



CONTACT extra

MISSION POSSIBLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

missionary [mish-uh-ner-ee]

noun, plural mis-sion-ar-ies. Also mis-sion-er.

1. a person sent by a church into an area to carry on evangelism or other activities, such as educational or hospital work.
2. a person strongly in favour of a programme, set of principles, etc., who attempts to persuade or convert others.
3. a person who is sent on a mission.

Foreword

by Jon Hares

Many of you reading this will have been to the beautiful nation of Moldova. When Laura recently showed Matt, Sally and I around the country it was a real eye opener for me.

I was inspired by our meeting with Charlotte and Johannes, a Danish couple with gypsy heritage. Charlotte has lived in a caravan for forty-one years, and they have been in Moldova for twenty-five or so years, planting a church and seeking to be Jesus to their community through youth clubs, toddler groups and ministering to the vulnerable—their building reminded me of our vision for The Bridge Centre! As ‘grandparents’ to all the other missionaries in the area, it felt a bit like meeting some of the great Old Testament prophets; these were people who evidently lived out their faith! They have several caravans on a site as well as a small home for girls who have been

caught up in trafficking. They have a vision to open an enterprise centre around the corner, where they can empower the girls to start businesses. Refurbishments were well underway. That’s the kingdom of God!

In the UK, we take so much for granted about our faith. Although Moldovans are free to gather to worship God, there is resistance and social pressure to stay loyal to the orthodox church, which is very suspicious of other Christian groups.

I was challenged that sometimes we allow our vision of God to become too small. But what we see at Pentecost is the disciples being given the Holy Spirit to empower their mission to the whole world. The confusion God caused at the Tower of Babel is reversed for the sake of God furthering His plan—this gospel can now reach across languages, nations and borders! It knows no limits!! That day I knew I had met brothers and sisters.

In this month’s *Contact extra*, we introduce you to some of the individuals and families, and their projects, who are living and working with the people of Moldova.

Tsarina Model Farm, Sculeni



Tobias, with wife Simone and children L-R Hannah, Josia, Basil and Louis

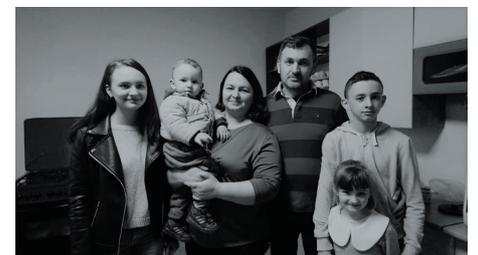


L-R Ruslan, Katrin, Urs and baby Elia, with Jon, Laura and Sally

Their hope is that the farm projects they develop will help many local families make their own living. They have recently slaughtered their first cow, and already grow fruit that they sell at the local market. They are currently working on an irrigation process for the fruit field, and building a small, permanent house for Urs, Katrin and Elia. The foundations are in. Katrin makes cheese and yoghurt to use and sell.

Ou own Adrian Hares has a long-term vision for the production of Moldova muesli.

Sculeni Pentecostal Church



Pastor Radu with wife Liuba, and children L-R Jasmina, Ramenos, Marius, and Adelina

This church hosts the summer builds. Radu’s desire is to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that when he lays hands on people they too are filled.

Radu also owns a small hair salon where he can lay hands on people regularly!

Cornesti Church



Sam and Leo and children

L-R, Joseph Sandu, Evelina, Benjamin, and Francesca

The family live in Ungheni but pastor a small village church in Cornesti.

As she lives in the village, Ana, (below left, pictured with Claire Titcombe), is employed using funds from *Love Moldova* to be the Pastoral Care Worker in Cornesti.



Casa Helen



Casa Helen, an elderly ladies home, was Sharon Blyth's original vision. Twenty-one ladies currently live here. Leo (from Cornesti Church) manages from a distance. Ana and Lorissa Melnic visit weekly to share the love of Jesus with the ladies.

The house is always in need of updating.

Refuges for girls at-risk



Johannes and Charlotte Noer Peterson.

Working with local pastor Slavic and wife, also Daniel and wife Nastia (daughter, three years old)

They run a refuge home for girls at risk of trafficking or who are orphans—or both. They are currently housing more than they really have space for. All the girls attend a local school.

The ground floor of their church plant building is a youth centre. Currently, there is a much-required upgrading of the second floor of the church building taking place.

With funding from *Love Moldova* and *Hearcry for Change*, they are in the finishing stages of converting the top floor of their church building into a dormitory for girls who have finished school education and need further training for future work.

Raluca (pictured below) currently houses fourteen young girls, ranging from ages twelve to twenty-one, so they can complete a good education, and not be at risk of trafficking.



Raluca (centre), pictured with Matt, Jon, Sally and Laura

The girls also receive spiritual input, starting each day with devotions, and have to attend church on Sunday, and help with domestic duties. There is an employed cook but the girls take it in turns to help her.



Some of Raluca's girls

Tsarina Model Farm



Damaris and Ruslan Leahu, with their children

Ruslan is employed by the *Tsarina Model Farm* as the administrator, but turns his hand to whatever manual labour needs to be accomplished. He also serves on the leadership team at Vineyard Church, Ungheni.

Damaris is employed by Romanian charity, *Charity Cup*, where her role and focus as a Romanian missionary is to reach out in love and disciple young men and women. She is actively involved in the youth and children's work at their church.

A missionary is not so much one who is sent, but ONE WHO GOES OUT. God is raising up an army of incredible and dedicated missionaries, those willing to lay down their own lives for the saving and serving of a nation.