



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

BULLETIN

Reaching out to a hurting world...

November 2025

November, when this newsletter was written, is almost halfway through and nature, once again, is changing its dressing outside my window. This reminds us of the variant circumstances in life that can sometimes be abrupt and challenging. But in everything, we put our hope in God and His promises carry us through all the changes in life.

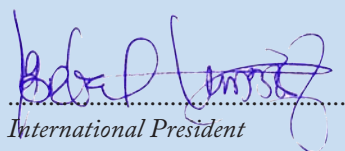
Now, something about the content of this newsletter. As in previous years, November is usually a fundraiser time for the Christmas activities that take place in the church in Glodeni, Moldova. We see that these efforts over time have significance, not only for the individual who gets to be part of a community, but also for the congregation. We can see that these efforts have become an important tool for building the kingdom of God. People who have never set foot in the church, now get to join in different ways through what the church is doing for Christmas and the New Year. We have a budget of 2000 Euros for this project and would like to thank you for your gift and willingness to support us in this work.

We can also tell you that, at the time of writing this newsletter, we have received about 2,000 Euros for Silvester's house from the appeal we made last month. We say *thank you* to those who contributed! It will be a great help in making the house habitable.

We are also pleased with the report we received from Mircea on the work among pastors and their spiritual development. We sent 1,000 Euros for the benefit of this some time ago.

Also in this newsletter, I share a few thoughts from the Scripture.

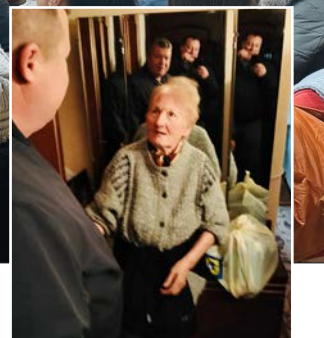
Thank you for your continued support. Our prayer is that God will richly bless you for your commitment, for your gift to those in need and for helping us enlarge God's kingdom.


International President

Food packages and Christmas service



A picture from last year's Christmas initiative. Many come for fellowship and a bite to eat. Picture on the right: Pastor Igor in conversation with Maria who has found her way into the congregation.



Even though it is not really time to celebrate Christmas, Advent and Christmas time are approaching. That is why we're already writing in this newsletter about what will take place during Christmas and New Year. Moldova celebrates Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar and there the Christmas celebration is closer to the New Year.

Over the years, we have understood the importance of the church being able to invite people to this Christmas celebration. Many will come and listen to Christmas messages accompanied by food and fellowship. This way of fellowship also means a lot; that they are part of a context, get to meet new people and have a sense of belonging. Many feel alone with their worries and concerns, so being in a place that also has a "listening ear" is significant.

A tool in God's hand

We see this celebration as one of many tools that God has placed in our hand, which also helps us to expand the kingdom of God. Even though not everyone may become a born again Christian, it is still true that the outstretched hand into the community that this church offers, is not seen in any of the other churches in this locality. The social commitment, which perhaps is the most important element in a church ministry, is missing. If the church does not extend a helping hand to

those in need, it has forfeited its calling and is essentially missing the mark. Our mission as a church is to greet people from all walks of life, to meet them where they are, in all their fragility and shortcoming. Jesus saw the stranger, he came for those who needed a doctor, for those who needed guidance, healing and salvation. He came for those who need to be seen and believed. A woman, now part of the church, testifies to what God has done in her life, not least through the celebration of Christmas. Her name is Maria, and she says:

"I remember a year ago when it was Christmas on December 25, 2024. Together with my children, we cried out of helplessness and sadness that we had nothing to eat during the holidays, but God gave us food and Christmas pre-sents through Pastor Igor. Since then, we decided to go to church and our lives changed."

Pastor Igor also writes: "This year, even though prices have increased, I am thinking of making 50 Christmas packages for 50 families for 30 Euros per package. This way we will pay 1500 Euros for 50 Christmas packages for adults. For the children we will make 50 Christmas presents for 10 Euros per gift. This way we will pay 500 Euros for 50 Christmas presents for 50 children." Please, let us together make this Christmas a happy memory for those who have little.

Printing of Bibles and Bible smuggling

In the early years that followed the founding of People to People International, the printing and smuggling of Bibles was one of the ministry's main missions. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of varied publications were distributed to countries behind the Iron Curtain.

Following the founding of People to People International in 1984, a large part of our work was devoted to raising money to print Bibles and other Christian literature. We contributed to the printing of Bibles in many Eastern European languages as well as Chinese. They were then smuggled in by our various contacts.

There was a period of many years, where countries in eastern Europe were completely closed to the Gospel. Sharing it was banned. Our recurring mission during this time was to print and distribute Hundreds of thousands of Bibles and New Testaments to the people who lived there.

