



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE  
INTERNATIONAL**

NEWS

# BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

December 2021

## The situation is getting worse in Moldova

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter of the year. An entire year has passed, and it has been as strange as last year. The pandemic we so much hoped should be over or weakened, continues its ravages in Europe and around the world. Above all, Romania has been hit very hard recently. The hospitals are overloaded with COVID patients, and the situation has therefore escalated beyond control. As long as the situation is this severe, it is not wise to visit these countries. The number of vaccinated needs to increase, to make it feel reasonably safe to travel.

We are, of course, sad that we cannot visit the mission field, but God has kept us safe, and we can still do the work we are called to do. Please, pray for these countries that God will protect and preserve them. You can read more about the situation in Moldova in this newsletter.

In another greeting you can read about the pastoral education ASIST in Romania. This very important ministry wants to strengthen the role of the pastors.

We want to extend a big thank you for your support during this past year. Your prayers and financial support mean the world. We are so thankful to the Lord for all that has been accomplished for the kingdom of God. Many, both young and old, have been reached by the gospel, thanks to your and many others' faithful support. We are now looking forward to a new year, and our prayer is that the pandemic will be mitigated, so that we, in safer forms, can resume travel again.

We look forward to writing to you again. We wish you a

*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!*

*Bede P. Linsley*  
International President



*The man is paralyzed from the waist down and spends most of his time in this bed. He is cared for by his wife, who was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago.*

The country of Moldova is under pressure due to both the pandemic, and also because of the world situation and the country's own internal affairs. With a new government and the focus set on a membership in EU, the country has a long way to go to a normalized situation.

The Moldovan government has an outstanding debt of \$79 million to the Russian gas company Gazprom, which should have been paid in November\* and a budget deficit of \$1,239 billion. Therefore, the country has difficulties to meet their financial obligations. The gas debt is a complicated matter, which even incorporates Transnistria that is responsible for most of the unpaid debt. In the midst of all this, man ends up poor, as the prices on groceries and the so important natural gas, that is used for both heating of houses and for cooking, become more expensive. As an example, food is expensive by 15.49% and commercial products 11.28%. The electrical from 2 lei has risen to 6 lei. The gas from 4 lei has risen to 11.08 lei. Pastor Igor writes:

When the prices increase, the poor people look for the truth. We are living in a world full of chaos and disappointments. People do not trust anyone. Everything that people once trusted, becomes illusions.

Now, when everything is more expensive: natural gas, fuel, electricity,

food and groceries, the poor people in the society put their hope in God. As a result of this, more and more people come to the Church to get bread and food packages. The social projects we do, are becoming increasingly important. We are facing winter and many people have nothing to eat. Many lack the most necessary items.

Low pensions and high prices create an uncertain situation for many of the old people. Therefore, many turn to the Church in their despair hoping to hear some words of encouragement and get some of the bread we distribute.

We thank God that the bread prevents people from starving and the Word of God helps them to get closer to him. May the Lord have mercy on all the poor people, the orphaned and the widows in our society.

*With love  
Pastor Igor*

The fears we have had, now seem to be a reality. The pandemic has increased the need for help. More and more people are coming to the Church with their needs. It is very much an existential need, which also has a spiritual dimension. Let us continue to pray for the Church in their very important work. Your financial support means so much in times when the needs increase. Thank you for your commitment!

\* The debt has been paid in full, but an investigation is now underway to investigate unfair prize tariffs, were the purchase price was 2-3 times higher compared to neighboring countries, discriminating Moldova. Russia has used energy as an instrument of political influence.

## ASIST'S work continues

The work of educating the lay pastors continues. But it is with very limited resources they choose to continue this work, since many students lost their jobs, due to the pandemic and therefor can no longer pay the tuition fee. The pandemic is still affecting Romania and the fourth wave is harder than any of the previous ones. With a very low number of vaccinated people, (until recently the number seems to go up), all the hospitals are filled with COVID patients. The nation has asked EU for help in order to be able to handle the situation with all the people who have fallen ill. In the midst of all this, there is a hunger to reach people with the gospel. In the tracks of the pandemic, it has also awakened a spiritual hunger among people who seek a deeper meaning in their lives.

Recently we forwarded a gift to support this very important ministry because we want to see this work continue. The kingdom of God needs people who can bring in the harvest that is ripe. Without these workers, the harvest risk being lost. Therefore, the work done by ASIST is very important, because it empowers the pastors to better understand the Word of God and to preach the gospel in a better way to the people they want to reach with the gospel. Mircea writes the following about the work:

We are so happy about the number of students who participate in our ASIST program. More than 40 people who are involved in leading positions in churches in the northwest area, are here today to get equipped and to grow in their faith and ministry. We are so blessed to see them hungry and thirsty for the Word of God.



*It is gratifying to see so many young pastors and spiritual leaders participate in the training.*

But as I told you before, I am still so sorry for the students who were not able to participate, due to the high costs and the difficulties with the expenditures. God is faithful!

*Mircea Ardelean  
Leader, ASIST*

We strongly sense that this ministry is so important. Our prayer is that we will be able to support them so that they can go strengthened out of the pandemic. The education of pastors has been and still is an important part of PTPI's work and vision. As many of you probably know, for many years we have both supported pastors and contributed to many pastoral conferences being held in the countries in Eastern Europe. Through ASIST we have the opportunity to continue this vision.

The kingdom of God is in dire need of workers who are willing to work with the harvest that is ripe.

The pandemic has opened new opportunities for the gospel. People are

looking for security in life. A safe haven to which they can go. The church is that place. Let us not neglect this opportunity. Please, pray for this ministry and if the Lord speaks to you to support this ministry, it is much appreciated. Feel free to contact us to find out how you can give support.

Or you may give a donation. Please, mark you gift "ASIST", and we will see to that your gift, in full, will go for that purpose. Thank you for your support!

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support! We hope your Holidays will be a blessed time together with family and friends.

Help us save a few dollars or Euros

You can help us lower our costs for postage by signing up to the e-letter instead. Scan the QR-code below or point your browser to our website and sign up there. Thank you!

## Mariana has moved in

Earlier this year we wrote about Mariana, the Roma woman who, in the midst of the pandemic, was thrown out of her home by her own family and she became homeless.

Through Pastor Popa we became aware of her situation. He also asked about our ability to help pay for her new home. A small house with one room is now finished in time for the winter.

Mariana says that she is so happy and thankful for the help she got from us and other people who contributed to this.

She says her new home exceeds all her expectations. She did not believe it would be finished before winter. But the house is now inaugurated along with blessings of the pastors.

We want to extend a big thank you to you who have been a part of this and given financial help to our work among the Roma population. It is really heart warming to see that it is possible to make a difference in the lives of the people who live in the margins of the society. The gospel is able to restore the weak and give strength and power for a life with Jesus at the center.



*Mariana is happy and grateful for her new home.*

