

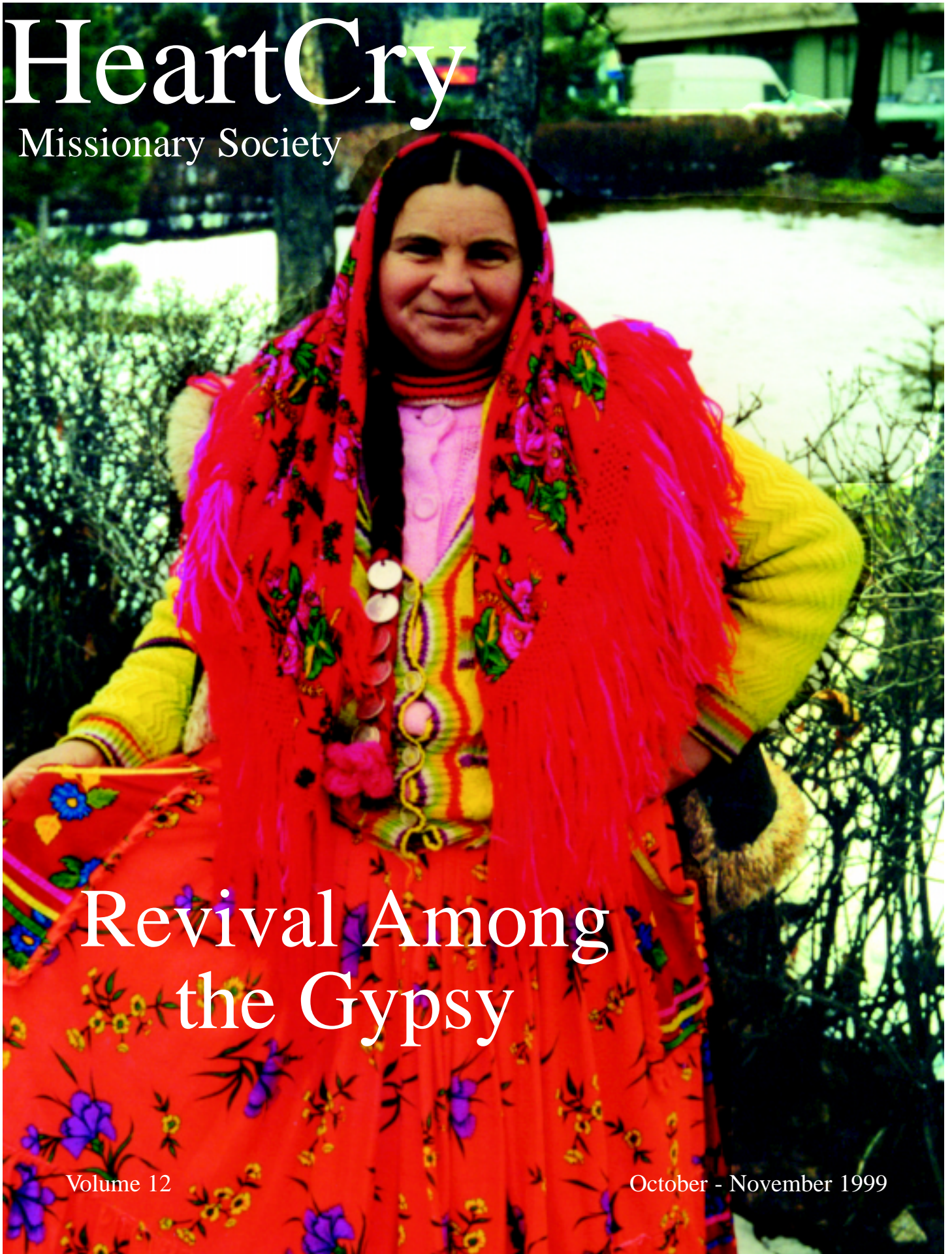
# HeartCry

Missionary Society

## Revival Among the Gypsy

Volume 12

October - November 1999



## HEARTCRY MAGAZINE

The HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY MAGAZINE is a ministry of the HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY under the authority of Waldo Baptist Church, Metropolis, Illinois.

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The purposes for which the HeartCry publication is distributed are:

- The Glory of God. The chief end of all created beings and their purposes is the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- Stewardship among God's people. Many churches and individuals have given generously of their own resources so that this ministry might exist and minister among the nations. It touches us as stewards of God to give a faithful report.
- Thanksgiving. It is our desire to make known the gracious work of God in meeting all our needs so that Christians might offer thanksgiving to God for His love, goodness, faithfulness and strength towards us.
- Encouragement. We hope to encourage God's people to trust in God through seeing His faithfulness in going beyond our own abilities, righteousness, and faith to always supply our needs and help us in our time of trouble. We hope that the publication of God's gracious answers to our feeble prayers will motivate God's people to also pray believing that God is both willing and able to move on their behalf and help them in their time of need.
- World Mission Awareness. We endeavor to make known the world's great need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to motivate Christians to give their lives to the work of the harvest. We also seek to show Christians that the Great Commission is not a losing battle, but that great victories are being won and the Gospel is spreading among every nation, tribe, people and tongue.
- Prayer. We hope to encourage God's people to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He might send forth laborers into His harvest, and that all the Earth might be filled with the Glory of God.

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## HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The HeartCry Missionary Society is dedicated to the task of fulfilling the Great Commission through sponsoring national pastors and missionaries in the foreign field. The traditional mission methods of only training and financing North American missionaries is a slow and costly process that has not and will not enable us to reach the world. A national pastor or missionary can be prepared for ministry without years of language training or cultural adjustment and at a minimum cost. Therefore HeartCry seeks to work with national pastors and missionaries to help them evangelize and plant Churches among their own peoples.

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our constant motivation, not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory and our God-given desire to see Him glorified in every nation, tribe, people and language.

