



## GOSPEL OF JOHN MISSION, INC.

January 2023

*“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the living One; I was dead and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! Revelations 1:17-18*

### *Dear Friends*

One year ago war broke out in Ukraine and the future of Ukraine, Moldova and the other former Soviet Republics looked very bleak. As a result, we were very uncertain what would happen with our ministry. We understood that it would be impossible to carry on in the same manner if Russia took over Moldova. Thankfully, due to the grace of God, the bravery of the Ukrainian people and Western military aid the worst case scenarios have been averted. Ukraine continues to be at war but the battlegrounds have been pushed to the East and away from the border of Moldova. The situation remains tenuous and there is much to pray about, but the reports from Moldova remain sad about the human suffering in Ukraine but also encouraging on what God is doing.

We are thankful for God’s grace in the war, and the ability to continue in our ministry to prisoners, orphans, children, youth, the deaf and other evangelistic outreach. We also are thankful for new ministry opportunities that were opened to us this year to serve Ukrainian refugees and to witness to people that began asking more questions about the meaning of life and if there is a God. We saw new believers come to faith and be baptized like those pictured below.



Sergei Bolgar praying over three new believers who were preparing to be baptized.

A truly amazing story has been Vitaly and Natasha’s desire to not only serve the refugees but to travel back into war torn Ukraine multiple times to meet the needs that they see. There are too many stories to tell them all but their fearlessness in pursuit of serving others is amazing. They recently got back from a trip into Ukraine where they delivered needed supplies such as the generator and food baskets pictured below and brought Christmas cheer to deaf families by providing Christmas presents and a Christmas program to the community.



Ukrainian children receiving Christmas presents and Supplies being delivered to Ukraine by Vitaly and Natasha on the right.

One fall out from the conflict in Ukraine has been an Energy crisis in Europe as Russian gas supplies to Europe have been limited and the price of natural gas spiked. Moldova was particularly vulnerable to this impact as virtually all of its winter gas supply has historically come from Russia. To date Europe is benefitting from a relatively mild winter and gas prices have not spiked as high as some feared. However, they have still increased many times over and in Moldova this creates a significant hardship as utility bills comprise a high percentage of people's incomes. With your gifts we have been able to provide additional gas assistance for our workers and help some of those in the greatest need. Some of our workers cried learning that we were able to help them out this way. They wanted to send you the picture below expressing their gratitude for continuing to support them and our ministry.



I wasn't able to make it to Moldova last year due to all of the political uncertainty, but I am planning to travel back to Moldova in February to visit with our missionaries and thank them for all of the hard work that they are doing to serve the people of Moldova and the Ukraine. Please pray for this trip and for our continued ministry.

On another personal note, many of you ask from time to time how my father is doing. I am saddened to report that he took a significant step down in his condition over the holidays and we had to make the decision as a family to move him into a Memory Care facility. God is good and gracious even in the hard times and my Dad left me a wonderful hand written note saying that he knew he was mentally deteriorating and that he was thankful to have a son that could take care of him and make the decisions that needed to be made. I was able to move him to a place that is just a couple of miles away from my house. Please pray for him and my family. It is sad, but we are not afraid because Jesus has won our victory.

Sincerely yours,

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Online donations can be made at [gospelofjohnmission.org](http://gospelofjohnmission.org)