After the Iron Curtain fell, there was

an increased need to supply Christian literature. We began providing the affected countries with their own equipment so they could print what was needed for themselves. During this time, we purchased everything that was needed for 10 complete printing houses. This included offset presses, developing equipment, printing plates, cutting machines and staplers plus ink and paper for one year's production. We supplied printing houses to Poland, Romania, Russia, India, Latvia, Estonia and Albania. In Romania alone, 500,000 books were printed in three months (1993).

Throughout the 90s and beyond, these printers served the churches of Poland and Romania in particular, by supplying them



Pastor Dan Mitra helps with loading a printing press at our then office.

with evangelical literature. Although it was not the primary goal, several families we able to support themselves as the print house became a means of self-help. One of the Printing Houses located in Oradea, Romania is still in operation today.

The Word of God can be likened to a seed

The Word of God often refers to itself as a seed. In the New Testament, there are a total of fortyfour verses where the Greek word sperma is translated as "seed." This is the same word used for the seed of man.

This metaphor can also be used in speaking about our own spiritual growth. Our faith is a seed that is planted within us – in our hearts and must be nourished in order for it to grow.

In human history, there has only been one virgin birth. For the rest of us, the man must plant his seed in the woman in order for her to conceive and then give birth.

We can use the same imagery about ourselves and the Word of God. In order to "conceive", the Word of God, the seed, must first be planted in our heart.

Jesus teaches in a similar way in the New Testament. In several of His parables, He speaks of the kingdom of heaven as a seed.

In the fourth chapter of Mark's Gospel, there are three parables that all deal with sowing and reaping. Here Jesus illustrates that the Word is to the kingdom of God what a natural seed is to a harvest or an individual plant.

The Sower

The first of these parables, the story of the farmer scattering seed, is the key to "unlocking" the other parables told by Jesus. The word according to the Gospel of Mark reads: "Then Jesus said to them,

'If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?'"

So, it is of great importance that we understand this parable, since it is the "key" to opening the "door" to understanding all the other parables of Jesus.

What was Jesus trying to say? Why is it so crucial that we understand the meaning?

The word parable comes from the Greek word *parabole*, which literally means to place two things next to each other and compare. In literature, a parable is a fictional account or description that serves as a metaphor for a deeper truth.

A parable is not exactly the same as an allegory. While a parable may contain allegory, an allegory is a fictional story, in which a character or scenario represents a real person or scenario.

In the parable of the sower, the sower is an allegory for anyone who teaches God's truth, especially that of Jesus. Parables are similar to fables in that both are designed to teach a moral or spiritual truth. Now let us look at what the sower sows, the actual seed.



The Seed

Then look a little closer at the seed itself. Seeds often have a hard shell. To access its innermost core, where that which can create new life is located, the hard shell must first be penetrated. The shell must be softened or crushed and the core chewed or ground, to access the part of the seed that contains nutrition and flavor. This insight became an experience that the early church took note of.

The image of a seed that must be chewed and ground is a guide for us to a richer reading of the Bible and how we can approach the word of God – and is in itself a direction of movement, better known under the name *Lectio Devina* - the spiritual or contemplative reading of the Bible. The word *lectio* means reading and *devina* means divine or given by God. A reading that must be done with humility, so as not to miss the right resonance in the heart. It is this experience that the psalmist writes about in the first Psalm, where we read: "But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night". That is exactly how it must be. When the mind and heart read God's word in unison, a "taste" for the word arises that creates a "movement" in the heart that brings God's word to life for us.

Pastoral training Asist, Romania



The Asist pastor training program is growing and is now available in several locations in Romania.

Some time ago we wrote about the Asist pastor training, where we also made an appeal for their needs. Recently, Mircea, who is responsible for the work, wrote a report to us and expressed his warm thanks for our support. Mircea writes:

“Through your generous support, Asist Romania continues to equip and encourage pastors and church leaders who serve faithfully in some of the most spiritually challenging areas of our nation.

The funds you have raised help us provide vital training, fellowship, and spiritual renewal for these leaders — men and women who often serve with few resources, but with great faith and perseverance.

Your partnership is more than financial assistance — it is a powerful expression of God’s grace in a practical sense through the body of Christ. Together, we strengthen the hands of those who carry the good news to communities in desperate need of hope. Each of these faces carries a story of God’s grace and perseverance.

Your generosity makes moments like these possible — where weary leaders are renewed, vision is restored, and hearts are rekindled for the gospel.

What you have sown here bears fruit in lives, in congregations, and in communities. Thank you for standing with us — you are part of something forever. From all of us in Romania, thank you for sharing this vision and for standing with us in the work of the gospel. Your generosity makes an eternal difference.”

*With gratitude and joy,
Mircea and the Asist Romania team*

Reports like these make me extremely happy. We get to be part of sowing into the harvest of souls waiting to be harvested through those now improving themselves in the word of God. We feel grateful for the work that Mircea and his colleagues are doing to make this possible. Asist is a movement that can change the spiritual climate and grow the kingdom of God. Thank you for your support in this important work.



The lamp of diligence shines brightly in those who study the word of God.