### PRINCIPLES OF MINISTRY

- Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord then He will be our patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.
- We intend to never enlarge our field of labor by contracting debts. This is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the New Testament. In secret prayer, God helping us, we will carry the needs of this ministry to the Lord and act according to the direction that He gives.
- We will not compete with other biblical mission agencies, but use the resources that God has given to us to work in partnership with them. If the Lord directs, we will sacrifice our own goals and resources that other mission works may be helped and the Kingdom of God increased.
- In meeting any need, those of us who are supported financially by this ministry will be the first to sacrifice all things necessary for the will of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.
- We will not measure the success of this ministry by the amount of money given, Bibles distributed or national missionaries supported, but by the Lord's blessing on the work.

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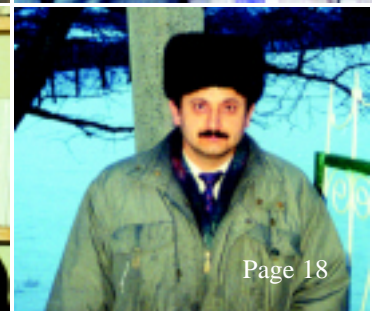
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# HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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## *From the* Director



*Paul Washer and some of the Gypsy children of the Baptist Church in Voetin. What a wonder to see the magnificent works of God among the Gypsies.*

As you and I look around us, we often see so little accomplished. Our days are filled with busy work that seems of little eternal value and even our best attempts at ministry seem so feeble and unproductive. Our message is often ridiculed and the work of God in our lives either goes unnoticed by the unbelieving world or is openly denied. Sometime all seems so hopeless and dark, as though we were the only Christians, and the cause of Christ in the world was a catastrophic failure.

In these times it is helpful, if not necessary, to take our eyes off ourselves and look to the greater picture. God is doing an immeasurable and undeniable work in the world today. Nations come and go, rulers turn to dust, crowns are buried in the sand and thrones crack and crumble and are carried away with the wind, but the Kingdom of Christ and His God continues from generation to generation. And you are a part of that Kingdom and He who began a good work in you will carry it out until the day of Christ's return.

Yes, my dear Christian, it is God who is at work in

you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do not be discouraged or downhearted, rejoice in the Lord and lift your banner high. Strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet. The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Regardless of your strength and sphere of influence, you *are* the salt of the earth, the light of the world and a city set on a hill. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify you Father who is in heaven. Preach the Gospel in season and out, make known the glories of Christ to all those around you, do not lose heart in doing good, for in due time you shall reap if you do not grow weary. For we must all stand before the judgment throne of Christ to receive a reward for what we have done in the body whether good or bad. He comes quickly and His reward is with Him. To you has been reserved a great entrance into His presence and an inheritance upon which the angels look to cast a glance.

We are living in the greatest era of Christianity that the Church has ever known. We should be overwhelmed with joy to see the great advances that have been made. By His own power and strong hand, the Lord has opened doors that were closed to the Church and the Gospel only a few years ago. Every day the Kingdom of God is growing in every part of the globe and the knowledge of God is being spread abroad into all the world. Even among the nations and people groups that once lived in great darkness there now appears a great light. God is fulfilling that great promise He made to Himself long before the creation of the world:

*"For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My Name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My Name will be great among the nations."*

*Malachi 1:11*

Join with the Lord and His harvesters in this great day of harvest. Do not delay. Do not tarry. Put your hand to the plow and do not look back.

*Your brother,  
Paul David Washer*





*A baptism for new Gypsy believers in the city of Cornetu, Romania. Over 400 have been baptized in the last several months. In the months of April and May alone, 255 adults were baptized.*



*The great work of God has been witnessed and confirmed by many of the leaders of the Romania Baptist Union. Pictured here is Moises Marin (leader among the Gypsies), Cornelia and Vasile Talos, president of the Baptist Union. He has been present in several of the services and confirms that the many professions of faith are accompanied by genuine evidence of conversion.*



*Crowds of people, Gypsies and Romanians, believers and unbelievers, gather to hear the Gospel and to see the great mass of gypsies baptized in obedience to the Lord's commands. God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty, and the base things of the world and the things which are despised, so that he that boasts, might boast only in the Lord.*





*Believers making their way to the baptismal waters of a local stream. There is an excitement in the air as more and more people come to the Lord in repentance and faith. Even the unconverted Romanians, who hold the gypsies in contempt, are pleased about what God is doing. They say that when the Gypsy is converted, he stops stealing and cheating.*



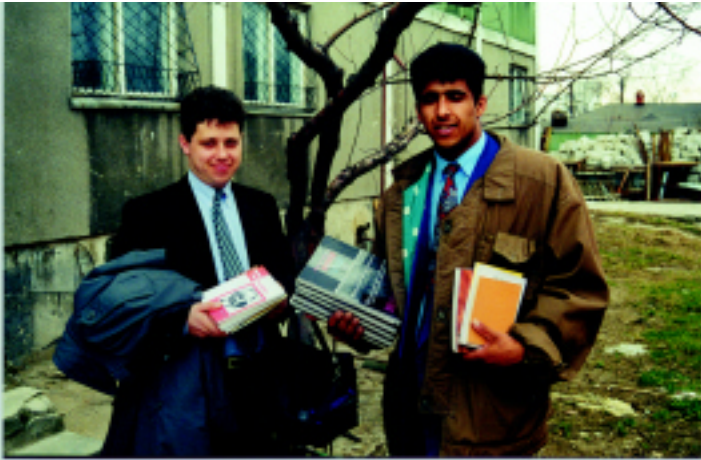
*Standing room only in the worship service in the church in Cornetu. The following is the testimony from Lamar Faulkner, an North American layman who witness the service. "The Church was packed with people standing five deep in the balcony. The Pastor and laymen were strict disciplinarians. There were many children also in attendance and they sat through the service without making a sound. I was impressed that this was a community of spirit-filled believers. I will always be thankful for the privilege of worshipping there."*



# Testimonies from the Field

## Florin Ciornea

Braila, Romania



*Florin (on the right) and a fellow pastor is now a missionary to the Gypsies in the city of Braila. They have just received study materials provided by your giving to HeartCry.*

Briefly, I would like to share with you my testimony. God works differently in people's lives and this is the case in my life. I was born to an orthodox family in the city of Fetesti. Until I was 12 years old, my life was a nightmare and I spent my childhood on the streets with the bad people, learning many things which are useless here in this world and before God. (It was not until later that I discovered that these are the very things that crucified Christ and almost led me to hell.) Early on, I began stealing, cheating, visiting Discos, and bars. At the age of 14, I was arrested and put in jail for a year and four months. I was captured with four other thieves for robbery.

