# May 2020



# Andy and Rianna Stannard



### MDT e3 (Missions Discipleship Training eastern Europe extreme)

We are also feeling the effects of the Corona virus pandemic here in The Republic of Moldova. For the last 5/6 weeks we have been working from home and trying to figure out what our new 'normal' is. We unfortunately had to cancel our Missions Discipleship Training program back in March due to the widening reach of this pandemic. Being only 6/7 weeks through the 5-month program we were really downhearted and troubled as we could see such a large potential in the participants that God has sent to us this year. However, God is faithful! Even though our 15 participants didn't get to complete the program, we were still privileged to see how The Father was working in each and every life present. Even now 7 weeks after closing the program our participants are still meeting together online to study God's word together and to speak into each other's lives. It really is amazing to see the transforming power of Jesus at work in those who have come to know him.





"I realized that my identity is not in what I do or did, but in who Christ is calling me to be."

"I realized that knowing about God and knowing God are two different things, and I want to know him more and more."



#### **Team Hike**

The majority of us have this tendency to think that we are good at teamwork. But what about when you have little time to prepare, are cold, annoyed at your broken bag, constantly managing a language barrier, and eager to reach the end of a task — is this still an easy claim? Or when push comes to shove do the cracks begin to reveal themselves. God calls us to be a people group who stand out by reflecting His unconditional grace which has been so freely poured out onto us. This is the challenge and purpose of the hike which we embarked on.

"I learnt that it is important to bring any conflicts out in the open and resolve them, instead of avoiding conflict. I also believe we were stronger as a team afterward, and understood each other better, which seemed to help with troubleshooting problems later."

"I have learned a lot but the thing that stands out is trust."

#### **Snowboard Outreach**

Have you ever thought about how your hobby can be used to extend God's Kingdom? The group took to the slopes in Romania to practise various evangelism tools whilst learning how to snowboard. Over two days over 100 tourists were able to hear about the Good News of Jesus.





"I learnt that evangelism is not a one-time thing or that you don't have to plan it but you can do it anywhere and anytime even when you're having fun."

#### **New Directions**

We have seen an increasing need for basic necessities here in Moldova as many are unable to work and struggle even more than normal to afford simple things like food and drink. Through a sponsor, we have been able to start a project throughout Moldova which is being called COVID-19. This project is aimed at meeting this great need that many people around Moldova are feeling right now. Food packets weighing 30KG each are being supplied to churches all around the country to be able to provide for those in their local communities who are in need. Andy was able to go together with a couple of others from OM to deliver 300 packets to 5 different churches in the south-west of the country. The local pastors shared how they are really seeing the potential for this project not only to meet people's physical need, but to also build good relationships within the community and to open doors to share about the hope that we have in Jesus.





#### Prayer:

- Our team and leaders as we discern which opportunities God is leading us to pursue
- The economy in Moldova which will be impacted greatly as many find income from their jobs abroad
- That through the projects that many would come to know Jesus as their hope and salvation and the Father as their provider and refuge

#### Praise:

- For the way in which God safely carried all of our participants back to their home countries
- For a God who is with us and remains the same, in every high and low

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