



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL**

- Reaching out to a hurting world -

News Bulletin

March 2014

A missions update from People to People International



A woman who receives bread as well as food packages shows her gratitude towards us and the Church as we deliver the packages.

Dear friends!

Time goes fast and in our part of the world most of the winter is gone and spring is around the corner. A fantastic time lays ahead. The days are getting longer when the light slowly returns. It is also fantastic to hear the birds sing again.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. We want you to know you are a vital part in all the work that is being done in the countries we touch. The needs are great, therefore your support is so important to us. Know we are so thankful for you. Some days ago we received greetings from Pastor Igor in Moldova. We will share part of his letter with you. God is doing amazing things in their town. More and more people are coming in contact with the Church and the wonderful work they are doing. Before we go any further, I would like to share the well-known word from 1 Corinthians 13:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

Words to reflect on. Nobody wants to be a “chatterbox only making noise”, nor a “tingling cymbal”. Love is what gives substance and depth in our lives. Love is what carries us in our calling and ministry. The love to your fellow-man is absolutely central in the teaching of Jesus and not the least in the words of Paul that we just read. We are called to love the people we are called to serve. It is true that we can do a lot of things, like blessing others, without loving them. But very often a deed like this, according to the Bible, doesn't mean anything to ourselves, possibly more to the one we are trying to help. Characters like advertising oneself, pride, arrogance and jealousy can be a sign of lack of love. This is why love is so important. On the

contrary; lack of love toward your fellow-man guarantees a result without value, that no one wants, a “tingling cymbal” according to the Bible. But if we focus our love toward the person who IS love, guarantees a result in the relation with other people, that is greater than the sum of all its elements.

When we follow Jesus, walk in His footsteps, it guarantees an outpouring of God's love which passes all understanding. When we love our fellow-man; because Christ first loved us, love becomes understandable. It is only in the light of God's love our own love and the love toward our fellow-man is being apprehensible. To do good deeds are always nice, but to do it in the perspective of love always bring more fruit than if we do it without love.

Romania

When this letter is reaching you I have just returned from Romania. We have finished the work with the second radio studio at the Bible School in Oradea. It is such a joy to see that some students have chosen to work more actively with the work that embrace radio production. With the second studio, the work will intensify. With the second studio being built, they will be able to produce and send radio parallelly. So now the gospel can be aired with a greater intensity. We will in upcoming newsletters give you a more detailed update on the trip. We were also able to visit our friends in the Republic of Moldova during this trip.

The Republic of Moldova

Giving out bread and food packages continue with unreduced power. We are starting to witness how more and more people are finding their way to the Church. Thanks to the bread and food packages that have been given out for several years. To be able to follow this development is a great privilege. So many positive things have happened since we started supporting the work (the Church) in Moldova. I remember my first visit to the Church the summer of 2010. I met a congregation that was fighting for its survival. They had hardly any children's or young adult ministry. The number of

members had been the same for years. They had great difficulties to reach out to the community. Many people meant they were a sect and didn't want to have anything to do with them. The ignorance and suspicion were widely spread. By the distribution of bread and food packages people have, in a practical way, experienced the love of God. During the summer of 2012 the Church had its first baptismal service when seven people got baptized. Last December seven more people were baptized, another one is planned this summer. Already several people have signed up to be baptized.

Since 2011 we have raised funds for the summer camps that are arranged by the Church. These camps have in a tangible way open the Church toward the community. If the children come, eventually their parents will come too. The last camp was held on a camp ground south of Glodeni and gathered about 60 kids and young adults. Today the congregation has, thanks to the camps, both children's ministry and ministry to the young adults. Most of them come from families that lead a very hard social life. But because of the bread and the food packages their lives have been a bit easier. Many of the children live with their grandparents since their parents have left for Europe to find jobs. For many of the children the Church is an open arm and a safe haven. Something their parents can give them. Some days ago Pastor Igor wrote to us:

"Through the grace of God and through both of the projects 'Daily bread' and 'food packages' that reaches out to the community we now witness how people respond to the calling of God. Today we have the opportunity to minister to children, young adults and older people. This is made possible through these both projects that are focused on poor families, orphans and widows. I would like to put focus on the impact these both projects have had and how they have changed the lives for the people in Glodeni.

1. Each week children from poor families come to our children's ministry which is called "Hope".
2. Many young and poor families, with many children, are recipients of bread and food packages. These families have now started to come to the Church. The moms in these families also participate in the weekly gatherings on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
3. Today, after having had the privilege to baptize seven people December 15 of last year, already seven more people want to be baptized. These people have, for some time, been receivers of both bread and food packages.

As pastor of the Church I thank God for His grace; that He also sees to all the needy people in Glodeni. We see more and more people, receivers of bread and food packages, come to our services. Personally I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the help we receive. May God reward you for all that you do for people in need! Through the bread and food packages people experience the love of God.

Sincerely
Pastor Igor Lazar

In connection with Pastor Igor's letter we also received testimonies from several of the people who are touched by the work of the Church:

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shall find it after many days".

The end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014 have been and is big moments for the Church. All the glory be to God. Now we see the salvation God has prepared for the needy people of Glodeni. We now experience that the word of the Bible is being fulfilled. That the "bread cast upon the water" today, after a long time, "is being found" by people turning to God for salvation.

This past two weeks a young family (man, wife, two children) has started to come regularly to Church. During one year they have received bread and food packages. Their testimony is plain and clear: "There is no other life worth living than the life we have found in Jesus Christ".

Then there is Tamara, she is a widow. She too receives bread and food packages. When she received her food package, she took out what she needed the rest she gave away to some orphan children. She told the children about God and how much He loves them. This has been going on for the past six months. Today these children come to Church.

We thank God that we are the generation seeing God's word being fulfilled. God will reward each and every one who has made it possible for these orphan children and many families in need to experience the love of God and to get to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

With love
Pastor Igor Lazar

Again, thank you for your faithful support. You are part of an important ministry touching and changing the lives of many.

With gratitude



The two orphaned children who received part of the food package from the widow.



There is an overwhelming feeling of thankfulness when you see the amount of children who now attend the different Church activities.



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