During my time I was in jail, I completed my instruction in vice and wickedness. When I got out of jail, I began to practice what I had learned. I had become an expert thief. I continued to live the way I pleased, forgetting that what I had done before had resulted in my imprisonment. There was hardly a day when I did not get in trouble with the police. I lived to steal, cheat and rob. No one told me about God. In my family, I only heard about God when my father got drunk and began to curse. I could not see God and I knew very little about Him, but I knew that He was the one whom my father cursed.

One day I was on the train coming home for my birthday and the ticket collector asked me for the ticket. I did not have one, and when he asked me to pay half price, I got angry and beat him up. I was captured again and taken to the police. At the police station, I was left alone in the office and I began to think about my life. I knew that they were going to imprison me again for two and a half

months for what I did. I did not want to return to the prison and so for the first time in my life I cried out to God. I told Him to please help me. I did not know how to pray and so I just put my hands together and I promised God that if He would let me go I would not do bad things anymore. I never thought about repenting, but I only thought that if God would help me I would not do bad things anymore. Everytime someone came into the office I thought that they were going to take me to prison, but God really did do a miracle and the police officer allowed me to go and told me that I had high connections. He gave me a fine and I only had to pay 20,000 lei. I was so glad that I forgot about what I asked God and what He did for me. I really thought that my connections were the reason why the police allowed me to go.

A few months later, I was arrested again under accusations of robbery and had to serve three years in prison. While in prison, I was accused of other robberies and the judge sentenced me to an additional 5 years in prison. I heard the news while I was in prison in Slobozia. The police officer came and opened the small window in the door of my cell and asked me to come and sign my conviction. I was to spend the next eight years of my life in prison and I was only 16 years old. I realized then that my life was ruined. I thought to myself, "So this is how I will come to an end. I am to die in prison." This would be the story of my life and the words on my tombstone, "Buried here a criminal who died in prison." But God had another plan.

In 1992, the government began to allow evangelical missionaries to visit the prisoners. I met some brothers from Bucharest who came and presented the Gospel to me. At first I did not know what repenters (name for Christians in Romania) were, but I was bored in prison and went to their meetings only to have something to do. I had spent nearly two years in my cell and so I would do anything to get out. I went to these evangelistic meetings and heard many wonderful things. The first thing I heard was that God loved me. Of course, I could not believe that because no one could love me like I was. I thought to myself, can God really love a thief? The man who was preaching to us told us there was a man and his name was Jesus and He not only loved us but he died for our sins!

So this is how I began to attend the Gospel meetings. At the beginning, it was only to kill time, make deals with other prisoners or have an opportunity to get out of my cell and talk to someone. In spite of my wickedness and hypocrisy, God was really working on my heart. He actually had begun to prepare my heart for his work even though I did not pay any attention. One time because I had done something very bad, the policemen put me in a cell by myself and chained me to the center pole. It was horrible. The room was very small. They allowed me to ask for somethings and so I asked for a Bible, cigarettes, clothes and coffee. The guys who had been there before, had given me a key to unlock the chains when no one was looking. If the police had known about the key, they would have left me in chains for the entire length of the sentence. I received food only once a day and could have no visitors or receive



*Like Florin, there are hundreds of Gypsy children living in poverty and surrounded by corruption and immorality. For Christ's sake, they must be reached!*

mail from home. One day, I opened the New Testament and I began to read Matthew 5 and the Sermon on the Mount. And I began to speak to God and tell Him, "God you are not fair!" Many people do the same things I do and they are not in prison! I read the Scripture in Matthew 5:4 that says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." And it seemed to me that God was saying to me, "Florin you are blessed because of this mourning you feel in your heart. One day you shall be comforted. I shut the New Testament and throughout the night I thought about what I had read in the Scripture. I began to look very closely at my life in and outside of prison. I felt so sick about myself and everything I had done. It is a very horrible thing when God turns on the light and makes you look at your life when it is so full of sin. I had been deceived. I thought I was a good man and that I was tough enough to make it on my own, but it was all a lie.

That morning the police released me from my chains and took me back to my room. None of the other guys told me anything when I got to the room, but the fact that I was released from my chains and back in my cell was a miracle. Two days later, I went to the church meeting in the prison and the man that was preaching asked me a question. He said, "Suppose that you are in front of God and He asks you why should He should let you into His heaven, What will you answer?" He also said to me, "Do not be afraid one

day you will get out of this prison. But do not forget that after your death there is yet another prison from which you will never escape." When I heard this I could not believe it. I thought to myself, "I am in prison here on earth, why should I be in prison for eternity?" I did not know why I would be going to this eternal prison, but the man pointed to my sin and told me that it was the reason I would go to the eternal prison. He then explained to me that my crimes not only had to be punished on earth, but also in hell. I asked him, "Is there no chance to escape from this eternal prison? And he told me that the only answer was Jesus Christ. He told me that I had to believe in what He had done for me on the cross. He told me that Christ died for my sin and I had to confess my sins to Him and repent.

