



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

NEWS

# BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

June-July 2021

## Summer camp in progress



*Some of the children who have participated in the day camps over the years, ages 5-12.*

The month of June is the first real summer month here in Sweden. We are among the many who hope for a nice summer with sun and warm weather. The sun does something to us that makes us all feel good. Wherever you are, we want to wish you a nice summer.

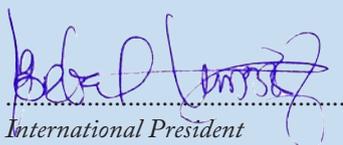
Time is special. As we know it can be perceived differently, even though time is constant. The time given to us, is called Chronos, it is linear and extends both backwards and forwards. A day is added to the next and a month to the next and is turned into a year. There is also another way to tell time called Kairos. It's God's way to tell time, and it goes according to God's chronology. It does not have to do with our chronological hour. We can read about the Chronos time when we study God's Word. There are times and moments written down that will occur when God's time is right.

Kairos means that God is never late or forgets something. God is always on time. Maybe it looks different to us, and we might not agree. God and his plan for this world and for our lives, always follows – Kairos, God's clock. In John 1 we read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In the beginning... in the Hebrew language "Bereshit bara Elohim" are also the first words in Genesis. It means "before everything", in other words before all creation, Jesus Christ was with God.

God is by nature not bound to time and space. He shows up for us when we least expect it, when the time is right, in Kairos-time, both in prayer and in answer to prayer! Therefore, we should not despair.

God has not forgotten his promises and God is always true to his words. Therefore, we must learn to live a "Kairos life" in a Chronos world, where our lives are in tune with God's clock. May the Lord help us to live such a life.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support. It means the world to us. During June and July we are raising funds for the summer camps in Moldova, that you can read more about in this letter.

  
International President

Ten years have passed since we, at the request of Pastor Igor, arranged the first summer camp for the children in Glodeni, Moldova. We started on a small scale with about 30 children. As the years have passed, the number has grown at a steady pace. When we sum up the last two years' number of participants, we can see that we have been able to send just over one hundred children each year to the summer camps and day activities. It is a fantastic inflow of children that has taken place.

It is also worth mentioning that some of the children continue to come to the Church for their weekly activities during the rest of the year. We cannot understand enough what it means, but we know that this work has brought fruit over the years. If it had not been for the annual camps, we would not have had the privilege of getting to know the children's families. Igor writes the following:

We all know that the most fun time for kids is summer. The most fun for them is the summer camps we arrange. The camp is the thing the children look forward to the most during the entire year.

I like to mention just a few things why the camps are so important to the children and what they mean to them.

First and foremost, it is a place where the children can learn more about God and where they can practice prayer, which is the way we get a personal relationship with God. Secondly, it is an opportunity to make new friends, which in turn helps the children to maintain a healthy relationship with

God. Thirdly, play and sport activities, that the children like. Finally, the camps are a bridge through which the children and their families reach the Church.

We pray that God will bless all the children who come to the summer camps.

*Igor Lazar, Pastor*

This year the Church is planning to hold two summer camps. The first will be in July and the other, for the older children, will be during the month of August. The total cost for both camps will be \$3,500, which includes food, activities and a bus ride to an amusement park. It also includes the purchase of some new activity equipment for both indoor and outdoor activities. For the older kids it even includes an overnight stay at a campground. The cost for each child is \$35 for a week's camp.

We also think that after a long and protracted pandemic with hard restrictions, it is even more important for the children to spend time with friends. Even Moldova has had distance studies, which means that many of the children have not been to school for an exceptionally long time. To be able to get away, if only for a day or so, is something many of the children long for.

We also know that many families have a hard time to put food on the table. For us to be able to offer these children cooked meals during a few days, is especially important. We are well aware that the pandemic still can change our plans, but we want to plan for this anyhow and then we have to wait and see if it is possible to implement the plan.

## Great distress in the wake of the pandemic



*The food packages are a visible proof of God's love and care in a difficult time.*

Some time ago we wrote about the situation in the village of Batar in Romania, where there is a large Roma population. During the pandemic, the situation has grown even more worrying. After an appeal from Pastor Laurentiu, we did a fund raising to be able to do a food distribution. Due to the generosity of many, we had the opportunity to give \$3,300 towards distribution of food to these families.

Due to illness in Laurentiu's family, unfortunately his wife came down with Covid, they had to move the distribution forward. But recently, in connection with the Orthodox Easter, that is one month after our Easter holiday, the food was distributed to the needy families. Laurentiu writes the following:

The Easter holiday has been a fantastic time to spend time together with family

and friends and together celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been able to eat good food served on nice porcelain and a nice tablecloth and enjoy great fellowship with friends. This is not the case for certain families in the Roma community in Batar. Despite the fact that they can be together as a family, the availability of food has been a great challenge. But because of the generosity of many, we had the privilege of preparing food packages to give to the needy families. This created joy in many worried homes. Unfortunately, there is so much death and grief around us. Every drop of hope is so welcomed in this sea of despair. We pray God's blessing on you all. With your help we will also be able to care of the families during the coming weeks.

The need for help remains in this village as long as the pandemic makes it impossible to travel. Many had jobs in other countries but have been forced to go back home when the pandemic started. We will continue to stay in touch with Laurentiu and if the need occurs, we will do another fundraising for this purpose. Thank you for your support which made this possible.

build. May the Lord help us with all this.

*Pastor Igor*

In one sense, we are not in a hurry to kick this project off, due to the situation in respect of the pandemic, but on the other hand, we are very eager to get started. This because of the already increased need of help that we see. The aftermath of the pandemic will also cause an increase of people asking for help. Considering this, it feels even more urgent that we can start this project, even if it goes slowly.

So, what do we want to do? There are many thoughts on how the building can be used. But there are three bearing thoughts. The first is the humanitarian and social work, where we believe this center can play an important role in the society. Pastor Igor has a vision to build a dining room for about a hundred people with an associated kitchen and a room for counselling. This would be on the first floor. He also wants to build "social showers", where we can offer a shower for people who lack showers and bathrooms at home.

Secondly, is to offer a place where children and teenagers can have different activities, some kind of a youth center. This would also, if the area permits, include a gymhall for playing basketball etc on the upper level. This could be rented out, but also be used for the Church.

In the other part of the building, we would like to build 8-10 hotel rooms that could be rented out for commercial purposes and also be used for visiting groups. Both the gym, the hotel rooms and the dining room could help to create a local economy, which can result in both work opportunities and also generate finances back into the operation. In the long run, it can be a help to self-help.

For the time being, nothing is finalized, but this is broadly the vision we carry in our hearts and that we sense is right for this place. During more than ten years we have sown into good soil, into the hearts of the people. Now we believe God is urging us to take further steps.

## The social center in Moldova



*The plans are to build an additional floor on the entire length of the building*

it looks a bit brighter, since they have started to vaccinate, and the spread of infection has started to slow down. Therefore, we would like to start with some preparatory work and hopefully continue with the more extensive work during late summer. Igor has sent the following greeting to us:

What I can say is that we, with God's help, will take the first steps in July. We need to speak with the city architect about how to connect the second floor to the adjacent building which is a five-story building. There is also an airborne power line that is crossing the existing building. It has to be removed in order for us to be able to



*"Social showers" might be fitted into this room.*

