



**GOSPEL OF JOHN MISSION, INC.**  
**April 2022**

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. Proverbs 17:17

***Dear Friends,***

Since our last newsletter, fighting has continued in Ukraine and refugees have continued to pour into Moldova and other neighboring countries such as Poland and Romania. The strong defense that Ukraine has been able to provide has been very encouraging. The majority of the fighting has moved to the East and away from Moldova which is on the South West border of Ukraine. However, a Russian general was quoted this week saying that the Russian goal is to take full control of Southern Ukraine as well as Eastern Ukraine and gain access to the Transnistria region in Moldova. Tensions remain high so please continue to pray for the defense of Ukraine, for the refugees who are separated from family members and for religious and political freedom for the people of both Ukraine and Moldova. I wanted to say thank you to many who have responded to last months newsletter on the refugee situation. Your generous gifts are enabling all of our workers to provide much needed outreach in the form of essential food, clothing, medicine and transportation needs of refugees. As the verse above from Proverbs reminds us, it is times of adversity we need brothers and sisters in Christ to support us. In this newsletter I want to share about the work our children's ministry is doing both with refugees and with there normal outreach to children in Moldova's hospitals.

**The following report is from Julie Madari the leader of our Children's Ministry**

One of the places our children's workers continue to minister at is the hospital for children with severe burns. During COVID lockdowns our workers were not allowed to visit the hospital but since October of last year they have been invited to return.



Children at the burn hospital – left and Mihai receiving a coloring book from Eugenia

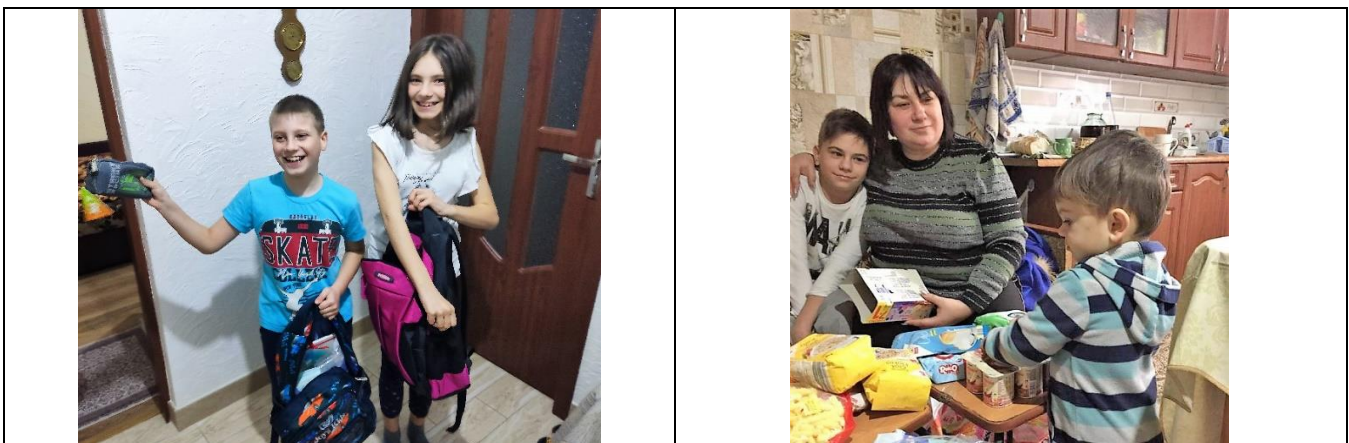
At the hospital we are allowed to visit with children and parents. This ministry is very different from the other children's ministries because we can't do large group lessons, crafts and stories but instead we move from room to room meeting with individual kids and their families. We consistently come every week and many kids and families are in this hospital for extended periods of time. This allows us to build relationships and we bring gift sets of coloring books, stickers and candy to encourage the kids. Over time the children are thrilled to see us as we are the only outside visitors some are receiving.

During these visits we also have time to share about Jesus with the kids and their families. Because they are in a tough position and often feel like they have done something wrong, many are open to discuss God and forgiveness. One such family is the family of the boy Mihai (pictured above). Mihai decided to help his parents clean up the garden, he collected dry branches, leaves and set them on fire. As a result, his pants and shoes caught fire, and his legs were severely burned. He has been in the hospital with his mother for two months. We visited with him every week and encouraged him and the family. After many weeks of visits the Mom began to open up to us and we are encouraged as she is now looking to God for help during this hardship.

