February 2021 Andy and Rianna Stannard



As you have kickstarted your 2021, what do you see as new areas of opportunity opening up? Recently, we were listening to a seminar and the speaker imparted to us the importance of a mindset which can see "treasure" through what others might call "trouble". Of course, as a community we stand alongside each other in amidst our personal challenges and 2020 seemed to feel quite full of those moments. Walking into 2021 we are bracing for those moments of challenge to continue while also seeking to see the opportunities that arise from those moments of challenge. We will share a little bit about what God has presented to us already in this new year, but please do write to answer that initial question of what do you see God doing in your life too!

Personal:

NOLDOVA

Some of our dearest friends here in Moldova have now left and are moving on to work with OM in another country. This has been a difficult time of letting go of how our relationship has been until now and coming to acceptance of the new dynamics in our friendship. At the same time, we can celebrate that we were made for community and for those relationships that we continue to have around us in one form or another. We are ever grateful for your partnership and how we are able to keep in touch with one another.

Ministry:

As the pandemic persists, OM in Moldova have been active in trying to respond to the increased needs around the country. Part of this response has been providing food packages throughout Moldova through the local churches. Andy has been out with one of the teams on a busy day of distributing these food packages.





One widower named Gheorghe is amongst one of those who have benefited from this project. He was in much despair after one year of what seemed to be one crisis after another first with his wife being diagnosed with a liver disease then needing to sell most of their possessions to afford the needed medicine for her treatment. The pandemic hitting made their economic situation even tougher plus a huge drought across Moldova which greatly affected their crops and Gheorghe's ability to sell produce as his usual income. Sadly, his wife passed away in August, leaving him to raise the children on his own. The visit came at an important time for this widower, who thankfully received this comfort and care during this time. Pray with us for Gheorghe and the many others in similar situations across Moldova to not only receive the food and Bible for the day but hope and new life for eternity.





At the end of March, we (will hopefully) welcome 5 Germans to join us for 2 months as part of a training experience. We have amended our usual training program to cater for these strange and unique times that we live in. We have had the privilege of getting to know these participants virtually over the last 4 or 5 weeks as they spend time in Romania with some of our colleagues there. Our role so far has been in meeting online with mentoring and teaching, but we cannot wait to meet together in person, share meals together and fellowship.

