



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

April 2025

A social centre for vulnerable people

It was the beginning of April when I sat down to write the fourth newsletter of this year. Time flies in a strange way. In June it will be 15 years since I first set foot on Moldovan soil. We hardly knew what to expect. Our knowledge of this country may have been limited at the time, but it has grown since then and we know more today.

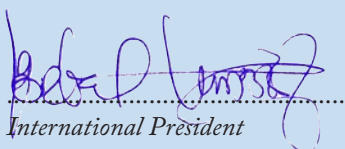
A lot has happened since that first trip. But perhaps the most important thing we have experienced is that the congregation has grown in number.

Our presence in Glodeni has contributed to the growth of the church over these years. Much due to the social efforts, people have found their way into the church. We are very grateful for this. Thanks to your donations and those of many others, we have seen people come to faith. Lives are being saved, both spiritually and physically. Not everything is perfect, but we can see God's love and mercy in everything we do.

Now it's time to take the next step in the work. I expect to make a trip there at the end of April. This will allow us to plan the renovation of the premises, which is expected to begin in May/June.

Together, we can create something lasting that will bring the congregation even closer to the centre of society. You can read more about this project here. On the next page, we also write about some of the people who receive both food parcels and bread and how it has impacted their lives. It is indeed heartwarming to read about what impact these project have on those that live in the community.

We would like to thank you once again for supporting the work through prayers and donations. Should you want to support the renovation of the Social Centre, please mark your donation with "Social Centre". Each donation regardless of its size, makes a difference in the work we do. We pray for God's rich blessing on you and your situation.


International President



The wall behind the dining tables and the bakery, which can be seen in the background, will be demolished to make way for a community hall and dining room with a cooking kitchen.

A few words from the book of "But when the right time came, God sent his Son...". These are among the first words of Galatians 4. For almost 15 years, People to People International has been involved in the distribution of bread and food parcels to the poor and needy people in Glodeni, Moldova. This work can be compared to plowing the soil before sowing in order to obtain a large harvest. The preparatory work, the cultivation of the soil, is of great importance if you want to see a good harvest. The image of the work that we have been involved in and that we have made possible together can be compared to this cultivation of the soil. Hardened hearts have softened and become more receptive to the Gospel. The contact surface of the church has multiplied. People in need have been helped. We have seen the church grow because people have come to faith and been baptized. In more than 15 years, the congregation has basically grown by just over 80 members. However, not all of them remain, due to the high level of emigration. Many have left the country in the hope of a better life.

With this in mind, we now see that the time is ripe to take another step to support the congregation and the foundation that runs the work. We believe that, as it says in Galatians; the right time has come for us to take the next step so that more people can be helped. We trust that God's timing is always perfect and we sense that now that time has come.

The Social Centre

We've written about this in previous letters, but now we think it's time to put the "shovel in the ground" and start renovating. The first step is to renovate the room that will house the "new" bakery. We need to cut a hole in the wall facing the room in between so that we can push the equipment through. The one in the existing bakery will also be demolished to enlarge the space. The existing bakery will be converted into a dining room/parish hall with an adjoining cook's kitchen.

The costs for this first step, i.e. the renovation of the new bakery, the cutting of walls and relocation of the equipment as well as the ventilation and electricity supply, are estimated at around appr. 3,000 euros. Some of the parts can be reused, such as ventilation. Then we will continue with the renovation of the dining room/church hall and kitchen. The cost is another 3,000 Euros for finishing the basic restoration work. Then, as a second stage, that we need to set a budget for, comes painting and tiling, also the fitting of cabinets and cutlery for the kitchen and all the appliances and lastly, the tables and chairs.

This first stage is crucial so that everything else can be implemented. By relocating the bakery, we can make better use of the space, creating social areas for the congregation and other benefits. This will provide a meeting place for the congregation but also, a way to give hungry people a meal, which is an important part of the work going forward.

Touched by the love of God

Over the years, I have met many different people. Many I have forgotten. But in the work of the People to People International, the focus is always on people. Jesus is our great role model here. For him, it was never about the big crowd. Even when he fed five thousand people, the focus was always on the individual. For the People to People International, it was never about the big crowd, but about the individual person we meet along the way. That is why the church is always the focal point. In the church there is room and opportunity to meet people one to one.

Every person is important and valuable to God. In the work that we support in Moldova, we have always made a point of working through a local church. Not to work alone, but to anchor our support in a local church or organization.

We believe this is right and proper. By supporting the local church, we gain confidence in our work. By strengthening and upholding the work of God, we can gain the trust of the people.

Fifteen years is a long time. But we believe that the need is to "drill deep" where we stand. Building the kingdom of God for the long term, making it strong so that it can then stand on its own two feet. Building quickly produces a weak plant that lacks the strength to grow. Long-term is the key that is important to us. Where one leg is put in front of the other. This is how trust and strong bonds are built. We see this in the work of Pastor Igor - the desire to work for the long term. The social projects were a great help here. Both the bread and food parcels have given us an "excuse" to visit people in their homes. Relationships have been forged and conversations initiated. In a conversation with Pastor Igor, he says what we have often written: "God saves people through the bread and food projects." He writes:

"I would like to share with you two testimonies of people who have recently returned to God.

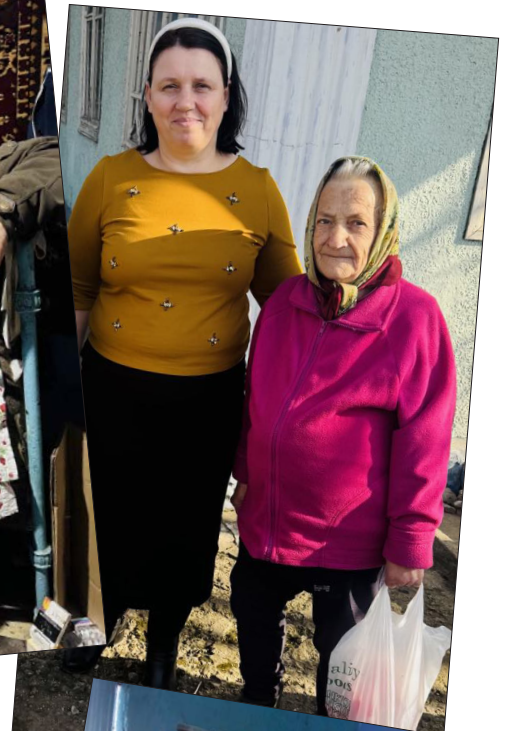
The first testimony: a 70-year-old woman came to faith after my wife Sveta visited her to give her food and bread. Her name is Cateia Tabinscaia and she testified: 'I learned about God through Sveta, Pastor Igor's wife. She brought me bread and food.'

The second witness is the son of an older woman who says that he came to faith by receiving food and bread. He testifies

Mother and son, where God touched them through the bread they received.



Svetlana Lazar together with the woman whom she was able to bring to faith. Her name is Cateia Tabinscaia.



to this with the words: 'We saw the Lord through bread and food.'

Coming to faith because you have received bread and food is a unique experience. The fact that Jesus reveals himself through bread is so amazing. But Jesus is the bread of life, so what could be truer than that.

We see how this help, month after month, brings people to faith. Because they say they have encountered the bread of life, in the bread itself. Nothing could be more blessed."



The content varies, as does the quantity. The picture was taken a few years ago. Not everyone has the means to refrigerate their goods, which is why sausages are hard to come by.