I went back into my room thinking. I had been in prison for three years and I could hardly remember how life was on the outside. I was almost 18 years old. I knew I had to do something. Once again, I decided to stop doing all the bad things by using my own will. That night, I had many frightening thoughts turning in my mind and I could not sleep. I smoked three packs of cigarettes and I drank a whole box of coffee. I was sick and shaking, but by God's grace I did not die. All my inmates saw what was happening to me and could not understand why I was feeling so bad. I knew that I had to make a decision. I knew that if I died I was going to be





*Gypsy children praising God in an open air meeting outside of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Voetin. Saved from a life of sin and death by the grace of God. The preacher who told them about Christ was sent by you!*

before God and I would have to pay for every sin I had committed in hell. The question in my head was, "What do I have to do?" I spent the next several days in this terror. I had tried, but I realized that I could not change anything in my life with my own power. Only God could do it.

A few days later, at five in the afternoon, we were expecting the police officers to come and do an inspection in our rooms. Since I was the leader of the dormitory I had to give a report on everyone. While I was waiting for the policeman, I was reading the New Testament. Suddenly, I became very angry. I threw down the New Testament and said to myself, "There is no God." I took a cigarette and tried to light it thinking, "If there is a God, why does He not help me? I am honest, and the preacher told me that God can see every man's heart. If there is sincerity in my heart, why is God not helping me?"

These were the last words I spoke as a rebellious man fighting against God. In an instant, all the turmoil that was inside me disappeared and a great calm came over me. Then I just heard a voice that spoke these words to me, "Florin who is wrong now? Can you still stay I am wrong after what I have just done for you? On hearing this, I threw the cigarette on the floor and yelled out in a loud voice, "It is over! It is over!" Some men yelled back to me, "What is over?" I answered, "My old life is over, from this moment

I will believe in God!" After this, I went into another room where we stored the food. The room was full of rats and roaches, but I did not care. I knelt down and said, "Lord Jesus, I deserved to go to hell. This is what I deserve, but the people you sent here told me that you died for me and that if I believe in what you said in the Bible I will be saved." Then I asked God to show me all the bad things I had done in my life so that I could confess them. That day God showed me how bad I was and all the evil that I had done. I could hardly believe the extent of my wickedness, but I thanked God, because from that moment He accepted me in His family. I went out of the room and I told my mates what happened to me and they could hardly believe it. Soon after, I was released from prison.

As I look back now, I realize prison was a blessed place for me. I see that I needed to be there because I deserved it and because this was the place where God had to put me so that I could be saved from that great eternal prison in hell. Now I am 19 years old and I can tell all of you that Jesus Christ loves you and you should listen to the good news of salvation. Do not be like me. You do not have to go to prison to be saved. Come to Christ now so that such suffering will not be necessary. Do not waste your life! Do not delay or maybe it will be too late for you.



# Pastor Virgil & Georgeta Marin

The Holy Trinity Church in Voetin

I want to say first of all that God is really working in our Church. It seems to me that every time I open up the Bible to feed God's people, he enlightens me and shows me what to say. I am always telling the gypsies that this world is passing away and coming to an end, that Jesus Christ is coming back and this world will not last. Therefore they must repent of their sins and turn to God. Many of the Romanian people are very glad that I am preaching the Gospel to the Gypsy people and that they are repenting. They say they are glad when the Gypsies become repenters (Christians), because Jesus puts an end to their stealing and sin.

As you can see we have worked very hard and we have fixed up our Church and made it ready for winter. At night we worship God by the light of the coal oil lamps and in the winter we warm ourselves with our stove and the love we have for God.



*Clockwise: (1) Pastor Virgil and his wife Georgeta; (2) the land and building when first purchased for the Holy Trinity Baptist Church; (3) the members of Holy Trinity after repairing their new place of worship; (4) worship inside the Holy Trinity Baptist Church.*







## Lazarus

*Member of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Voetin*

Before I met Christ, I smoked and drank and was very immoral. I treated my wife and children very badly. I would always come home drunk and beat up my family and destroy the house. I was of course a dead person living in my sin.

Because of the problems I caused for my wife, she began to visit a Christian family and this dear family would share with her about Jesus Christ and the Gospel. When I began to see the changes in my wife, soon I wanted to go with her to see the family and discover what had happened to my wife. One day I went with her and felt great joy as I listened to the Word of God. I understood that I was a sinner and that Jesus Christ came in the exact time to save me. I soon started attending the Church and finally one day I stood before the Church and admitted that I was a great sinner, a drunk and a terrible man. Then confessed faith in Jesus Christ who saved me. That day the Church prayed for me and soon I was baptized. This happened to me in 1989 and since that time I have followed the Lord.

## Mariana

*Lazarus's Wife*

Before my husband's conversion, my life was a terrible nightmare. My husband would come home almost every night drunk. He would curse and beat me, tear up the house and frighten the children. One day I met a family and they told me about the Gospel of Jesus. On the day I trusted in Christ, I took the Gospel home with me and said to my husband, "You must see this! You must listen! This is the good news of God for us!" After this, I became very sick, but I went to the Church and they prayed for me and I was healed. After I was healed, I went back to my husband and said to him, "This is what you must do. You must repent and be saved!" After my husband's conversion, he was truly changed. He stopped doing those things which caused our family so much pain. I can say that the Lord Jesus Christ has blessed his life and mine. We have three children and we are both raising them to follow the Lord.







## Pastor Ion and Maria Marin

### The Mission in Ramnicu-Sarat

The village where I preach is called Ramnicu-Sarat. I can testify to you that God is really working here among the people in our Church. I am very pleased to be their missionary/pastor and to care for them as an evangelist and shepherd. Each day I go from house to house and witness to the people about the grace of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. More and more people are coming to our meetings and I am very excited.

