



# Hand of **HELP**

*September - November 2024*



# Ours

A special bond is formed among the staff, children, and leadership at the Hand of Help Orphanage. It is inevitable given how much time they spend together, and how our staff see themselves more as parental figures than employees of some company. We don't often get to speak about them, but their work is essential to all that we set out to do. Every single one of our employees shows up, day after day, ready to make an impact in the lives of children abandoned and forgotten by their own. From diverse backgrounds and training, men and women alike come to serve, understanding that it is not a mere job they are undertaking but rather a calling.

We cannot afford to be competitive in an ever-changing job market, but the common vision we share in glorifying God through serving our little ones creates a bond deeper than blood relation.

One of my fondest memories since being on the Hand of Help leadership team was when I carved out 40 hours of my short trip to Romania to spend 60 minutes with each member of our staff. Oftentimes, the ones serving are overlooked, and in that specific year, I wanted to make sure each one knew how much their work was appreciated and also that our love extends to their family and their family's needs as well. The response was simply overwhelming. We shared prayers, tears, smiles, spoke of trials and blessings, and often, the parting tear-filled message was, "This is better than any raise you could've given us."

As you support the orphanage, please know that the blessings are not limited to the children raised with us. Our employees and their families are also recipients of the same.

As our bonds get stronger and relationships deepen, the collective burdens also weigh heavily on our shoulders. In times like these, we are grateful for

the many providential blessings that we are able to distribute in one's darkest hour.

This past month, one of our own employees, Viorica, who is only 50 years old, found out she has terminal cancer. Even as I write this, her kidneys and liver are shutting down. Some of her last clear sentences were directed to her daughter, Lacramioara, the oldest of her four children. "Please don't give up."

Viorica worked tirelessly to put her children through school and was often the sole provider in her home, doing everything she could to support her children and see them through to a good income. Lacramioara, who shares her mother's work ethic, was able to obtain a full scholarship to medical school and is in her sixth and final year of her general practitioner training.

While still holding on to hope and believing that God could do a miracle and heal Viorica's body, Lacramioara knew that without her mother's support for books, room, and board, she couldn't return to finish the degree they both tirelessly worked for.

Because of your support, we were able to tell Viorica that her children are like ours and that Lacramioara's needs will be taken care of so she can complete her training. The very last words we heard from Viorica were, "Thank you."

I pass those words along to you, "Thank you!"

Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of our children, our staff, their children, and many others!

One in Christ,

Daniel Boldea

# The Resistance

By any metric, the hearts of men grow colder and more calloused with each passing day. Kindness has become such a rarity that whenever someone exhibits it nowadays, it makes the news. It doesn't even have to be something earth-shattering in its scope. Even something as seemingly innocuous as a little girl donating the proceeds of her lemonade stand to a pet shelter is enough to get attention and be lauded as something out of the ordinary.

It wasn't always this way. Sure, I could be looking at the past with rose-tinted glasses, but I remember a time not so long ago when neighbors were neighborly, people still smiled as you passed them on the street, young men gave up their seats on the bus to pregnant women, and you didn't have to keep a constant eye on your children no matter where you were for fear of predators. It's not nostalgia rearing its ugly head; it's a reality I lived, and I'm sure you did, too.

Since the Word tells us that the world will wax worse and worse, what's happening should come as no surprise. However, the Word also tells us that although we are in the world, we are not to be of the world. This extends beyond not finding pleasure in what the world finds pleasure in or not doing the things the Bible explicitly commands us not to do but also keeping our hearts from growing cold and calloused as theirs are.

The children of God are the resistance against the indifference and apathy plaguing our culture because His

nature resides in us, and we can't help but be a comfort to those who are hurting and a hand of help to those in need.

After close to forty years in ministry, the faithfulness of God and His servants has become a recurring theme. Although His faithfulness is so consistent as to no longer be surprising, it is nevertheless humbling. We continue to see the hungry being fed, the naked being clothed, and those in need provided for, and it's because the children of God have not given in to the hedonism of this world. They continue to strive, to go against the grain, to push back against the tide of hopelessness and despondency engulfing the world. They continue to share their bread with those who are hungry and sacrifice in order to bring joy to those who are as strangers to them. This is not a virtue inherent in man's nature but something wholly of God who stirs their hearts into action.

There would be far more misery, heartache, desperation, and pain in the world were it not for you. There would be more orphans not cared for, more widows not comforted, and more hungry not fed.

