



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL

News Bulletin

Reaching out to a hurting world...

January 2020

A new year with new opportunities has begun. Sometimes we say that most things go in circles. Sooner or later it comes around, whether it is fashion or other trends. If we wait long enough it becomes in fashion again.

God's eternal Word never becomes outdated; it is relevant through all ages. Even today it speaks to us and guides us in a very personal way. When God speaks it can be both personal and to God's people in general through the word of the prophet. God speaks into our time. May he who has an ear, hear what the Holy Spirit says to his people in this time. The Word of God is still relevant, urgent and very important.

PTPI's entire existence rests on the fact that God once spoke in a personal way. From this the ministry's entire work in spreading the gospel and the expansion of the evangelical church has continued since 1984. In the beginning of a new year, we make ourselves available for God to speak to us during the year ahead. We are depending on the Lord in all that we do and that he speaks to us. As God's people we are depending on the Holy Spirit that speaks into our lives. We have put our trust in God, who can do far more than we can think or desire.

We are hoping that you, even during 2020, want to stand alongside us in the work God has called us to do. There is a lot more to be done and the assignment God gave in Matthew 28:19 still stands and is most urgent. *"Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world."*

Thank you for your continued support, it means so much to us, but even more for the people who are affected by the power of the gospel through the work that PTPI has the privilege to do.


International President



Ephrata, the Church where Pastor Florin Popa serves, has recently baptized several people. What a joy it is when people choose to follow Jesus' example and get baptized.

Jesus' words in the Bible passage we just read from Matthew 28:19 are central in the work PTPI supports in different places in the "former" Eastern Europe. Through the pastors we collaborate with, the mission to "make disciples in all nations" central. PTPI would never be able on its own to reach all the people who are able to hear the gospel. In this letter we would like to highlight a few examples.

Through our friends in Poland, Pawel and Lidia Nowakowski, big crowds have the opportunity to listen to and meet the power of the gospel. Through both women's breakfasts and the drama the couple travels with in Poland and other surrounding countries, many people are brought to Christ. Through a ministry that always is anchored in the local church in the place they are visiting, people who get saved always have a direct contact with a local church. This is an important fruit-bearing ministry that we see vital in our time and age. We see the breakfasts that Lidia works with, that lately have received a lot of attention in the region they work, and also in further circuits as a very important tool.

In Romania we see the same thing. People receive Christ through the pastors we support. The local anchoring is important. Through the work of the pastors, where each pastor often is responsible for the spiritual work in several churches, we see the fruit of their labor. People receive Christ and get baptized. It is very gratifying and encouraging to be able to follow their work. In Romania we

also see how the work among the Roma children fills a very important role. The work at Children of Promise is deserving and important. We have said it many times, but we so appreciate the work that Sami and his co-workers put into the lives of these children. It is so very important. We may not see the immediate fruit of this labor, but we know that the spiritual value cannot be measured with human dimensions. It has an eternal value.

The work among the pastors is, as we have said in previous letters, very important to PTPI. During all the years that PTPI has existed, we have, in the countries where we work, regularly supported pastors in their spiritual service.

Preaching the Word of God is important as well as the spiritual education. Therefore, we are glad to be part of a spiritual context where we can support the spiritual work among lay pastors. It is done through Mirca Ardelean and Asist that together with Eastern European Bible College leads the work. If everything goes as planned, we will arrange a pastors' conference in Romania for these pastors. We believe in the concept of studying the Word of God and finding a good balance between the spiritual work in the church and life in general. For the coming academic year Asist will offer yet another class for men and women. It will be a total of three classes for men and two for women.

If we direct our eyes toward Moldova, we also have an important work there which we have supported for ten years. It was in June of 2010 we made our first

A fruitful ministry

Recently we received a faith-enhancing letter from Romania and Pastor Florin Popa whom PTPI supports financially. We have chosen to share some parts of his letter.



The Women's breakfasts in Poland have proven to be a great tool to share the gospel.



Over the years we have had the privilege to visit many moldovan homes, give out food packages and pray with people.

trip to Glodeni, a small community, where we met the distress that is there. Suffering that is affecting both the spiritual and the physical.

During the years we have seen how God has opened doors for us and the Church to expand the kingdom of God. Many people have been helped in different ways over the years. What is so fantastic is that the Church' ministry among the children has grown and expanded over the years. Since the summer of 2011 we have been able to arrange summer activities and camps for the children both in Glodeni and in the surrounding areas. It started with about 30 children and has since then had a steady growth. Last summer we were able to offer 150-200 children the opportunity to visit any of the camps that were arranged. It is so amazing to see how this work now is starting to bear fruit. Several of the children's families are starting to attend the services in the Church and are present in the work among the children. Slowly the Church has grown during these past ten years. Last summer seven more people were baptized and now the Church has around 60 members.

In the same way the distribution of food packages and bread has opened the doors to visit people in their homes. During those visits we have been able to form a good relationship with the people we visit. Last summer we visited several of them, when we once again were able to pray with them and tell them that God loves them and that they are not forgotten. They are remembered by God and us. What a privilege!

We have already started to make plans for upcoming trips to Moldova. We want to continue to visit this country that is in such great need of the gospel and faith in a living God.

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A large group of young people attending the Church where Pastor Popa now ministers.



Summer camps and food bags is part of pastor pastor Florins ministry



I would like to share some glimpses about my work as a Pastor. Last year was filled with personal challenges and suffering, but also with many blessings. As I have written earlier, I have had health problems. Thanks to God, the situation has stabilized. But in February I will need to do yet another surgery. Thank you for all your prayers for me and my situation, it has helped a lot.

Last year has meant great changes in my work as a Pastor, which also meant great blessings. I am very satisfied with all that has been accomplished for the kingdom of God. God has opened many doors for me. Even though my work has been extensive, the joy has been even greater. Therefore I can testify to 2019 being a blessed year.

Ending last year when I did a final account of the year, I could see that God has watched over his work and that he has taken care of the Churches I serve. It has been an amazing year, more than I could dream of or ask for. We have baptized seven people; six of them were new to us. To receive these new people, has been something extraordinary. We hope that 2020 will be equally successful. We will continue to put our efforts on evangelization and prayer, which we believe led to the success we experience now.

During 2019 we also had youth

camps in the Church. Even this was out of the ordinary. It was a time of fellowship with the youth, time for worship and prayer. A fantastic time!

Ephrata, which is a new Church, has really opened the doors for me. At the end of November we had a youth conference. Even this was a very special time. The team of leaders is blessed by God in their service. It is a great blessing to be able to serve in this Church.

Likewise, my time in the Roma Church has been a blessed time during the past year. We have been able to help many unprivileged families who suffer financially. During the month of December, we distributed 40 food packages to needy families. God has really blessed us. Now we are looking forward to a blessed 2020. Already on January 12 we will have a baptismal service when four people will be baptized.

Everything that has been accomplished is the work of the Lord and his blessings on us. My prayer is that you, like me, can rejoice over what God has done. You are part of this, since you stand alongside us in prayer. I, my family and the four Churches that I serve want to say a big thank you for all that you do for us. We appreciate it very much and wish you a blessed 2020.

Florin Popa, Pastor



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