



Del Huff
Executive Director

***“All your children shall be taught
by the Lord, and great shall be the
peace of your children.”***

Isaiah 54:13, ESV

What does this verse refer to?

First God was making a powerful statement and reassuring promise, offering wisdom and peace to His children, the Israelite. It is rooted in the context of restoration and redemption for Israel, but it carries a universal message of God’s care and guidance for all believers. This suggests that education is something that is available to everyone, regardless of social class, gender, or race. Let’s translate this to our situation at Friendship Camp.

By way of Jesus’ new covenant, all are included, kids from all walks of life in Romania are included, even those from orphanages, gypsy camps, handicapped, or fleeing immigrants from Ukraine. They are all included. God cares, God guides their precious lives, as well.

Teaching is the key, along with prayer. Stay confident in knowing the Word of God is the seed that will not return void but will prosper in the places where it has been planted (Isaiah 55:11). It is incorruptible seed that will never perish (1 Peter 1:23). Encourage yourself in the Word when you see children struggling spiritually. When the prayers of the righteous are fervent, they will avail much in the lives of children (James 5:16).

As you read the wonderful report from Callum about what is happening at Friendship Camp this month, remember, these are the promises our camp staff is trying to instill into each one of our campers, whether they come from good Christian families or a variety of other less fortunate backgrounds. Thank you.



by Callum King
Supervisor, Friendship Camp, Romania

Summer Camp 2024 Quickly Coming to a Close



At the time of writing we have just started our eighth week of summer camp. As always, each week has been totally different in so many ways, but special for each of the children and young people who have come. Each week has had its own theme and teachings specifically chosen and prepared by the different leaders to suit the age and backgrounds of the children. *But what has remained the same throughout*

the whole summer is the opportunity for all of the kids to hear and respond to the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

As always each year has its own challenges and this year the almost constant challenge has been the heat. It been a very hot and dry summer and we are grateful to God for the leaders and teams who have made an extra effort to keep going and keep serving Him even when the heat has made even the most simple tasks exhausting.



I want to tell you specifically about three children who came to camp through our sponsorship program this summer. Sami, David and Lorena are 13 years old triplets. They’ve been coming to camp for several years but actually we’ve know them much longer. Camp is always one of the highlights of their year and we are always happy to be able to invite them and their siblings to come to camp. When Sami, David and Lorena were born they spent an extended period of time in hospital and their parents, who already had 5 young children at home, were struggling financially and practically to care for them all. We were able to support the family in practical ways and with different material needs back then and now. It’s great to see the children growing up and hearing of their involvement in their local church.



We are also happy to report that the six new cabins are all in use, providing us with 24 more beds in the camp. We still have some more work to do which we will continue with after the summer, but the main work is now completed. We thank God for the volunteers who have helped us get to this stage - often working long days, late nights and weekends to get things finished.

Again, thank you for your continued support and prayers, especially during this busy period of the year.

MEET THE NEUFELD FAMILY

As we were in search of musical people in Spanish Lookout who could sing and wanted to be a part of the new choir we were starting, we came across this amazing family, the Neufelds. Actually, I was looking for an accomplished pianist who could read music, had experience accompanying and could do some improvising, filling in between the lines in a choir arrangement.



When I met the Neufelds, I found my accompanist, Maria. She comes from a very typical Mennonite family of 17 children, plus, mom and dad. But their story is even more interesting since they started in Russia (the above photo is only about half of the family, many have moved to other countries). The parents were born and raised in Russia and some of their older children were born there. But then they had the opportunity to immigrate to Germany where they lived for over two decades. Most of the children are very musically talented.

In preparation for choir rehearsals, I often spoke to Maria about her music background, she took piano lessons in Germany but much of her beautiful playing was self-taught. I asked also about her future and what she dreams of doing. She shared her vision for getting a higher degree of education in music, something that most

Mennonites do not even dare think about. But that was Maria's dream. I asked her if she would allow me to check in the states if there was any possibility for her to study at one of the schools in Kansas I was familiar with. After contacting the school and Maria submitting all of her educational credential, we were so pleased for Maria that she had been accepted and will travel to Tabor College in Hillsboro, KS, a fully accredited four year school, to begin her studies this Fall.

We are grateful that the Lord has used us to make it possible for Maria to have this "impossible" dream come true. Please pray with us for Maria about this new "adventure" moving out from an extremely traditional cultural community, to expand her talent and see what He has in store for her. **To God be the glory, great things He will do.** Pray also that we will be able to find another pianist to replace one very special young lady.

Encouraging Signs of God's Confirmation

by Del Huff, Director, Friendship International

There definitely seems to be a growing interest and need for developing music ministry in the area we have identified as our base, located in the Cayo District of beautiful Belize.



After 3 well attended music evangelism presentations, we are taking the next step, working on opening a Music and Arts School. On my last visit to Spanish Lookout we had our initial meeting with those interested in participating as qualified instructors, having both native Belizeans as well as Expats interacting together on the subject.

As a result, these are the courses of instruction we'll begin offering.

- General Music Education - class
- Music in Ministry - class
- Music Theory - class
- Ear Training / Solfege - class
- Voice - class / private
- Piano - private
- Guitar / Ukulele - class / private
- Flute - private
- Strings - private
- Accordion - private
- Painting / Pottery / Etc. - class / private



Our next challenge has been to find a suitable location in the downtown area to lease. This is proving to be the greatest obstacle because of availability and cost. We have found an ideal location. Now we need God's help to touch the hearts of the owner and possible sponsorship partners. We need two of these units, pictured. We are praying that the owner will give us a substantial discount on monthly rent and that ministry partners will help, at least at the beginning, to support the needs for rent, supplies and materials for constructing classrooms and lesson rooms inside. Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom. If interested, please contact us for more information as to how you can help.

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