu family with a secondhand washing machine as well. Please keep this family in your prayers, as they are keeping you in theirs.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael Boldea Sr.

May's Child of the Month



It was April, 2008 when Raul, only three years old at the time, and his three brothers, Alin, Marian and Alexandru, first came through the gates of our orphanage.

Before us stood 4 timid children, their faces scorched by the sun, dressed without any forethought, carrying the sadness of past experiences and

the worry of what is to come on their demeanor.

Their grandfather, fighting off tears, said, "If I were healthy and had the means, I would've raised them myself". He then went on to tell us that the family might have had a chance to stay together if the parents were more responsible. The mother abandoned them and left them with their father, who was a violent man.

The local pastor noticed the total lack of care and basic education, and sought out the assistance of Hand of Help, seeking refuge for these children.

Years have gone by and the love through which these children have been shaped and cared for, is visible with every interaction.

Raul is currently in the third grade. He is still close to his grandparents and visits them when he is off from school.

The father has since made strides to reestablish a relationship with the children, but is far from being apt to take on the task of fathering them and has just recently been diagnosed with cancer.

During winter break, Raul and his brothers were contacted by their mother. The brief phone call brought so much joy to their hearts and reignited hope that they might one day be a family again.

Please join with us and the Angelachi children in praying for the healing of the father's cancer and for the mother to come home and reunite the family.



Dear Brethren,

...Continued on Back

For the past few months various individuals have tried to draw me into the ever present debate of *when*. One after the other, they've tried to get my endorsement, or in the least, my tacit acceptance of their theories regarding when certain events would take place, as though I am anyone special, or as though my acquiescence would give weight to their words.

Since the inquiries keep coming in, one more insistent than the last, I will make my position clear publicly, so as not to find out at a later date that someone said I'd said something I clearly did not say.

I believe God weaves the tapestry of history and time alike, and it is not an accidental or ad hoc thing. I believe God knows the end from the beginning, He knows the timing of all things, and

I trust Him enough to not be bothered in the least by not knowing the finite details of all that will occur.

Do I believe time is short? Most assuredly! Am I willing to throw out a random date and say because of this tangential event or that this will be the end of all things? No, I am not, and I don't believe this is the calling of the children of God in any case.

Dear Brethren,

...Continued from page 11

I believe wholeheartedly God warns us of things to come, but we must be content with what He chooses to reveal to us, and not seek to know more than what was given us to know.

God knows why what was given was limited, and why He chose not to reveal more than He did, and as His children, as those who have learned to trust Him as Abba Father, we must come to terms with the reality that we will never know everything.

Our concern, our drive, and our mission should be today, now, and what we can do for the Kingdom of God. Tomorrow will come whether I obsess over it or not. My worrying obsessively over tomorrow takes away from what I ought to be doing today, and it is one of those subtle ways by which we become less and less useful to the Kingdom.

Matthew 6:33-34, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

These were words spoken by Jesus, and they are words we must take to heart lest we find ourselves in the desert of disobedience looking for a drink of anything to quench our parched souls. It is in those moments, when men wander from the pure and living waters of truth that they will settle for anything, and it is in that instant they are most susceptible to deceivers and deception.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and you will always be on solid ground, your footing will always be sure, and your soul will never thirst. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and you will always be at peace, you will always possess joy, and you will come to the blessed understanding that it is in doing these things that your safety is assured, and not in trying to figure out some date or other.

It is a liberating thing to be able to stand before God every morning and say, “I have done as You’ve commanded, and I trust You to see me through!”

I dare not imagine the consternation I would feel in my soul if I knew there was a chance that when I stood before God on that day of days He simply asked, “Where were you, and what were you doing? Where were you when you were supposed to be seeking My Kingdom? What were you doing when you were supposed to be seeking My righteousness? Why did you not redeem the time you were given and get closer to Me? Why was it that when trials did not abound your intimacy with Me did not grow, nor did you seek out fellowship with Me?”

The purpose of the time we’ve been given is to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness, and nothing more. In doing these two things faithfully you will have encompassed everything from having a relationship with God, to helping one’s fellow man, to growing in Him, to understanding your purpose, to

having hope and assurance, to living a life filled with peace and joy even in the face of the unknown.

If someone insists upon the idea that you must pour over the Coptic calendar, and Hebrew calendar, and Gregorian calendar, and Discordian calendar, and see where they intersect then extrapolate your own theory of some event or another taking place based on that intersection, they are lying, and what’s worse, keeping you from seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We can have peace, only by being rooted in the giver of peace. We can have joy, only by being rooted in the giver of joy. We can have hope, only by being rooted in the essence of hope, and we can have life, only by being rooted in the life itself. Anything less will fail us at some point, and oftentimes that point is when we need it to hold up most.

Until pressure is applied every foundation seems stable. Once pressure is applied, only those foundations built upon the Rock will stand.

You are in my prayers and in my heart and I thank you for your continued support of this ministry and work. May you continue to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness, and may you walk in the light of the hope it brings.

Revelation 3:11, “Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”

With love in Christ,
Michael Boldea Jr.