



**Friendship
INTERNATIONAL**
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

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Del Huff
Executive Director

THANK YOU, THANK YOU



This is the sentiment expressed over and over from the children who attend Friendship Camp. It is a pleasure for us to work with children who are so grateful for their experience at camp. Many of us have had the privilege of growing up in a loving and caring family, and know what it means to have parents who have been examples to us and do not realize that many of the children who come to camp are from a background without parents, or a single parent. Some are never shown love, but rather are living where they experience hateful rage and abuse on a daily basis.

We want to thank *you*, our friends of Friendship International, for your interest, prayers and support over many summers of camps and year-round ministry. Often, our workers have been encouraged by emails, Facebook messages and financial support, that comes just at the right time. Times of discouragement and frustration, sometimes caused by one or two campers who make life difficult for everyone. Your prayers mean everything. But the Lord ALWAYS comes through.

Yes, it's been 20 years of Friendship Camp. Of course our prayer is that God's people will continue to stand with us. Rejoice with us as we look to Him for another 20 years. May God bless you, as you bless Friendship Camp.



The Scots Are Back Again! This Time to Staff One Week of Camp

It is always such a blessing to have our friends and ministry partners from Scotland share each year, in leadership at Friendship Camp. Thank you Lord, thank you friends, Thank you Pastor Maltt and thank you Glenrothes Baptist Church.

Report by Matthew Marshall (former camp supervisor, presently pastor of Glenrothes Baptist Church, Glenrothes, Scotland)

Does Your Story Ring True?

Some stories are hard to believe because they are extraordinary. Others are hard to believe because they are simply untrue.

Many years ago, probably around 2002, Lorraine and I visited the Bear Cave in Romania. Before entering, we were clearly warned not to touch anything. The stalactites and stalagmites had formed over thousands of years and were to be protected. I listened carefully, understood the warning, and then reached out and touched one.

It broke. The sound echoed around the cave. Almost immediately, a security guard appeared and asked what had happened. "It wasn't me," I said.

The claim was not remotely believable. I was standing beside the broken stalagmite. Everyone knew what had happened. My story did not line up with reality. That embarrassing memory became the central question of our final evening at this year's international youth camp: Does the story we tell about our lives line up with the lives we are actually living?

Returning to familiar ground

This summer, I returned for our annual visit to the camp in Șîstarovăț with a youth team from Glenrothes Baptist Church in Scotland. The camp holds a significant place in our own story. I served as camp supervisor from its beginning in 2006 until 2015, when we left Romania for pastoral ministry in Scotland.

During those years, Lorraine and I worked closely with Adi and Tabita Mușcan as the ministry grew. It has been a real encouragement to see them continue the work, now alongside Callum King and volunteers. The site has changed considerably, but the heart remains the same: bringing young people together, opening the Bible, sharing the gospel clearly, and building relationships in which the truth can be seen as well as heard.



Our team came to take part in the Grain Game International camp led by Chip Riley. Teenagers and young adults gathered from Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Fiji, and Scotland, each bringing their own background, questions, and stories.

Before camp began, our Scottish young people led devotions on trusting God, genuine faith, laziness, evangelism, and finding rest in Christ. These were honest contributions from young

Christians seeking to understand what it means to follow Jesus faithfully.

That honesty shaped the week.

Stories Beneath the Surface

Once camp began, around eighty young people filled the site. There were field games, pillow fights, water slides, zip lines, walks for ice cream, late-night campfires, and a great deal of noise.

There was also sustained Bible teaching. Through the Grain Game programme, the young people were taken through the great story of the gospel: human sin, the person of Christ, redemption, new life, and the hope of heaven.

The illustrations created laughter, but they also opened serious conversations. One of the clearest answers to prayer came among a group of older teenage boys. At the beginning of the week, they were boisterous and often struggled to listen. Yet as the week went on, they softened. They paid closer attention and began asking thoughtful questions.

By the final evening, these same young men were fully engaged and eager to contribute. They even arrived at the campfire wearing suits and ties and entertained everyone with songs and sketches. Their stories were not complete, but there were clear signs that God was at work.