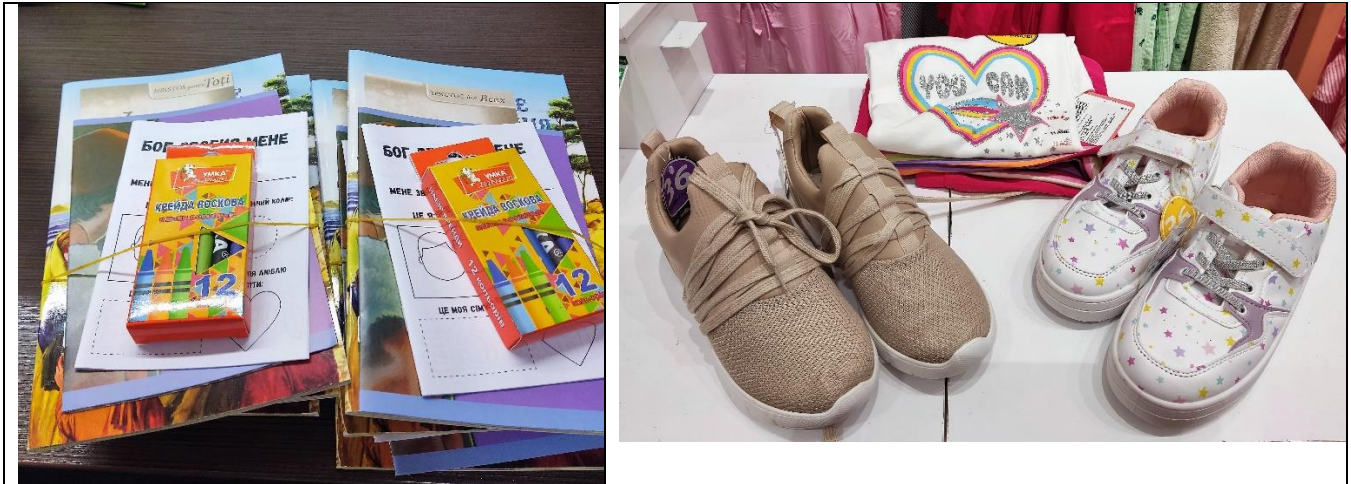
An additional avenue of ministry we have had is with the staff at the hospital. When we first started going to the hospital years ago many of the staff were hostile towards us. Much of the staff has been won over and now treats us as family. One example is Nurse Sylvia who told us at the beginning of the ministry in the Burn Department more than 10 years ago, "You are so bad, you betrayed our orthodox faith, and you also want to buy us with all your gifts. Don't come near me and don't give me anything, I won't betray my orthodox faith." To which our employee Evgeniya said: "I have not betrayed anyone, but on the contrary, I believe in the most true and only God." For many years we tried not to touch her, we only prayed for her. And after some time, Eugenia took the Christian calendar and went up to her and said: "I don't want to offend you, take this calendar and when you have time read the passages from the scripture that are there." She took it and the following week, when we again came to the hospital to visit the children, Sylvia ran out to meet us and said, please, come to my room. She said: "Oh, how blind I was, how I didn't see the truth, how could I tell you all bad words, forgive me, you are really believe in the true God, now I understand that only He helps me." She shared with us the difficulties she went through and how the Lord helped her. Now Sylvia attends a Protestant church and believes in Jesus with all her heart!

### **Children's ministry work with refugees:**

Every day there are more refugees. Many of them were not at all ready to move to another country, some did not have time to take any personal belongings or money, they were simply thrown into evacuation vehicles, and some did not even have anything to take with them.



Ukrainian children receiving backpacks and school supplies (right) and food supplies (left)



Christian book packets and clothes packets being shared with refugees.

After arriving in Moldova many of the refugees have to start completely from scratch. Thank God that many Moldovans and particularly the local Evangelical churches are helping the refugees. Our ministry to refugees tries to find the neediest families and provide them the help they need. This has included help with food, clothes, shoes, medicines, hygiene products. We help parents identify the right school for their children (Moldova has Romanian and Russian speaking schools, many refugees speak some Russian but few speak Romanian). We are providing school supplies and backpacks for children that need them. We are helping families register with a family doctor and receive medical care. We are helping to resolve issues with government documents for refugees that enable them to move around the city. We help them find better housing and have helped some find a job. But most importantly, we try to encourage them to trust in God, who loves them, and is faithful to take care of their needs, so that they can pray to Him and ask for their lives, families and country. We also have been able to bring some of these families to local churches.

All of our workers are doing amazing things right now in serving our ministry and trying to meet the needs of refugees as well. I'm getting many updates and pictures and there are too many stories to tell, but it is humbling to witness how much the country of Moldova and our workers are doing for the refugees. I have two videos that do a good job of explain the refugee situation, the first is from the New York times and describes the situation well and the second is a video from our ministry. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

NY Times video on refugee situation:

[https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/10000008253877/ukranian-refugees-moldova.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR08RTuVYY-ipmpuVVS4p7QcLd2EBQH9Nbjq8vutRwEI\\_3HftCIROo9fLM](https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/10000008253877/ukranian-refugees-moldova.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR08RTuVYY-ipmpuVVS4p7QcLd2EBQH9Nbjq8vutRwEI_3HftCIROo9fLM)

GOJM video on refugees:

<https://business.facebook.com/gospelofjohnministries/videos/322379289820203/>

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