



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL**

NEWS

BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

February 2021

The Roma families in Batar



A woman receiving help from Pastor Laurentiu who serves as Pastor of the Church in Batar.



The food package that was distributed.

A few days ago, I listen to a conversation that touched one of the mysteries of faith – prayer. This aroused several thoughts about prayer. To pray is every Christian’s calling. The notion that someone is praying for us, is one of life’s greatest privileges.

Praying is not an activity, but a way of life, something we can do, no matter what we are doing at the time. In the Song of Solomon 5:2 we read: “*I slept but my heart was awake*”, a beautiful description of the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Every now and then it happens that I wake up from my night’s sleep, for no obvious reason to me. But when this happens, I usually wait quietly to see if the Holy Spirit calls for something special. Several times recently at night this happened to me. On each occasion, the same call; to pray for a specific situation. At a later contact with the person, it turned out that there was a great need for prayer. Even if I did not know all the details, the Holy Spirit in me was close and through the prayer the Holy Spirit was able to work.

God works in us, whether we sleep or are awake. Sometimes we wake up from our sleep, often to pray for someone who comes to our minds. Sometimes God comes to us during our daily work. No matter our own situation, God’s Spirit can work through us. What a privilege!

One year has passed since the pandemic swept over our world. Now we are beginning to see how this has affected the most vulnerable and exposed in the areas where we work. Among other things the situation for the Roma people has worsened. In this letter we want to highlight such a need for help. Please, read Pastor Laurentiu’s appeal in his letter to us.

We are so happy that we have been able to help Rebeca to get her house habitable and that it can be a good help for her. You can read more in this letter what to expect.

We want to bless you and thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. You are especially important to us!

Bobal Laurentiu
International President

The small community Batar is located about 40 minutes’ drive from Oradea, Romania. A few thousand habitants live in Batar. In Batar there is also a Roma settlement with about 50 families who have been hit hard by the pandemic. In order to support their families, many of them had taken day labor jobs. This is no longer possible during the pandemic. They are now at home. All the families live on the child benefit which is less than \$48 per child per month.

The winter is always a hard time, especially for the poorest families. The demands from the authorities to wear masks and keep your distance is not followed, since they live crowded and have difficulties to find face masks. As often, the housing is bad. Laurentiu writes:

“God put on my heart that we, as a Church in Batar, should share the good

news and at the same time distribute food. Our desire is that during the winter months, every week, to distribute potatoes and a food package with basic goods. We have already started the work, but our financial resources are not enough. Our prayer is that this help would plant a seed in their hearts and help them see the love God has for them”.

A food package and a sack of potatoes cost \$30 per family per week. It covers the most basic needs for each family and will keep the most acute hunger away. Thank you for standing alongside us in this project.



For many, it is about meeting today’s needs. To live solely on the child support is difficult, especially when the families often have many children to feed.

A joyful Christmas in Glodeni, Moldova

In time for Christmas, we sent some funds for the work in Moldova to be used for the purchase of Christmas packages for about a hundred families. Most of the packages were distributed at the Church's two services around the holidays. A few days after our last newsletter was sent to the printing shop, we got this greeting from Pastor Igor in Moldova.

During the more than ten years we have been working in Moldova, we have tried to make Christmas a joyful time even for the people who suffer the most. This Christmas was not an exception. Many of the families we reach, suffer financially. It is often families with many children. There are also widows with an exceptionally low pension. For most of them their pension does not exceed \$60 per month. The pandemic has hit hard on many families who, already before the pandemic, were struggling to put food on the table. Therefore, it is a blessing to be able to do this every year, but maybe even more so this year. We also extend a warm hand of gratitude to Worship Center Church in Lancaster PA, for their financial contribution in making this help possible. Igor has sent some greetings to us.

The year 2020 has left a sad imprint on the hearts of the children, without joy and recreation during their summer break. Many of them did not, due to the pandemic, dare to hope for a good Christmas with a Christmas gift.

But we thank God and all the people who extended a helping hand and with great joy gave toward the children in Glodeni. December 25 and January 7, 2021 all the children ran to the Church, happy to be participating in a Christmas play about the birth of Jesus. All the children were so happy when they got their Christmas gift. They were praising God with joy and shouted with a loud voice, praise be to the Lord!

After the children, it was time for all the poor in Glodeni to enjoy a good Christmas, when they got a food package to bring home. I and my son visited the families who were not able to come, to wish them a Merry Christmas. This beautiful gesture made the entire city talk about the joy it brought to them who had received a food package. Many people and children came to Church for the Church's Christmas program. May God be praised for the joy and the good news that He brought to the poor, the widows and the orphans in Glodeni.

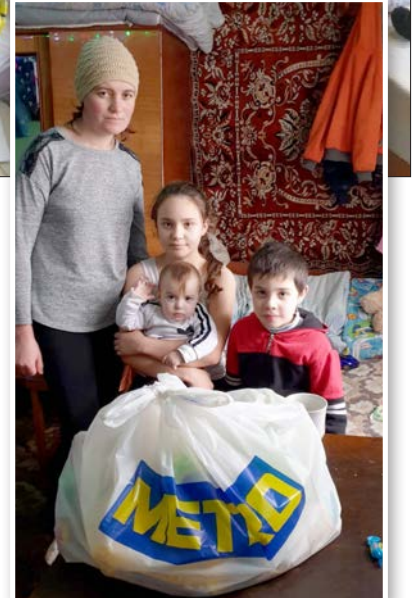
With Love, Pastor Igor.



Sveta is one of the people who got a visit before Christmas. We have visited him several times. He is paralyzed and has laid in this bed during all the years we have visited him. His wife recently was diagnosed with cancer.



At Christmas time the Church invites people to services. After this, it is time for distribution of Christmas packages.



One of the families who received a Christmas package.

We thank God for His grace over our family. We belong to a poor family, where there is very little joy, no toys or christmas presents to look forward to. But now, all four of us have recieved a christmas gift from God.



The siblings Stas, Mihai and Tatiana thank God for the package they have received for Christmas. Their mother got baptized last year.

The Banete family

A few days ago, we received an email from Pastor Florin Popa where he says that he, after the Holidays are over, wants to continue the work in the house. The focus is now on the second floor.

There is a bathroom and two of the children's rooms where nothing has been done so far. Among other things there are

no doors to all the rooms and the bathroom is unfinished. This will now be our focus. Recently we have sent additional funds, so they can continue the work. We will get back with more information as the work progresses.