A Story Rewritten by Grace

One evening, I sat beside the campfire talking with a sixteen-year-old Romanian boy named Ionuț. His parents died when he was only a few months old. He spent the first fourteen years of his life in deeply

difficult circumstances, surrounded by drugs and instability. Eventually, he was taken into care and placed with a Christian foster family in Lipova. Through that family and the witness of local Christians, Ionuț came to faith in Jesus and was baptized last year.

He told me that he hopes to study theology and perhaps become a pastor so that he can serve children who have grown up in circumstances like his own. Later in the week, he shared his testimony with the Romanian group. His story is powerful because Christ has entered it. The gospel has given him a new identity, a new family, and a new direction.

What Stories are We Telling?

On the final evening, I was asked to bring the week's teaching to a point of response. I told the young people about the broken stalagmite, the echo through the cave, and my thoroughly unbelievable denial.

Then we turned the question towards ourselves.

Many people say, "I am a Christian." The question is whether the reality of our lives makes that profession believable. Jesus said that a tree is known by its fruit. Genuine faith leaves evidence. It reshapes our desires, relationships, decisions, and direction. Christians still fail and sin, but their lives increasingly display repentance, trust, and obedience.

The challenge was simple: If you say that you belong to Jesus, does your life support the claim?

The young people listened with striking seriousness. Afterwards, they discussed the question, "What does your life story say about your walk with Jesus?" Every young person shared. There were tears, confession, encouragement, and prayer. Similar conversations were taking place across the camp.

Some young people repented and trusted Christ for the first time. Others spoke honestly about spiritual drift and compromise. Some heard the gospel clearly but have not yet responded. Their stories remain unfinished.

The Next Chapter



joined in meaningful spiritual conversations. They left having received far more than they expected. Returning to Șistarovăț reminded me that ministry is built through thousands of small, faithful acts: a financial gift of support, a conversation by the fire, a Bible opened in the morning, a testimony shared nervously, a prayer offered through tears. **Together, Those Moments Form a Story.**

Prayers Needed

- **Pray for our Scottish young people** as they process what God has taught them.
- **Pray for those who trusted Christ** for the first time. Pray for young people like Ionuț, whose lives are being redirected by grace.
- **Pray for those who heard the gospel** but have not yet responded.
- **Pray also for Adi, Tabita, and Callum** as they continue to labour faithfully for the sake of the gospel through the ministry of Friendship Camp.
- **And pray that the stories told by all of us would ring true.** May the grace we speak about be visible in the people we are becoming. May our lives support our profession of faith. And may every chapter point unmistakably to Jesus

The final morning brought hugs, high-fives, photographs, and tears.

Our Scottish teenagers came intending to serve. They led devotions, cared for others, and

And Still Another Celebration! **Cayo School of Music and Arts** **Celebrates 6 Months**

Our school first opened its doors in February of 2026. It has been a joy to start with 70 enthusiast and excited children, youth and adult students wanting to learn piano, guitar, bass guitar, voice, violin, general music, English as a Second Language and art.



The end of this month we will have an Open House to invite all parents, grandparents and friends to come and help us recognize those students who have completed 6 months of lessons.

The program will include;

- **Introduction of Teachers and Staff**
- **Hand out certificates of 6 months completion**
- **Program - Students and Teachers perform**
- **Future Plans for Cayo School of Music and Arts**
- **Faspa (Mennonite Evening Lunch)**
- **Sing-Along, old Hymns and Gospel songs**

We are so proud of our students. They are doing amazing. But, we also want to honor and give thanks to all the parents who have seen the value and enrichment for their children to be enrolled and study various art forms. Our school is something this community has never had before and we are so grateful that parents are putting their faith in us to give their children this experience.

As we look towards the last half of 2026, we are full of anticipation, but it is not without concerns.

We Need Your Prayers and Support To Help Grow the School in the Future

- **Student Scholarship Program** - For large families (group lessons are US\$10/ private lessons are US\$12.50)
- **Piano** - The cost is \$2,000.- This is a good reliable electric student instrument. Because of an increasing number of students wanting to learn piano, a second piano is becoming a great need.

Your donation can be sent to our office. Checks should be payable to Friendship International.

Friendship International

P.O. Box 50884, Colorado Springs, CO 80949

OR

Go to e-Giving at www.friendshipintl.org. Go to Donate button at the top of page and follow instructions for donating. Indicate you would like to donate to **Cayo School of Music and Arts - Scholarship Fund or Piano.**