

August 2020

## Andy and Rianna Stannard



This has been a difficult season for many of us around the world, as Covid-19 has impacted most areas of life. Our ministries within OM in Moldova have focussed on sharing God's hope to those who are otherwise feeling helpless in the middle of this devastating pandemic. We did this by sending out teams of 4 to the least reached villages and delivered food parcels and Bibles to those in need of this practical support and Good News.

We have personally found it emotionally tiring to listen to story after story of the various trials and challenges that individuals/families have faced, and also physically tiring from the long days of visit after visit. However, we believe that it is absolutely worth it to see lives restored. Within this newsletter you will see a glimpse into just one of these evangelism weeks that we partook in.



**\*Vlad** is a veteran of the independence war in Transnistria in 1992, which is where he lost his leg. He has been married for 35 years and he and his wife don't have children. This can be difficult if they have no other family to support them. Their niece comes over to help them with some basic things such as cleaning and cooking. Her family are alcoholics and they don't take care of her, so Vlad and his wife try to support her, to be the family that she lacks. There are many families in Moldova in which alcohol has a very powerful presence and causes destruction repeatedly through the generations. In the last year Vlad has developed problems with his sight, he has had two operations to help him and takes medication but cannot see in direct sunlight, so he stays in the shade. He could have a transplant, the doctors advise, but this would cost €3000, which is way beyond their means. We were particularly touched by the love that this couple clearly had for each other. Vlad hugged her and cried as he shared with us how grateful he was that she was in his life. We pray that this food parcel and New Testament would draw them close to God and that He would have a powerful presence in their lives.

**\*Viorica** and her husband have 2 children, a boy aged 7 and a girl of 5 months who was born 2 months prematurely. The baby girl has had several health problems – the growth on her leg needs to be operated on but they are afraid that she is too little to survive such an operation; she also has heart problems which could cause complications. Viorica plans to return to see the doctor soon to see if there are any changes in their recommendations. This family lives with Viorica's mother-in-law and they are thankful that in the week of our visit, her husband had been able to find some work in Nisporeni, now that some of the Covid-19 restrictions are being slowly lifted. They have a goat which provides them with milk, with which they can make cheese to sell but sadly the goat is ill and is expected to die soon. The team delivering a food parcel and a New Testament were able to share the importance of a relationship with Jesus which was well received; Viorica accepted prayer and a New Testament – we pray that she would also accept Jesus as her Lord and Saviour and that her little girl would be healed.





**\*Igor** is 71 years old and he lives with and cares for his elderly mother, aged 91, who is bedridden. He was one of several children, but they have all died except one who lives in Ukraine. Despite the fact that they cannot visit each other or call, still they manage to stay in touch through letters. It is very unusual to hear of a situation when families manage to stay in touch this way. He has Cerebral Palsy which largely affects the right side of his body and means that he needs a walking stick to be stable when he stands. Igor was able to share some things he knew from the Bible, he also said that he knew that smoking was bad for him, but he was addicted. The team encouraged him that God's strength is greater than the drug nicotine. We pray that Igor would read the Bible given to him and know God's transforming power in his life.

**\*Ion** is a young man of 28 years who has much to be disappointed about in his life. He has pain in his legs and so he is not able to work. He lives alone in a house which is falling apart and cannot do any repairs because he doesn't have a regular income. He has been known to go days without even enough money to buy a loaf of bread. When the pastor's wife goes into the village to see how she can be praying for this area as they make Christ known, she has visited Ion. She noticed on one visit that the last thing he had eaten was an apple several days before. She plans to seek help from the mayor of the village, but he doesn't have any ID and this means he doesn't have the possibility to register for any kind of government support. Please pray that Ion would know joy, meaning and purpose in his life through a relationship with Jesus.



#### Prayer Points:

- We are currently searching for new accommodation. Please pray that we find something appropriate and within budget
- The future may yet be unknown to us but God's work continues. Please pray for individuals to burn with God's passion for the world and commit to join global missions and our MDT program (Missions Discipleship Training) which runs every year from January to July.
- Pray for wisdom in our team as we plan for future ministries in this current climate.

#### Praise Points:

- Many have heard the Good News, received Bibles and committed their lives to Jesus' Kingship.
- Good health within our team throughout the whole of this season.

***\*Individuals names have been changed***