We have had much trouble with the orthodox priest who has started a campaign against us. He spreads propaganda and lies against us so that the people will not listen to the Gospel of salvation. The priest even sent people to our Church to beat us up and drive us from the neighborhood. They were all very bad men, but their evil has resulted in the glory of God. Even though persecution is a terrible thing, we feel that it has opened up a door for us and become a blessing. When the people began to persecute us we began to pray more and to ask God to bless them. We also began to pray more for

one another. The persecution has made our Church stronger. It has given us a greater fellowship and we feel more like brothers and sisters and that we need one another.

The people of the town saw how we reacted to the persecution and they saw that we were praying for the people who beat us up. Because of this they began to think better of us and to think less of the priest who did this to us. We now have six new converts who are ready to do the things that the Lord requires.

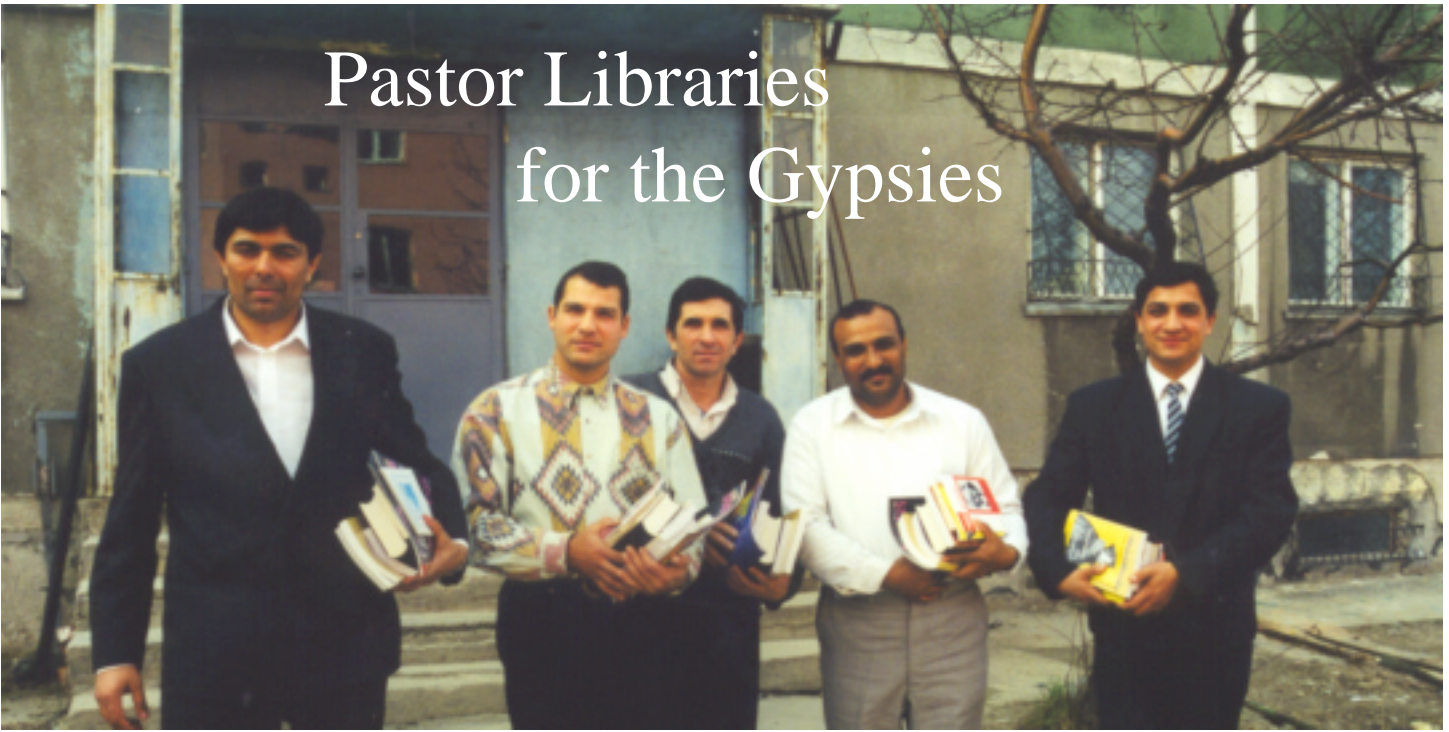
*The people of the town saw how we reacted to the persecution and they saw that we were praying for the people who beat us up. Because of this they began to think better of us and to think less of the priest who did this to us.*

There is a family in our village who has a boy that is 27 years old. This boy committed a very bad crime and the police were looking for him to take him to prison. Therefore he was very afraid and took many pills to kill himself. When he arrived at the hospital, he was in a coma. The doctors said that there was no hope for him and that he was

going to die. When we heard about this we went to our Church and prayed for him and God woke him up. Now he is at home and is eating and the doctors say that it is a miracle. Because of this thing that God has done many people in the town are now looking upon us with favor and it is a great opportunity for us to speak of Christ.



# Pastor Libraries for the Gypsies



*HeartCry would like to thank the Churches and individuals who have given so generously that we might provide Bibles and pastoral libraries for those in the field. A special thanks to Pastor Eddie Null and the "Men of Faith" of White Ash Baptist Church of Marion, Illinois for their faithfulness in this endeavor.*

## Julian Filip

Dear Church, I want to thank you in the name of the Lord Jesus for the love and the concern that you have showed for us, the Gypsy missionaries in Romania. You gave us these wonderful books in order to enrich our spiritual knowledge and to be more useful in God's work of saving people that are deep down in sin and ignorance. I want to thank you again and I want to promise you that I will study not because I am obliged to, but out of love, vivid interest and a thirst for knowing the Lord in a greater way. It is my greatest desire to be able to provide spiritual guidance to the souls that need to be saved. Thank you.

## Ion Marin

Dear beloved Church in Jesus Christ. I want to thank you sincerely for these books that you have sent us. They are of great value to me because they will be a great help in my spiritual life. I want to thank you for your love. You have worship God our Savior through giving me these books. May he help you and bless you in every way. Surely, these books that you sent us will be read with the greatest love in order that our joy and yours may be perfect. Thank you in the name of the Lord Jesus and may God bless you.