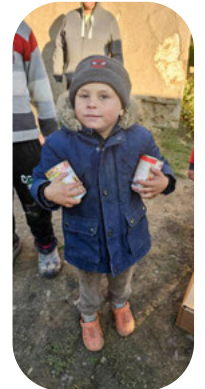
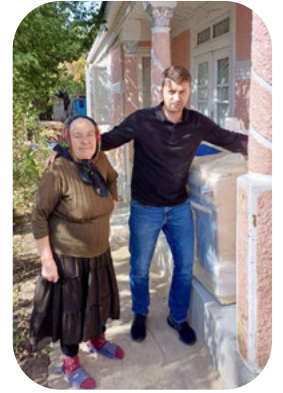
Doing good is never pointless or without reward from the hand of God. We may not see it in the moment, and we may not understand what fruit our obedience has borne, but one day, we will, and we will be in awe. Thank you for your obedience.

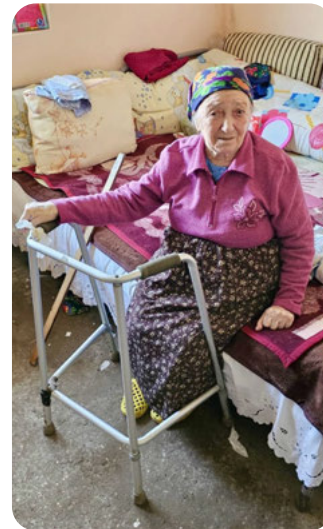
With love in Christ,

Michael Boldea, Jr.



# The Resistance (cont.)





# F.I.R.E. Project



# Thirty-five

As seasons change and years go by, some things gain real estate in our hearts over others; our youthful ambitions, aspiring careers, and five-year goals and plans slowly dim out and are overtaken by the simplest of things that we have previously taken for granted and often overlooked.

If you are in a good church and are surrounded by God's people and hear His Word proclaimed, praise God! Perhaps it is what you have always known and have never been without; if that is the case, you are a blessed soul!

After a long, tumultuous week, there is nothing sweeter than singing an old hymn surrounded by brothers and sisters who put Christian love on display. As our voices come together, united not always in pitch but by our love for the Lord, we get a foretaste of what heaven will be like.

I do, however, realize that many have longed for that fellowship and have searched far and wide to no avail. Be encouraged, believer! Our perfect fellowship without end draws ever so near! Our glorification is imminent, and our joy eternal!

Around five years ago, we shared a possible mission field and opportunity to plant a church in the area of the three

isolated villages of Madarjac, Bojila, and Frumusica, for the now close to 2,000 souls living in great poverty.

A former resident from the area, now living abroad, brought the needs of the people to our attention and has been praying for the Lord to establish an evangelical, Spirit-filled church in the area for over thirty-five years.

While others would have given up long ago, our sister persisted in prayer for the people she was once among, that they might hear the Gospel and have a church where they could grow and be equipped to minister to others in the community.

Her prayers have come to fruition! In this impoverished area where homes are mere mud and straw-built sheds, the opportunity to purchase a building that can actually be remodeled and serve as a church has come about.

The property is available for \$30,000, an incredible blessing as the land alone would have cost as much. With the blessing of the owner, the people gathered for their first service just this past Sunday, and what a rich time of fellowship and worship it was!

Please join us in praying for this need and especially for the salvation of these unreached people.



Whether it has been five, ten, or thirty-five years, don't slow down or stop praying for what you have been petitioning the Lord for! What a privilege it is for our prayers to be providentially used as a means to His established end, regardless of how long and arduous the wait is.

As we fix our heart on heaven, let the noise around us be silenced, our faint heart strengthened, and our once blurred vision be ever clear for our redemption draws near!



Longing for our eternal fellowship and joy!

Daniel Boldea



## *Prayer Requests*

Please pray for our employee Viorica and her family (mentioned in the "Ours" article).

Pray for Mike Boldea, Sr. who is currently dealing with a cancer recurrence.

Pray for Adi, the husband of one of the girls who grew up with us at the orphanage, who is still unresponsive after six weeks following brain surgery for the removal of a recurrent tumor.



