



GOSPEL OF JOHN MISSION, INC.

March 2022

For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16

Dear Friends,

The last couple of weeks of watching the war in Ukraine unfold we are reminded that evil continues to exist in the world. There is terrible suffering and hardships, but as Christians we are reminded that God is still in control. He is ordaining events and He will ultimately bring justice and reconciliation to the world. This war is occurring right next to Moldova and I want to take some time in this letter to explain the situation in Moldova.

As you can see from the map below Moldova borders Romania and the Ukraine. The capital Kyiv is in the North of Ukraine and is quite removed from Moldova. The largest Ukrainian city near Moldova is, Odessa which is on the Black Sea and currently there is fighting happening all around this area. Moldova politically is very similar to the Ukraine, it is a former Soviet state that is not a member of the European Union or a member of NATO. Moldova also has a break-off region on its Eastern border, called Transnistria which is Russian controlled and has a small Russian force. Moldova is poorer than the Ukraine and has a much smaller military presence. It is not hard to imagine Russia invading Moldova if it is successful in Ukraine. Currently there is no fighting in Moldova, but the airport has been closed and the only way in and out of the country is by traveling through Romania which is part of the EU and part of NATO.



Because Moldova borders the Ukraine, it is experiencing a steady flow of refugees from the Ukraine. Many are moving to areas where they have some family, some are traveling further West into Europe and others are just fleeing without a plan. As of March 3rd, it was estimated that over 100K refugees had passed into Moldova and I am sure thousands more will be coming in every day as the fighting only intensifies. Reports on the ground are that the lines near the border are miles long. The refugees are

primarily women and children, as men aged 20-60 are being conscripted into military service. This is a major crisis. Please pray for these refugees and for the Churches in Europe that they will serve and have an effective witness to these traumatized families.

I want to share a few stories of our worker's helping to settle refugees. Vitaly and Natasha have been working with the deaf community of Ukraine and have helped settle over 100 deaf people from the Ukraine in the last two weeks. Some of these people have only stayed in Moldova a few nights before traveling to other countries but our ministry has been able to minister to their physical needs for clothing and shelter during this time.



Groceries being bought for refugees, 5 deaf Ukrainian refugees being settled in Moldova

Stas and Aia also shared several different refugee outreach stories over the last week where we have been able to minister to the needs of Ukrainians and share the love of Jesus. One lady they were able to shelter at our office is named Roxolana. She traveled from the Ukraine with a 3 week old baby by herself with no family in Moldova. Her husband stayed behind to fight but she is now staying with our missionaries in our spare room in the office. The picture below is of Stas holding 3 month old Sophia.



Stas with refugees Roxolana and baby Sophia

At this point we are not sure what ministry opportunities or what unique needs there are going to be to serve the refugees in Moldova. We do know that there will be individuals with needs and our team will do what they can to be faithful to their calling and minister to those in need in their communities and those passing through their communities. If you would like to support this effort you can make a gift to Gospel of John and designate your support for refugees and we will use those funds to directly minister to and meet the physical needs of the Ukrainian's in Moldova.

Most importantly I am asking that you please pray for the people of Ukraine and Moldova. One of the real fears of a Russian take over is that religious freedom that currently exists in the Ukraine and Moldova will be lost. We currently operate freely in Moldova but mission work in Russia is much more challenged. The former U.S. ambassador to the Ukraine was quoted in the Wall Street Journal this week saying that if Putin's military campaign prevails, "he will do in all the areas under his control what he has done in Donbas and Chrimea. That's very bad news for anyone in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and *very bad news for evangelicals and for all Protestants living in the Ukraine.*" Please pray for their safety, for their independence and that God would open doors to hearts for the Gospel which provides the only secure Hope for victory. Also please pray that God would use our ministry to serve the people of Ukraine during these trying times. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

Sincerely yours,

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Online donations can be made at gospelofjohnmission.org