## Marion Nae

To the Church that bought these books for us. I thank you from the very depth of my heart for these books. They will be very helpful to me as I lead and pastor the people of God. My hearts desire is that you will continue to support us in prayer. Thank you and God bless you with His richest blessings.

## Samuel Stoica

To the Church that bought these books for me. I want to thank God that He put it on your heart to buy these books for me. I consider your gift to be a gift from God and I promise to read them all. I think they will help me to know more about God's power and teach me how to better minister to God's people. Once again I want to thank you with love, friendship and sincerity.

## Virgil Marin

To the Church that gave money to the Gypsies in order to buy books. We want to thank the Lord Jesus for the love you have shown the Gypsies. We want you to know that these books have met our needs. We pray that God will bless your church, homes, and families.





*Matei Muresan and his wife outside their apartment in Aiud. Their daughter Adina is now studying theology and missions in the capital city of Bucharest. Along with his prison ministry, brother Matei pastors two churches in the city of Teius and the village of Garbova de Sus, and teaches religion in the public school.*

## MATEI MURESAN

### *Prison Ministry in Aiud*

The men I work with in prison are the most serious criminals in Romania and are sentenced to 15 or more years in the prison. I am the only evangelical Christian minister who has a permit to go into these prisons and to speak with these men. The only others allowed in the prison are the Orthodox and Catholic priests. If I do not go to these men with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, no one else will. Just recently we baptized 17 new converts all of whom were very terrible criminals and are sentenced to many years in prison.

One of the testimonies that I will share with you is the following: In 1989 a young man and his family were walking down the street when a drunk man came out of nowhere and started cursing them and saying terrible things to the man's family. In a fit of rage the young man killed the drunk with his knife. The young man was convicted of murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison. While in prison, his wife left him and his three children were sent to live with his mother. When I began to go into the prison preaching the Gospel the young man immediately wanted to join in the Bible studies. In a short while he was converted and baptized and became a member of our prison Church.

When his mother and children came to visit him in prison, he shared with them the Gospel and how Jesus Christ had changed his life. Because of the Gospel, the testimony of the young man and the joy that the mother could see in her son, the mother began going to an Evangelical Church in her town where she heard the Gospel and was saved. From the moment of her conversion, the grandmother began taking her four grandchildren to Church and over the last several years, each one of them has been converted. One day I felt led to visit the old woman and her grandchildren. When I arrived, I found that she was destitute and did not even have enough money for food. She did not know who I was, and so when I asked her if

she knew anyone in the prison at Aiud, she became very afraid and said no. I then told her that I was her son's pastor and that she had no need of being afraid. I saw her poverty and so the Lord led me to give her the money that I had. She began to cry and explained that her money had run out and she had spent the night in prayer to God that He might meet her needs. I was amazed at the grace of God for His people and how He saves those who cry out to Him. I knelt and prayed with the grandmother and her four grandchildren. It was a wonderful time in the presence of God.

Another testimony I will share with you happened just recently: There was a man attending our Bible study in the prison and then for some reason he simply stopped coming. I investigated the reason for his absence and discovered that he was in the infirmary and that he had lost movement in his body and was paralytic. The doctors validated his condition, but could not cure him. The diagnosis was that he would be dead very soon, but God moved on my heart to go and pray for him.

Many people heard that I was going to pray for him even though there was no hope. Everyone from the prisoners to the guards to the Orthodox and Catholic priests were waiting to see what was going to happen. I went to the infirmary and prayed for him that God would heal him and allow him to return to the Bible study to hear the Word of God. Nothing happened at that moment, but within a few days the man was completely healed and returned to the Bible study and was saved. Many of the people in the prison were very amazed at the power of God. Even the priests said that they could not believe what had happened, but they could not deny what their eyes had seen. I must confess that when I was praying for the man, I really did not believe that God would heal him either, but God did. This is a testimony not to my faith, but to the faithfulness of God.



## Katalina's Calling



*For the last two years, HeartCry has been supporting the mission work that began through Katalina Merlan and her desire to reach Hungarians for Christ through the radio.*

## Katalina's Testimony

Five years ago a man came to the Bible institute where I was studying and asked us about our vision with regards to what we would do after graduation. His message troubled me and so I began to pray about what God wanted me to do. After one month, God gave me a vision to see my Hungarian people in Romania come to know the Lord and to start a Church for Hungarians. Since I am a woman I cannot pastor a Church, so I began to pray to God that He would send a man here to Sibiu that could help us and lead us in a church as a pastor. I prayed for a very long time and yet nothing happened, but towards the end of my time in Seminary, God showed me that I need to persevere in prayer and not give up. I was given faith to believe that God would send someone. My Bible institute

joined with me in praying also that God would start a Church for Hungarians in Sibiu. After I graduated from the Bible institute, I began working at the Christian radio station in Sibiu, preparing programs in Hungarian to evangelize the lost Hungarians and to edify the few Christian Hungarians in the area. In time, people began to call and write me on the radio to find out where they could attend a Hungarian Church in the area. I began to pray even more, and then God led me to speak with a Hungarian layman Jeno Madnag who is a faithful servant among God's people. I asked him to come to Sibiu and help me to start a Bible study among the Hungarian people that would one day grow into a Church. I am very glad that God has moved me to do these things in His Name. Now I can see the hand of God in that many Hungarian people are coming to our group and hearing the Gospel. There is a very strong link between our radio program and our Hungarian Bible Study group. Many people who have been saved and are now part of our group have come as a result of listening to our radio program and now also work on the radio reaching others. We can tell that we are having an impact among the Hungarian people in Sibiu. This Christmas we went caroling to many of the houses in Sibiu. We especially visited the houses of our members. Many of their families are in great opposition to our group, but they listened to our songs and testimonies and were very touched by all that we did. One of the unbelieving families was so impressed that they went to many of their neighbors and invited them to come and listen to us sing about Jesus.

