



Hand of **HELP**

~ A Year in Review ~

As human beings we are predisposed to falling into patterns. Although opinions vary, it is said that it takes anywhere between 21 and 60 days to form a new habit, whether that new habit is reading our Bible every morning and spending time in prayer, going for a run or learning to enjoy tea rather than coffee as our hot beverage of choice. Although that last one seems a bit of a stretch to me, I can attest that given enough time, by doing an action repetitively every single day, it becomes something that's just part of the landscape, something that you don't think of consciously but that processes subconsciously all too well.

I am a creature of routine. Every morning I wake up at roughly the same time, drive the same stretch of road to the office, turn on the coffee maker, spend some time in the Word, pray, and then go about my day. Because I do the same thing every morning, sometimes I catch myself having already turned on the coffee maker before consciously being aware of where I am or what I am doing.

At first this was an unpleasant realization, but then having read up on it, it is quite normal and it has a lot to do with muscle memory and the repetitive nature of my morning routine. We do the same things over and over again and we don't even realize we are doing them sometimes.

In a recent discussion with our staff we had the sudden realization that as a ministry we had fallen into a pattern of sorts. It's nothing that we planned on or did consciously, but habits and patterns develop with time, and because the constancy of the needs with which we are presented on a regular basis is ever present, we realized the constancy with which we present you with the needs is perpetual as well.

This special edition of the newsletter is our way of breaking the pattern, and rather than present you with a new set of needs that we have encountered over the course of the last few months, we will be presenting you with all the prayers that were answered through your generosity and selflessness this past year. Rather than present you with a new area of lack, we want to present you with all the needs that we were able to meet, and even though this article promises to be comprehensive in nature, it is next to impossible to encapsulate all the good this ministry has done in Romania over the past year.

For as long as this ministry has been around, our constant prayer is that we not grow stale or stagnant. Stagnation is as the kiss of death for a ministry, and our constant quest has been to do more for the work of God in the upcoming year than we did the previous year. Thus far our prayers have been answered, and with each passing year, as the needs grow, He makes a way for us to meet them, and the amount of people who have been helped by this ministry is astounding.

Keep in mind that this is what you helped do. You had a hand in this, whether directly or indirectly, whether through your prayers or finances, whether by telling someone about our ministry or actually taking the time to come and see the work for yourself.

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We have not mansions to show you, we have not gilded thrones and gold leaf place settings, but what we do have is an ever-growing list of widows, orphans, men, women, and children whose lives were bettered by this ministry, whose dignity was preserved by this ministry, and yes, in certain cases, whose lives were even saved by this ministry.

Because new needs always present themselves from one newsletter to the next, and because they are urgent, once the layout is done we find that we are unable to feature each of the families, orphans or widows we were able to bless as a result of your continued support. Somewhere in the back of our minds we always plan on including a praise report in the next issue, but then urgent needs arise anew and the plan gets shelved for another time. Because we want you to know what this ministry does with what it receives, we have decided to put together a special edition of our newsletter, made available to all of our active contributors and prayer warriors.

Some years back the Romanian government had an ill-fated and unintentionally comical outreach to the taxpaying public, wherein whenever there would be road construction, or potholes being fixed, they would put up a giant banner that said, 'This is where your money is'. In no time at all, people saw the hilarity of the sign informing them of where their money was next to a giant hole in the ground, and it became a competition of sorts among the citizenry of who could find the most ironic of these signs and post it on social media.

Thankfully, your money didn't go into a giant hole in the ground, it didn't magically disappear, it wasn't redistributed to political hacks, and it wasn't squandered needlessly on flights of fancy and fruitless endeavors.

Some of the many lives you have touched:



- Provided the revelation of the Gospel, housing, food, education and medical attention to the 80 orphans in our care
- Moved forward with the much needed plumbing, electrical and updates of the orphanage building in order to comply with newly introduced fire codes and E.U. re-

quirements, specifically the renovation of the third floor of the orphanage building

- Distributed over 1200 packages of food, clothing, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Completed 5 wells, providing clean water to five families and their neighbors



- Purchased 18 cows that will bless over 120 children with milk and cheese
- Purchased 4 horses for families, giving them an opportunity to earn an income and provide for their 28 children





- Came alongside 20 home projects, that will provide a safe environment for 115 children
- Consistently supported the nursing homes that we have partnered with, blessing over 110 seniors in their care with food, firewood and diapers
- Distributed quilts, blankets and over 95 tons of firewood, making sure that no one has to endure the cold this winter
- Provided the necessary building materials so that 4 churches can safely remain open to over 600 parishioners
- Relocated a family and planted a church in the village of Tocileni. Not only providing the village with their first church, but transferring a family of genuine believers that will evangelize the people of Tocileni from within
- Provided families with items like mattresses, windows, doors, washing machines, refrigerators and kitchen utensils



- Covered the cost of countless emergency medical needs as well as prophylactic treatments.

The list can go on and on with assisting those unable to pursue education on their own to financially providing for those unable to bury their deceased loved ones. As you know by now, the need always varies in size, scope, and urgency, at least from a subjective point of view, but as far as the individual in question is concerned, their need is their need, and their need is preeminent in their mind.

All of the aforementioned outreaches, and more, were made possible through your generosity and willingness to be the hands and feet of our precious Lord Jesus.

Along with this special edition of the newsletter, we are including a DVD with a video presentation of the work in Romania, which we suggest sharing with your church if the opportunity presents itself, as well as with those whom you have asked to pray for this ministry. The DVD also includes some footage from our 30th year anniversary conference, "Great is His Faithfulness" held in Young Harris, Georgia in October.

We hope that the content blesses you...
With love in Christ, Michael Boldea Jr.



HAND OF HELP TEAM AND THE PLATH FAMILY BAND FEBRUARY 25TH

Michael Boldea, the Hand of Help team and the Plath Family Band will be ministering in Orlando, Florida on Feb. 25th at 6 PM in the meeting room at the Sheraton Vistana Villages, 12401 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32821. There is no fee for attending.

January's Child of the Month

Elvis has been with us since 2006. Along with his brothers, Alecu and Dumitru, he had to suffer the pain of seeing his family broken up by alcohol. Their father, a notorious alcoholic, used to physically abuse his children and wife, driving them away numerous times in the middle of the night. After years of enduring his beatings, the mother left their home and sought refuge to some of her out-of-town relatives, leaving the children alone, unattended, and having no one else to take care of them.

Having no place to stay, the children drew the neighbors' and local authorities' attention and when they started trying to find them a shelter, Hand of Help decided to offer them a home and a family. A few months after their admission to our orphanage, their mother found out her children were now safe, and got in contact with them. The children's joy was indescribable when their mother made her first steps in reestablishing a relationship with their father. After two years, the brothers were able to spend their vacation with both of their parents, enjoying the comfort of their family.

However, Elvis's father passed away in 2016 due to an alcohol overdose. His wife came from abroad to attend the funeral and the family was reunited at this tragic event. The three brothers have suffered a lot and it seems like this event marked their lives and their perspective on how their future should be. They are now more driven to study in school and want to prove that they can overcome the prejudice and make everybody proud of what they can accomplish with our God's help.

Elvis loves drawing, especially graphic design, and does very well in school. He also enjoys riding his bicycle and is constantly eager to learn more and discover new things around him.

All the brothers continue to keep in touch with their mother and spend holidays with her when she visits from abroad.

Please keep Elvis in his prayers as he faces life's everyday challenges. May our God guide him every step of the way and may He help him be a role model for others!

