

**Del Huff**  
Executive Director

### Count Your Blessings

Every year at this time, I ponder how blessed and privileged I am to be a Christian American and to be able to freely express my thoughts and opinions about life. I have to think also about an old song that isn't heard much anymore but has such an inviting message for us, especially as Christians. It was written by a man named Johnson Oatman, Jr. He lived between 1856-1922. He wrote over five thousand Gospel songs and hymns. Some of his most familiar hymns are: Count Your Blessings, He Included Me, Higher Ground, and No, Not One. But the song Count Your Blessing is a reminder that as Believers, all things are working for our good and we are always blessed. The lyrics go as follows;

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God has done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.*

*So amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.*

Thanksgiving celebration happens once a year. Why not make an effort to count your blessings with family and friends this year as a testimony of God's faithfulness?



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

### You Can Have A Part This Year

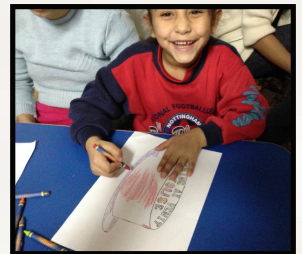
### Celebrating Christmas In Romania With Orphans And Foster Children WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It is not possible, again, to take a mission team from the States for our annual Christmas celebrations in Romania. We have been very aware that the trend, since the years of COVID, has been not to go personally, but rather to participate with donations. Of course, we are disappointed that we have not been able to take groups over to experience the wonderful Christmas season with these special children.

It is also too expensive and uncertain to consider sending gifts by mail because of the challenges with shipping these days. So, we want to invite you again to share with your donations, as many of you did last year.

We are thankful that the Romanian government is allowing our Romanian team to go into the foster homes and orphanages to celebrate Jesus' birthday with the orphans and foster children. The government oversees "children at risk" projects and can sometimes be very strict about limiting the public from interacting with the children. But praise the Lord, we are still able to make our presentations and help make Christmas a special occasion.

As usual, our team will be leading Christmas Carols, telling the Christmas story, maybe play a game, do a craft, provide a snack and give out gifts. Of course, children especially enjoy receiving presents. We would like to give each child a piece of clothing, a toy, a personal item and snack. Our budget is \$20.- for each child. Twenty dollars for 50 children equals \$1,000.- needed.



Our team will again be led by the Adi Muscan family and other volunteers, who will be visiting the orphanages and homes the second weekend of December, so we are asking that all donations be received in our office by December 6.

### Here's how you can participate.

Send donations to our office - Friendship International, PO Box 50884, Colorado Springs, CO 80949, with a note **Orphanage Christmas Project 24, OR**, through e-Giving found on our website - friendshipintl.org. Look for the DONATE link at the top of page. Find the fund - Orphan/Foster Child Christmas Project, enter your donation amount and follow the instructions as to how you want to make your donation. It's simple, but what an impact you can have in the life of these children!

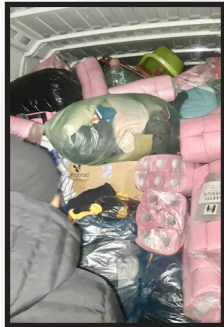
*Thank you and may the Lord bless you richly!*

## Last Transport Opportunity Of '24



by Pastor Radu Ungur

With God's help, on November 9-10, my wife, Dana, and I drove into war torn Ukraine. The needs still seem to be so great and what we had to offer seems so small considering the many needs of the people. But God chose to use us in a special way, we saw this and we rejoiced. After a long journey of more than 10 hours, and a waiting time of more than 2 hours to cross the borders, we arrived safely at the Christian Center in Chernivtsi, Ukraine.



We unloaded our van full of useful things for the people, but especially clothes for the extreme cold season that is coming upon them. The clothes were for children, women and men. We also managed to get more than 10 children's beds and 5 for adults. Along with several children's bikes and other essential items, for daily use. Specialty items like surveillance cameras and an internet server rack were valuable for use at the refugee camp base. Beyond these things, we took 30 boxes of New Testaments in the Ukrainian language that will be taken directly to the front line of the war.



It was our great joy to be able to worship in church on Sunday morning. Not only was the Gospel of Christ preached, but people's hearts were encouraged in the circumstances they were living under and the message of hope and salvation reached deep into the hearts of those listening. On that morning one man surrendered his life to the Lord, he came forward and we prayed for him together with the local pastor. His physical and his spiritual needs were met that morning. God sometimes works through giving a man a loaf of bread and sometimes He works by offering man the "bread of life" but of these two ways, the gospel has greater and more beautiful power than anything else we can offer.

God is the one who can bring peace, not only in a country, but in the hearts of people, the peace of redemption and salvation, for His glory.

*I want to thank all the brothers and sisters who have contributed financially for this project and prayed for us as we prepared and carried out this special mission in the Ukraine. May our God richly bless you. We may never have the opportunity to meet or get to know you, but God knows each of you by name. Amen*

# News From Belize

*Saturday Night Sing*

*At the Lake*

When: Saturday, October 26, 2024  
Where: Countryside Park - New Pavilion, Building #3  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Admission is FREE - with free-will love offering at closing

If you love the inspiring and hope-giving message of vintage Hymns and Gospel songs -  
**COME AND SIT IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING, AND ENJOY THE MUSIC**

There will be a wonderful time of Sing-Along together and refreshing music by

- CAYO COMMUNITY CHOIR
- ALVIN & MICHELLE HEIN
- ONE ACCORD - MEN'S QUARTET
- JUBILANT GIRL'S TRIO
- GOUD FAMILY SINGERS
- AND MORE!

We continued developing the ministry of the Cayo Community Choir with a second beautiful evening at the Lake. We want to encourage the concept of a Saturday Night Sing of traditional hymns and Gospel songs, songs that many of the audience know from the "old days" and can sing with their whole heart.



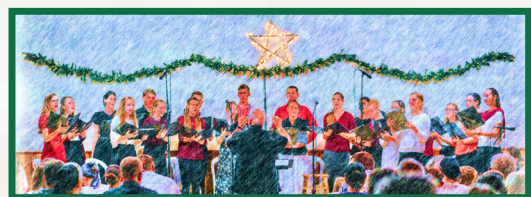
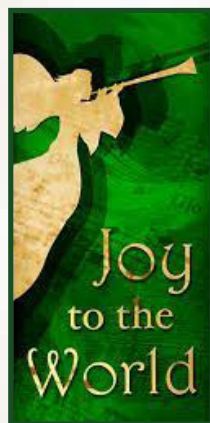
We've noticed with the new praise and worship songs many people, especially the older generation, don't know them nor are they easy for people to sing because of the rhythm or melodies that are not easily singable.



Beside the choir's participation, we are encouraging musicians who seldom play or sing other than for their family, to use their talents for the Lord. So every Sing has new "talent" joining in the evening of testimonies and song. People are blessed, hearts are touched. Keep praying for this ministry.



## PRAY FOR CHRISTMAS OUTREACH MINISTRY



*Singing Some Of The Most Beautiful Music In The World, Songs Of Joy, Peace, Hope And Love.*

**JOY TO THE WORLD**  
**Christmas Celebration at the Lake**

Dec. 7, 2024 - 7:00 PM