## Hungarian Church In Romania

On our radio station our goal is to put Christian programs into the Hungarian language, so that the Hungarians can hear the Gospel in their own language. Our programs are directed towards Hungarians of all ages: children, youth and adults. For the Children we provide Christian songs and stories from the Bible. For the youth, our goal on the program is to tell them that they have a friend who can give them true life and his name is Jesus. We recognize that the great majority of youth are more concerned about worldly things like going to the discotechs and listening to worldly music and doing the things that the young people in the world want to do. Through our radio program we are trying to show them the right way that they should go. For the adults we have sermons in Hungarian that are biblical in exposition and teach the Scripture.

*Some of the members of the Hungarian mission. Your giving to HeartCry has been instrumental in the planting of this new mission. Its missionary - pastor, Jeno Madnag is supported in part through HeartCry.*





We also provide the type of Christian music that would be more pleasing to them.

Recently, we went to Hungaria in order to purchase tapes and cassettes with Hungarian sermons so that we might make known the Gospel and God's Word to the Hungarian people. Along with the sermons we also purchased Hungarian music with a Christian message. We also purchased videos with various biblical themes such as "Beginnings" which deals with God's work in creation; the life of biblical characters such as Abraham, Joseph, Jacob, David, Gideon, and of course, the Jesus film. We also have videos from various Bible teachers in Hungarian. The reason for the videos is mainly evangelistic. People listen to our radio programs and are drawn to our Bible studies. Most of the Hungarians who come are either from the Catholic, Reformed or Unitarian Church and know little about the Bible or Salvation. When they are converted, their families usually oppose. But they are able to take the videos back to their home and show their families the Bible stories, the Jesus film and also what we preach from God's Word. This enables us to evangelize those who are in opposition to us.

Our radio program is a Churchwide ministry. Many of the people in our Church participate in the production of our radio program. Their involvement is a demonstration of their desire to see the Hungarians in Romania come to know the Lord and their willingness to give of their lives.

## Testimonies from the Hungarian Mission



### **Inci Bakro**

I am strengthened through our little church. I need fellowship, because without fellowship, I am like a coal taken out of the fire. I need other coals around me in order to burn with fire for God. It is important to me that the Bible study group be in my own native language. I thank God because He led me into this group and I thank HeartCry because it is a tool in God's hands for this ministry.



### **Istvan Szekrenyes**

For me this group means three things: (1) Here, I can learn more about God with my Hungarian brothers; (2) Here, I am strengthened to praise God with all my heart and soul. (3) Here I can hear God's Holy Word in my own language. I am a Hungarian and this is a very important thing for me. Thank you HeartCry.



### **Irenke Deak**

(Theater Actress)

I am glad that there is a Bible study and prayer group in my own mother language. Through this group, I feel as though I can grow closer to God, know more about His Word and be a greater servant in His kingdom. This group has become a necessity in my life that I cannot live without. I want to thank those who made this possible.



### **Judit Luca**

(Engineer)

I gladly and with great joy come to this prayer group. Here I come to praise the Holy and Living God. I have seen so many times how faithful He is. I need to get closer to Him and know the Lord Jesus in a deeper way and this group helps me and shows me the path through Bible studies and prayers. I love this group and I hope it continues and grows.



### **Bela Sukosd**

(Seminary Student)

To me this group is a wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with the Lord Jesus and with other brothers and sisters in Christ. I rejoice when I think of what God has begun in us and I know that He is able to finish this good work. I never could have imagined that there would be a Hungarian prayer group in Sibiu that loved God and His works.



### **Maria Lidia Hadar**

I am fifty years old. I was converted in my heart through the power of Jesus on November 17, 1996. I have attended this group since its beginning in April of 1998. To me this group is a necessity and a joy. Here I can study the Word in my Hungarian language. Also it is my desire to see other Hungarian people come to life and know the truth. I thank you for your help.



## Pavel Hadzy Pop

### Ministering in Ramnicu -Sarat

Pavel with wife Lidia  
and son Pavel (9yrs)  
and Filip (8yrs)



Our Baptist church is the only evangelical church in Ramnicu Sarat, Romania (pop. 40000). I have been here since 1994 and now the church has 7 baptized members. It had more members, but many of them have moved. Right now we have 15 people in attendance.

Every day I am giving out books to people and doing servant evangelism. It has been very hard to evangelize and start mission points. Once the priest and the committee from the town chased my family and me out of one of the villages where we tried to start a Bible study. We attempted a children's Sunday School in another village, but the people would not allow their children to attend. Once a woman tried to beat up my wife with a large stick because she was teaching the Bible to the children in the neighborhood. People often throw rocks at our church building and have broken out the windows. Ramnicu Sarat is a center for the Orthodox Church and they are in great opposition to the Baptists. Most people in the town are not very friendly to me or my family.

I have started a library of books that convey the Gospel and other biblical truths. There are many people who will not come to the Church, but they will come to check out our books and read them. To date, about 70 people have used our library and have read the books that we keep here. It is amazing but because of this library they have been brought in contact with the Gospel. I also have bought a chain saw to cut wood for people for free. It may seem strange, but it has enabled me to thaw the ice between us and the towns people and to allow them to see that we are not like we are portrayed by the Orthodox Church.

## Nicolai's Story

### The Dumb Speak



My name is Nicolai and I am now a member here at the Baptist Church in Ramnicu Sarat, and brother Pavel is my pastor. Until I was 7 years old I could not speak at all. When I was fourteen, I came to this Church and still I was unable to communicate clearly with anyone. I was very aggressive and angry because I could not communicate with anyone and it overwhelmed me. Brother Pavel began to read the Bible with me, teaching me its truths and praying with me. There was within me a great desire to seek God. One day when I was praying I realized that God had chosen me. Now I have a great desire to evangelize people and am witnessing all the time. I have brought people to our church and they have been converted here. It is amazing, but a man named Dorin brought me to church and I was saved. Later I brought Florica to church and she was saved and became Dorin's wife. Praise God, who uses someone like me. Praise Him! Praise Him!





