



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

January 2025

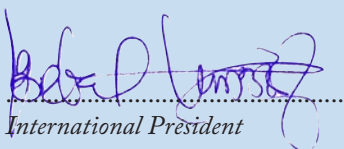
Christmas celebration in the church in Glodeni

Even though we are nearing the end of January, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year! After some time off during the holidays, we are now back in full swing working here at the office, with the creation of this newsletter being part of this. We are looking forward to another year of missionary endeavour. Only God knows exactly what that will entail.

However, we have a few things in the "pipeline". Last year we started work on the social centre in Moldova. Although not much has been done on the inside, we have now completed the installation of the solar panels, and they are fully operational. A positive development that, in a practical sense, reduces our electricity costs to a minimum. This means more money for targeted missionary work in Moldova. Initially, these funds will go towards the renovation of the property but, in the long run, we will be able to help more people, which is fantastic.

We would also like to tell you about some things that we have supported financially in connection with Christmas. Florin Popa, Romania, made a Christmas effort in one of the congregations where he serves. We also had the annual Christmas initiative with food packages in Moldova, which was a great blessing. Read about that in the article to the right. We have also included some information about the situation in Moldova, which is still shaky, and the effect of the Ukrainian war is causing a lot of issues and problems.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us in this work. Your prayer and your giving into this work is of great importance. Without your donations, our reach will be shorter and less impactful. The most important thing is to give according to how God urges you. We ask for God's blessing on you and your situation. God loves a cheerful giver and God blesses his work. Thank you for your support!


International President



People of all ages come to the church. A great development that we and the congregation are happy about together.

We feel grateful for all the people who were reached by the gospel during the Christmas holidays in Moldova.

At the risk of sounding like bragging a little, I marvel at how God works. God transforms hearts, makes them soft and receptive to the gospel. It is great and it is amazing every time we witness a person's conversion. In a country strongly characterized by Orthodox faith, where much superstition and unhealthy beliefs affect people's everyday life, we see how the word of God takes hold of people in a completely new way. He sets them free from these religious bonds.

A Church that proclaims the living hope of salvation, where God's care for those who come within earshot, brings a great blessing. Today, the Church holds regular baptisms. This is a clear sign that the congregation is in good spiritual health.

This Christmas, everyone was invited to a celebration in the Church. All were offered something to eat, and the children received a Christmas present. Pastor Igor writes:

I want to thank God for Christmas, which brought much comfort to the hearts of children and the elderly. I saw how children rejoiced, and I saw how widows and poor people thanked God when, through God's grace, they had a good Christmas.

In the pictures you can see the joy of children and the happiness of worried people.

Christmas has changed people's attitudes towards the Bible. Some come to the church with their Bibles



and during the service they search the Scriptures to clearly see that everything they hear in the sermon is true. God touches people's hearts through Scripture.

Igor Lazar
Pastor

We rejoice together with Pastor Igor over the success of God's word in the church. In times of unrest, the church takes on an increasingly important role in people's lives. It becomes a source of hope and comfort, something many lack today. It is with confidence that we now enter 2025 and we believe that it will be an interesting year in the history of the church. Not least, since we have begun work on the social centre, which will also be a meeting place for the Church. Together we are building the kingdom of God in a country in need of restoration and salvation.



A woman reads the word of God.

Christmas with Roma families in Tinca

For a number of years we have helped pastor Florin Popa with various humanitarian and social projects in the Roma colony in Tinca, just outside Oradea in Romania. A place that, before the Roma congregation was founded, was a dark and violent place. Thanks to the hard work of the Roma congregation and the social efforts that the congregation has made, this place has, to some extent, undergone a dramatic change. Violence and crime have decreased.

Some of these efforts, we as an organisation, have been a part of. The most recent effort was the renovation of a building that now houses toilets. Before, there was only an outdoor toilet with a hole in the ground. Over the years we have also provided families with medicine, food and firewood.

In connection with the Christmas celebrations, we sent 1,000 Euros to support the purchase of Christmas presents for the children in several poor families, plus some other things that the families were in need of. Florin Popa writes the following in his greeting to us:

With a heart full of gratitude, I am writing to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity and support in our Christmas gift giveaways. Thanks to your contribution, we have managed to bring joy and hope into the lives of many children and families in need. Each donation was a ray of light during this time of generosity. Through joint efforts, we



Många familjer fick en julhälsning med klappar till barnen och annan nödvändig hjälp till jul. Glädjen var stor, likaså tacksamheten.

Pastor Florin Popa delar julens budskap och välsignar paketen innan de delas ut.

managed to offer gifts to those who would otherwise not have experienced the joy of Christmas.

The smiles and joy we saw on the faces of the recipients are proof that your generosity made a huge difference.

We want to assure you that each contribution was used with care and openness to maximize the impact of these

gifts. Your efforts have not only enriched the lives of the less fortunate, but have also shown that the spirit of community and solidarity between people is alive and well.

Thank you for choosing to be part of this initiative. Your dedication is an inspiration to us all, and your good deeds will remain in the memory of those you helped.

*Florin Popa
Pastor*

MOLDOVAN ENERGY CRISIS

At the turn of the year, Moldova was faced with a major challenge when the Russian natural gas imported from Ukraine was no longer available. As part of its war effort, Ukraine chose not to extend the agreement with Russian Gazprom, which supplied the gas. The gas is used for both heating homes and generating electricity.

There are many angles to what is happening now. Much of it is a political game, but behind this there is also a more serious and profound situation.

Moldova is prepared and will cope with the crisis, as it has previously purchased large quantities of gas from Romania and countries in the West. More serious is the humanitarian crisis that awaits the inhabitants of the self-governing Transnistria, which is now completely

without gas and electricity. This means a humanitarian crisis is taking place in the shadow of the war in Ukraine. So far into this energy conflict, Russia has shown no willingness to help this pro-Russian part of Moldova.

But, in all this, there is still a glimmer of hope. Moldova has now, to a limited extent started to deliver gas there. But there is still a shortage, which is why rationing has been introduced. Twice daily, for four hours at a time day, the gas is cut off. The hope is now that this pro-Russian, unrecognized breakaway state, thanks to this benevolence, would reunite with Moldova. If this happens, it will be a win for Moldova and its people. A conflict that has been going on since 1990, when Moldova broke away from the Soviet Union, would be over.

Moldova's quest for stability and towards the EU is a political struggle for freedom and from political oppression. Much is, therefore, at stake and much can be lost if Moldova is unable to resist Russian influence.

People to People International has been working in Moldova for almost 15 years. We have seen how the country has recently risen from the ashes, with a desire to improve the living conditions of its inhabitants. We need to include Moldova and the Moldovan people in our prayers. The situation in Moldova remains serious, not only from a political perspective, but also on a humanitarian level. The cost of living has increased significantly, which affects ordinary people, but, above all, the poorest.

