



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL**

NEWS

BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

May 2021

Asist builds the kingdom of God



It is a great joy to see the increasing interest in these courses.

I want to start this letter by wishing you God's blessings over your life. It feels good to send you the best you can wish for another human being. God wants the best for us, and we wish that God's blessings will be released to an ever-greater extent in your life.

We confess to a God who in essence knows us. In Exodus God reveals to Moses who he is: "And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands.'" That is who our God is; merciful, he has compassion and maintains his grace towards us and towards thousands. These are the foremost qualities of God. They are also visible in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is our role model, the one we shall follow in all that we say and do. What a wonderful God we have and serve!

In this letter Pastor Igor writes about the difficult situation Moldova still is in and it seems to be more difficult the longer the time passes. The pandemic has hit the country extremely hard, where an already poor health care has been under even greater pressure during the pandemic. But during all the hardship, people meet a living Savior.

We also have a short report from Asist, the pastoral education, we have written about a few times. We gave \$1,200 to be able to offer more people to participate. Some of the students write about what the education means to them. It is a blessing to see young people embrace the education. The kingdom of God needs more workers to bring in the harvest that is ripe. This education makes them skilled in their service for the Lord.

We also want to thank you for your prayers and financial support. Two especially important pillars in the work God has called us to do. May the Lord bless you for your important part in this work.

[Signature]
International President

While ago we did a fundraiser for Asist and the work they do. Mircea, the leader, writes the following to us.

We are so thankful to God for the enormous opportunities we have to equip a new generation of servants for God who also are hungry for the Word of God. To be present in such a process is wonderful and a life changing experience. I often talk to the young people and they tell me that they are so blessed to be enrolled in the Asist-program.

Recently we have improved the whole curriculum and included many better and inspiring courses. We have also tightened the requirements, which mean the students must spend more time in school which is why the costs have increased a bit. But the Lord supplied, through People to People Int'l, the resources

the students needed in order to achieve their goals. Since we were able to see and experience how God responded to this need, we are even more convinced that this program is a godly resource. Year after year we have seen how God has blessed and how the forms of the work have become clearer. It is impossible not to shout out a hallelujah!

We are so grateful towards PTPI and how the help enables some of the students to participate. This opens so many opportunities for them, who otherwise would not be able to be a part of this program.

Mircea

We are so happy to see so many young people getting hold of God's vision for their lives. Together we are building the kingdom of God and together we are bringing in the harvest that is ripe.

Alexa Martin

My name is Alexa Martin. The Asist-program is basic for me to be true in my spiritual service and to live for Christ. We must study God's Word to be worthy in any good work. This is the perfect setting to apply biblical principals in our service for God.

Asist is an interactive course with well-educated teachers; a course that develops your thinking in the light of God's Word. It encourages you to get to know Christ on a deeper level, to love him by obedience to the Word. It is an environment where you interact with people from the entire

country, who love God and want to expand his kingdom.

Indirectly by interacting with people who love God and sincerely seek him, Asist is the environment where you can seek your servant's heart and its motive. The course provides you with direct tools and knowledge for an effective service.



God is the only solution

PTPPI's commitment in Moldova has been going on for more than ten years. We made the first trip in June of 2010. Little did we know what this would mean, and the thoughts God had for the future. But the Lord spoke to us about Moldova already in 2007, but it took three years before we had the opportunity to visit Glodeni.

A lot has happened during these years. There is a lot to be grateful for. Many people have been helped; lives have been saved through the different projects we are involved in. But we have also met people whose lives, despite the efforts we have made, could not be saved. Pretty soon after coming home 2010 we started the renovation of the bakery. We also started the distribution of food packages to families in need. During the years that have passed, I have often gone back to and wondered about the meaning of these food packages. What were God's thoughts behind these packages? Is there a deeper meaning why this work started and has been able to continue? Except that this relieves an acute hunger, we have realized over the years the deeper meaning of what the food packages and bread in combination have done with an entire society.

More and more we realize that the presence of the Church and the work that is being done, has opened not only doors, but also people's hearts.

For more than one year we have been in a pandemic, that in many ways has changed the conditions of living for the entire world. Moldova has been hit extremely hard. Today, there are more than 5,700 deaths from Covid-19 and more than 250,000 people have been infected. There are new cases every day. In a situation like this, both bread and food packages have been given an even more significant role.

In the greeting we received from Pastor Igor he writes about the situation that is becoming more and more worrying. At the same time, he realizes that more and more people come to the Church to seek help. Here is Pastor Igor's greeting:

God is the only solution, and bread, and food are tools through which the message of God's love reaches people. The situation in Moldova is unstable. We have at least 500 new covid cases every day. Right now, we have more deaths than China. People are dissatisfied with the restrictions. The politicians are playing their "game". The number of unemployed



Ion tells about what the food packages mean to him.



Receiving a food package means you are not forgotten and that someone cares about you.

increases each day. Clear solutions to stop the pandemic are lacking from the government.

There is only one solution left – to appeal to God. To visit the Church has become a necessity. People see the Church as a safe place.

More and more people who come to the Church to receive bread and food packages, express a desire to share their problems with us.

For example: Ion, an elderly man, confessed to my wife Sveta the great role bread and food packages play for him and his family. How often he is hungry and how he has prayed to God to give him food.

Other poor people come to the Church in hopes of finding someone who wants to listen to their problems and will pray for them.

We thank God for open doors during the pandemic and for being able to share the gospel about salvation with the people.

With love, Pastor Igor

We are so thankful for all the work that is being done and for the contacts they create in society. Bread and food packages are clear symbols of hope and love expressed in practical action.

Thank you for your support for this project that is so incredibly important not least during the pandemic.

The future of Moldova is uncertain



There is a lot that can be written about this country, that in many ways is going through a steel bath that will determine its future. The widespread poverty in Moldova empties its villages of inhabitants. More and more villages are falling victims to emigration. This is something I have noticed when visiting the country. Many houses, where generations lived together, are abandoned today. The older generation is now gone and many of the younger people have left the country. According to a recent report from United Nations, 25% of all the children and people over 60 live in poverty. Even if the poverty decreased slightly in recent years, a significant part of the population still live-in poverty.

Moldova is among the countries in Europe whose population is now declining at the fastest rate. In the active part of the population the relocation rate is 40%. The elderly part of the population increases, since it is preferable for the younger ones to leave the country. Year 2023, if this rate persists, the country will have 2,4 million inhabitants compared to 2,9 million today. Year 2010 it was 3,5 million.

Since the election on November 1, last year the political situation remains unstable since they have not been able to agree on the political balance of power in the Parliament. In April, the Parliament was dissolved, and a new election will take place in July this year. Much is at stake and the future is uncertain. With a new president, who wants to take the country closer to EU, a lot needs to be done before the country has leveled the poverty curve.

After many decades of corruption and abuse of power, many are waiting for a higher standard of living than the country has today. An absolute necessity, for the development of the country, is that the country's judiciary is brought to justice and that they take the fight against the widespread corruption.

During the ten years I have been visiting the country, I have witnessed how the political abuse of power has affected the most vulnerable. We have understood that the help given via PTPI becomes important for the people who are hit so hard.