# Missionary Vasile Vintu

## *Fighting the Good Fight in Moldova*



I praise God to be able to report to you the many wonderful thing that the Lord is doing in our midst. The first work about which I will report is village of Corlateni that has a population of 6000. The mission is called the Holy Trinity Baptist Church. It has 7 Baptized members and 15 who are converted and waiting for the Baptism. We also have many children.

The mission was started in the home of a believer in Corlateni as a Bible study in the fall of 97 with five members. It was not really an organized service. We would just sing worship songs and then study the Bible together in a group. The people would ask questions and we would look together in the Scripture to find the answer. I began also to go door to door and visit other families in the village and tell them about Christ. Many rejected us because of the Romanian idea that if you do not have a building that looks like a church you are not a church, but a sect.

One day, I talked to one of the sisters in the group and I asked her to give some of her land in order to build a church upon it. In the fall of 97, I went to the property with many of the people from the Bethany Baptist Church in Bulti and their choir and we held a special service on the land to pray for the property and to let everyone know that the place was going to be used as a Church. It is our Romanian way to let everyone know that the place is given to God. After that, some people from the Church in Bulti came with me and help me to get the work started, but now that the work is started I go out by myself and work. Two weeks ago a music professor accepted Christ as Savior and is already working in the Church.

Another village where I am working is Pelenia that has a population of 15000. The mission is called Golgata Baptist Church.

It has 60 baptized members and 80 in attendance. When I became pastor there in 1995 there were 40 baptized members, but they were all very sad. The reason for their sadness was that the Pentecostal church in the area had prophesied based on visions that they had supposedly received from the Lord that the Baptist Church would not be able to succeed, because it would fall and never be able to worship the Lord ever again. The Baptists were afraid of the visions and were living under fear that the prophecies would come true and they would be destroyed by God. But after I arrived, the church began to grow and now has 60 baptized members, 80 adults in attendance and many others have been converted and are waiting to be baptized. There are also 25 children in the church.

Now the members are happy and have forgotten about all the prophecies against them. The pentecostals have also changed. Since the Baptist started growing they have stopped receiving visions about our destruction. I know it sounds funny, but their attitude really changed towards us when we began our choir. God started using our choir and we began to go out in the streets and plazas and sing about Christ. For some reason this convinced them that God was not going to destroy us.

In the first year, we baptized seven adults, in the second year we baptized 5 and in the third year we baptized 5 more (Remember that baptism in Moldova is not like the baptism in the U.S. Not just anyone can be baptized, but only those who show many proofs of their salvation). Because of this the pentecostals admitted that the Holy Spirit was also among us and is working. The leaders in the pentecostal church came to our church and repented for the prophecies that they had made and admitted that they were not from





*Brother Vasile, standing at the gate of the Holy Trinity Church in Corlateni. The church sign that is now clearly absent, was torn down after a baptism service at the church. The service drew such a crowd that the Orthodox priest became jealous and told some of the towns people to tear down the sign. After the priest turned and walked back up the hill. He fell down and broke his leg. Because of this many people in the village now say that God is with the Baptist and not with the priest.*

and now there are 3 baptized members and 12 adults in attendance. I want to thank all the brothers and sisters in the United States who support me. I could not have done all this ministry that I have done without all their help. It would have been impossible. I am convinced that God is working in my ministry and I am convinced that I should be here. I hope that the brothers in the United States are pleased with my work and that they will continue to support me here in God's work. I try to do my best and work as hard as I can for God. It is my hope that the people who support me will be joyful when they see in heaven what the Lord has accomplished through them in the country of Moldova. I pray that God will bless them, their families and their churches.

God. And so we made an agreement that they would worship God the way they saw in the Bible and we would too. We also agreed not to fight with one another and that we would respect each other's church discipline. Prior to this time if a person in one church was disciplined he would go to the other church and be accepted as a member. We agreed that we were both wrong in this and that we would respect each other's discipline.

Recently, there was a conference in the city stadium here in Pelenia and the Lord opened up the door for me to preach there even though it was a pentecostal event. It was amazing, God used my sermon and many people were converted. When the pentecostals saw how many people were converted, they were full of joy. For the pentecostals the evidence of the Spirit is tongues, but for us the evidence is the conversion of souls when we preach.

In Pelenia we have now run out of room and there is no longer any place for Sunday school for the children. We have also seen a harvest in preaching to the workers in the fields. During harvest time we preach the Word of God to the people in the fields. I like to take many workers with me to preach and sing, but it is difficult to find transportation to travel together. Here tobacco is a big product and when they are stripping the tobacco this is the best time to preach and sing about Jesus. When the men are resting in the field we also preach to them. While they are eating food we try to give them spiritual food.

Sofia is another city where I am working as a missionary. It has a population of 5000. I was sent there by the Baptist Union of Moldova to help the struggling church and now we have 52 baptized members and a total of 60 adults in attendance with many children. Last week we ordained our first deacon to help with the ministry in the church.

Miciurina is another city where I am working as a missionary. It has a population of 4000. Since I am one of the older missionaries, the Baptist Union sent me to Miciurina to fix a problem there caused by a false teacher who came to the church and took the flock away from the layman who was trying to pastor it. This man and his group were using the promise of money, food and clothing from the west in order to deceive God's people. There is so much poverty in our country that this is a great temptation. The Baptist Union has now sent another man there to pastor, but they have asked me to be over him and help him to deal with the many problems. We began working there in November and now there are 33 baptized members, 40 adults in attendance and 12 children. Five of the 40 are now awaiting baptism.

Lastly, I am also working in the village of OGrinauti with a population of 4000. I began this work in January 1997





What part of “Go”  
do you not understand?

Matthew 28:18-20

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