



Doing Good That Is Good™

The newsletter of FARMS International

Moldova Update December 2015

Providing revolving entrepreneurial loans to poor Christian families - Galatians 6:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Moldova, formerly a huge supplier of agricultural products for the Soviet Union, now is one of the poorest countries in Europe. The lack of jobs has caused thousands of people to leave Moldova and other Eastern European countries to find work in more prosperous countries. Many of those that have left were the young and educated; the future hope for economic recovery. It is not normal for a man or woman to leave their homeland, but the harsh realities of life sometimes force them to leave. The cost is high, many families are torn apart, and normal life is severely disrupted. Sadly, even children are abandoned at times and end up in crowded orphanages.

In the midst of this sad situation, God is moving in a mighty way in Moldova. Many are coming to Christ and churches are growing in spite of opposition from the Orthodox Church (church that sided with the communists in the past). Persecution has not dampened the resolve of the Bible believing churches.

We are proud and privileged to partner with Gospel Ministries International in Moldova. This ministry has many facets from church planting, outreach to gypsies, as well as helping the poor. Ghiorghu Cazacu is the head of GMI. His tireless drive to help the poor, the widows, and orphans is a real inspiration. His own life is an example to many. Ghiorghu and his wife Christiana have adopted six orphaned children of their own!



Ghiorghu Cazacu and Joe Richter

More Homes of Hope need to be established and with your prayers and help, this will also become a reality.

Recently, Ghiorghu and I were able to visit face to face in Wisconsin. We had a great time as he shared how FARMS is helping in Moldova and related the stories I am sharing with you.

In Jesus,
Joseph E. Richter

Blessings to all of you during this season of reflection and joy!



Orphan children in a state run orphanage in Moldova

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Communist "Town Drunk" now serving the Lord!

Gheorghe was well known in his Moldovan village, for several reasons. First off, when Moldova was still part of the Soviet empire, he was a feared communist leader. He was also an agricultural engineer and very skilled in his area of expertise. **However, Gheorghe's reputation went beyond all this, for he was also known as the "town drunk."** We might call his condition a "functioning alcoholic." He was seldom sober, but somehow performed his duties. If he went into town to buy a loaf of bread, he would order a glass of vodka also. Such was his life. His condition wore on his wife Maria, who was a schoolteacher in their village. Nevertheless, by the grace of God, her desperate situation drove her to begin attending her village church. There, Christians shared the gospel with her and Maria became a born again Christian! Shortly after her conversion, Gheorghe began to feel the work of the Holy Spirit in his life also. Convicted of *sin, righteousness, and judgement to come*, he too accepted the Lord. **The Lord Jesus totally delivered him of his alcoholism!** He is now a very respected man in his village and has walked in freedom from alcohol for over ten years. Gheorghe now says, that before coming to Christ, he could not remember ever being sober!

His son Radu, ignoring what had happened to his mother and father, went the other way and became a persecutor of those in the church, as well as others that came to preach the gospel in his village. He was violent against Christians, much like the apostle Paul before he met Christ. However, this did not stop the Christians of the village from witnessing to him. **They challenged him to read the Bible for himself to see if what they were teaching was true.** Surprisingly, he began to read the Bible and he had many questions for the believers. After some time, he too became a believer, and now is faithfully following Christ. Now, their families are united in Christ, and have become a wonderful testimony to God's love and grace.



Gheorghe was helped with a FARMS loan for a greenhouse project and has done tremendously well. He also shares his skills with others, especially the Christians in his village. His son, Radu (at left), also helped by FARMS, is a greenhouse farmer.



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Mafia member and ex-con now a church planter and beekeeper!

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Viorel, a former government bodyguard, similar to our Secret Service, along with his comrades formed a mafia in Moldova. With the power vacuum in Moldova, they saw an opportunity to become rich. **Using their enormous insiders' intelligence they began extorting huge sums of money from the wealthy of Moldova's ruling class. They were greatly feared!** In time though, the government arrested Viorel and he was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his crimes. As is true so often, those that we least expect to change do! God reached down into that prison and used other inmates to share the gospel with Viorel and he received Jesus as his personal Savior and Lord!



FARMS helped Viorel with a beekeeping project and he has become very successful!

Because of his good behavior, he was released after only serving two and one half years of his sentence. However, as part of his release agreement, he was forced to leave Moldova, so he departed to Italy. There he met other Christians and continued to grow in the Lord. With others from Italy, he returned to Moldova and they began planting churches in Moldova. Over time, these missionaries planted eight churches! Viorel and Diana have six children. It has now been fourteen years since he returned to Moldova. He is a respected Christian leader. **What a transformation, from mafia to preacher of the good news of Jesus Christ!** To God be the glory.



Viorel, Diana, his mother, and three of their children

"Homes of Hope" family adopts six orphans with the help from FARMS!

The Ceban family had a heart for orphans, but due to limited resources could not afford to adopt. **Through the ministry of Homes for Hope of Gospel Ministries International, they were able to get help through a FARMS loan.** This enabled them to expand their greenhouse operation and make several improvements, enabling them to adopt six orphans into their loving family. The eldest is now married. Each of these children had different parents, but all had one thing in common; they all had horrific and broken lives before being adopted. What a testimony of God's love. **FARMS and Homes of Hope want to expand this ministry of enabling families to adopt orphans out of orphanages.** Please be in prayer for the Ceban family and for many more homes to be established like theirs. Also, consider designating a gift for this outreach to orphans in Moldova.



Ghiorgi and the Ceban adopted family

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Green house tomato project

Note: Watch for Franklin Graham's "Decision America Tour" featuring prayer rallies in all 50 states, calling our nation to God!

My name is Megan Peterson and I have been working with FARMS as the Bookkeeper/Accountant for about ten months. I graduated in 2013 from the University of Minnesota, Duluth with a degree in Teaching Mathematics. During my time in college, I met Drake. We became friends, dated, got engaged, and were married all before graduation. Phew! In the fall of 2013 we had our first daughter, Eleanor and this summer were blessed with our second, Ada. Having two healthy, happy little ones is a great blessing from the Lord. They bring us so much joy! Drake works as a Surgical Technologist in our hometown of Duluth. He works hard to provide for our family. This allows me to stay home with our girls as we raise them. I also work from home for FARMS, managing the donations that come in. I have enjoyed corresponding with and praying for our supporters as I complete the tasks at hand. Every donation that comes in is an encouragement and a reminder of God's goodness. I believe that this ministry truly is "DOING GOOD THAT IS GOOD" around the world and I am blessed to be even a small part of it.



Kiley Marissa Photography

Megan

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