



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL

News Bulletin

Reaching out to a hurting world...

December 2019

We have now left the dark month of November behind and look forward with joy and thankfulness to the light that Advent brings, what a joyful time to celebrate. Advent means arrival. It is the arrival of Jesus we celebrate, the birth of the Savior of the world.

We have added yet another year of ministry. We feel gratitude to God for his grace over us and the work we are involved in. We are so grateful to you who support us, the work and the people we collaborate with. It means a lot.

In this newsletter we take a brief flashback, where we can see that the work that is being done by PTPI, today still plays an important role. In all that we do, there is only one purpose; human salvation. No other assignment is more important. After all, it is about people's eternal life. People's spiritual longing can be met in different ways. In Moldova it often is about meeting people's physical needs. This then opens the doors for the gospel, doors we otherwise would not have been able to access. To meet people in their homes is also a great privilege. The needs are still great, the human destinies we face, are at times hard to take in. But God wants everyone well and we are God's hands and feet here on earth to bring the love of God to the people we meet.

Even this month we will present an opportunity to give a gift in favor of Christmas packages to Moldova. Know your gift makes a difference in the lives of the people we are trying to help.

**We wish you the blessings
of God and a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

Bobal Lindberg
International President



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Thank you!



There is full activity on the premises at the Bible School. This evening is education of lay pastors from different churches in the entire district.

The organization People to People Int'l (PTPI) was founded in 1984, but the work of spreading the gospel in Eastern Europe began as early as 1976. I choose to share an excerpt from my father Oliver Lindberg's book "My journey – from rascal to missionary". He writes the following:

"In the fall of 1976 something happened that overturned all my future plans of being a salesman of prefabricated houses. One Friday evening a pastor from Bulgaria visited our Church. He was sharing about his years in a Bulgarian prison and he would receive an offering for printing of Bibles.

I thought it sounded interesting when I heard the announcement, and decided to go to Church to listen to his testimony. I was right away captured by his strong charisma and his personal testimony.

My heart was deeply touched. While he talked about his 13 plus years in a Bulgarian prison and all he had to endure, suddenly I heard the Lord speak within me. It was very strong. As in letters of fire I also saw above him the following sentence: "This is your mission and today I am calling you to a full-time ministry for my people in the Communist world."

After the service we had the privilege to have the Bulgarian pastor and his interpreter as guests in our home. Sitting around the dinner

table he continued to tell about his experiences in Bulgaria. I cried when I listened to his story. In my mind I could still clearly hear the sentence I saw earlier in the Church, but I didn't tell anyone about it. I didn't even tell Ulla about it."

The Bulgarian pastor was Haralan Popov. This experience became the springboard on a journey that would change the life for us as a family for all eternity. The rest is, as we say, history. Much has changed since then, but the ministry has been able to continue. During all the years, one of our main focuses has been to support the pastors in their ministry. This is still one of the most important branches we have in the ministry. During all those years, we have, with some regularity, arranged pastors' conferences in order to support them in their spiritual work.

The last two years we have followed Mircea Ardelean who leads Asist, which is a theological education for lay pastors. It is held during the weekends at the Bible School



This picture is taken in the former Yugoslavia, one of few pictures from way back that are saved. Pastors on their way to an underground pastor's conference held far out in the forest.

in Oradea. It is open for both men and women. During this past year the number of students has increased significantly. This year they have had 80 students, two classes for men and one for women. Next year these classes will expand to three classes for men and two for women. Out of the 80 students, 53 have graduated.

In Romania there are more than 350,000

Pentecostals. There are 3,000 churches, but only 354 licensed pastors. Most of the churches are led by pastors with no or very little theological education. The lack of educated pastors is enormous. Sure, education is not all, but it is a very important part of how the church will develop. It is important for the church, but first and foremost for the individual leader to be skilled for the assignment.

Asist is not only for men, it also targets women in their calling to lead. Mircea writes:

I have to say that as a nation we are better off than ever. We have much freedom and we have more resources and opportunities than before to share the gospel. As a nation we have not always had the freedom to preach and share the gospel with the people. The first years after the fall of communism were very hard. We lacked the good resources and opportunities we have today to spread the gospel. Our prayer is that God will continue to increase our desire and faithfulness to preach the gospel, the great commission that God has given us.

If there were restrictions in the past from the Government to preach, there are none today. But we need more zeal, enthusiasm and faithfulness to continue the work.

We count it a privilege to be able to be part of this project, through the work of Mircea, educating pastors to a deeper understanding of God's word. And we are confident that this work will bring forth an everlasting fruit in the lives of the pastors, as well as the people they will lead to Christ.



The new premises and the sound system are a great blessing to the Bible School.



Teaching the Word of God, this group of spiritual leaders are the leaders of the future evangelical church. The Word of God is sown into the good ground.

Ana needs our help

The first time I met Ana was about four years ago. Only a few days before we met, she had lost her husband in a tragic car accident in Russia. When we came, Ana sat on the bed totally devastated by grief. Their son had just been born.

Today I learned that the boy had undergone acute surgery for a congenital heart defect. Right now we don't have more information than this. They are currently in the hospital

in Chisinau. Ana has no resources of her own to pay for the costs at the hospital. We have sent the money we have raised on previous occasions. It will cover the most acute cost. We gratefully receive a gift in favor of Ana and her son. Mark your gift "Help for Ana". Thank you!



Project of the month

Christmas will soon be here and every year we do a fundraising in favor of the work in Moldova and Christmas parcels. We, who know the meaning of Christmas, wish to pass it on to others. Christmas is the feast of gifts. Please, give a gift in the form of a food package that will brighten the Christmas for the ones less fortunate. Recommended amount is a gift of \$30, but any gift is much appreciated. Thank you!

Moldova



The picture is taken at a previous Christmas celebration. A crowded room full of expectant people.

In connection with Christmas we do an extra fundraising for the neediest in the society in Glodeni, where the Church is. Christmas is a very special time, when we fellowship together with family and friends. The difference between us and Moldova is not so big. We meet the same desire there as here, to be able to share Christmas in the same way. Unfortunately we know that this is not the case. Many people live totally differently and under different conditions. Christmas will not turn out the way one hopes for. But thanks to the Church and their social commitment for the most vulnerable, Christmas has become a better holiday. The number of people who have found their way to the Church has increased during the fall. The social service sends people to the Church, because they know that there are both bread and food and other help available.

This Christmas the Church will do two directed ventures, when they would like to give out 100 food packages. This will cost approx. \$2,600. We appeal for support in order to help to implement these ventures. From previous years we know what something like this means for the Church, for a long time to come. To provide for the widow, the orphaned and the poor is on God's heart. Thank you in advance!

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