# Herds of Blessings



# Child of the Month

Alexandra Ioana (born in 2010) and Ana-Maria (born in 2008) joined our family in 2019. After the divorce of their parents, the sisters' life took an unthinkable turn: their father left the house and refused any communication with the girls, while their mother turned to alcohol as a way to cope with her situation. The girls had to move to their maternal grandparents' house suddenly, but this temporary solution failed after the home was flooded. Even though the grandparents tried their best to raise the little girls, they were in a constant struggle because of the lack of necessary finances and the inability to offer them a proper environment to grow up in. The girls' mother refused to show any proper interest in raising her daughters and did not want to take them back home.

After the grandmother passed away, being faced with caring for the two sisters alone, a task beyond his ability and strength, the grandfather had to ask the Child Protection Agency for help.

It was the end of 2018 when Hand of Help was asked to step in and offer these girls a place to call home. Unfortunately, throughout the years spent with their grandparents, Alexandra and Ana-Maria oftentimes missed school, and not only were they in need of special care and attention pertaining to their education, but also emotional support and personal time dedicated to helping them cope with all the difficult events they had endured in their lives. With the help of our teachers, they started working hard in their free time and were able to recuperate the information they had missed in school during their absences.

Alexandra is currently in the seventh grade. She continues to visit her maternal grandfather and spends her holidays there. She is involved around the house, helping her social workers, and is also passionate about reading. She attends a book club and spends a lot of her free time reading. She is doing very well in school and finished the last school year with high grades.

We are so grateful to have Alexandra under our care and to see the sisters together. We pray that our God would grant them the strength to move forward and that their years at Hand of Help will be a time of building a strong foundation for their lives, one modeled through the love and grace of our Lord.



# Dear Brethren,

Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Dependability is a hard thing to quantify, even though we know it holds inherent value. Whether it’s a socket set, a lawn mower, a band saw, a particular brand of sneaker, or a certain brand of pasta, even though it might cost a few cents more, people pick it over the others because they’ve never been let down by that brand or that product. It was always dependable. They knew the saw would cut right, the shoe would fit right, and the pasta would taste right every time, without fail, and that made the extra cost worth it.

Granted, some unscrupulous companies take advantage of their brand name and begin producing an inferior product, hoping their name will carry them, only to discover that their customer base saw through the ruse and sussed out the product was inferior. This often happens when the company or brand in question gets bought out by some faceless, soulless multinational conglomerate whose only goal is profit, even if it comes at the cost of quality. In those instances, the backlash against those companies is monumental because not only did they not deliver a quality product their customers had come to expect, but those same customers felt betrayed and shortchanged by the company to which they’d shown brand loyalty.

We live in a time when things are changing so fast that it’s nearly impossible to keep track. You blink, and what you believed was settled and beyond dispute becomes a point of contention, with people picking sides and screaming at each other, thinking that the loudest one gets some sort of prize. People are at each other’s throats over the smallest things, and I’m not referring only to those of the world. It’s like being on a row boat in the middle of a maelstrom. Just when you think you’ve got your footing and can stand on your own two feet, another wave crashes against the side of the boat, throwing you off balance.

In the midst of chaos, uncertainty, change, and shaking, there is God. He is a fortress, a strong tower, a rock amid the shifting sands of the world that is unchanging,

resolute, and dependable. If you have questions, He has the answers. If doubt or uncertainty threatens to overwhelm you, He is the cure.

God is dependable. He is true to His Word. There were no caveats or addendums when He promised He would be with us through the fire and the flood. He didn’t say He would be with us unless He was otherwise engaged or if He wasn’t busy doing something else. We stand on the promises of God with full assurance because we know the character, nature, power, and ability of the One who uttered them. He is not some unknown or unproven quantity in life’s equation; He is God, and He has proven Himself time and again.

We do not fear because we know our God, not because the things taking place in the world are not fear-inducing. Ignoring the reality of the events going on around us or downplaying the signs clearly evident as to the time and season we are living in is not what we’re supposed to be doing as children of God. We see them, acknowledge them, and understand their relevance and importance, but we do not react to them in the flesh because we know that God has the world well in hand, and not one hair will fall from your head without it being accounted for.

I love my wife and my daughters, but I couldn’t begin to tell you how many hairs they have on their heads, never mind keeping track of each one that falls out. Understand the level of care and awareness God has for you and me as individuals, that He takes the time to keep track of something as benign as a single strand of hair.

Tomorrow may be an uncertainty to those walking in darkness, but not so for those walking in the light. We know that our Redeemer lives. We know that He is returning for His own, and we know that until that blessed day, He is with us not just in word but in deed.

Luke 12:32, “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

With love in Christ,  
Michael Boldea, Jr.