

LOVING ROMANIA

Sufficient Bread Ministry

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Betania Family Center Update:



Thank you all for your beautiful sacrifices to make it possible for us to send our kids to Summer Bible Camp this year! The kids were blessed and encouraged in the Word all summer long. The children at Betania Family Center were able to attend three camps this year and our boys at the F&H apartment joined them. The kids made many new friends and were overjoyed to be reunited with old ones, too.

This week God really impressed Psalm 68:5-6 upon my heart :

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families..."

A Future and a Hope:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jer 29:11

There is a young woman living at Betania named Andreea - a beautiful girl with an amazing heart for the children around her. We have worked with her over the past few years and have watched her grow into an amazing woman of God. She just graduated high school with very high grades and desires to go to college. We are so excited to pay for her first year's tuition at a major university in Romania. She didn't believe that she would ever get the opportunity to follow her dream with her current situation. Because of your help, Andreea is well on her way to a successful future! Her life has been a wonderful example to the other children at Betania. Work hard and you can accomplish a lot! Good luck Andreea, we are so proud of you!

I can't read this verse without thinking about the verse God gave me so many years ago when I was in College and pursuing my degree in Chemistry.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27

When I was looking at Psalms 68:5-6 I read, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his Church." I immediately thought about all of you. The church body is so beautiful. I praise the Father everyday for your hearts toward the abandoned and lonely, the fatherless and widows. You are putting the Word into action. God

has placed the lonely in the family of Christ.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it--not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it--they will be blessed in what they do.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:22-25, 27

YOU GUYS ARE DOING IT! You are doers and not hearers only, and you will be blessed in what you do! I pray the Lord's blessing over each of your lives today! Thank you for your monthly sacrifice to Sufficient Bread Ministry to make a difference in these children's lives.



An Excerpt from Andrei's Testimony: written at 19 years old

I was a bad person, cruel. I hated jokes, but I loved making fun of others. I think I was very serious for my age. I was a person that everyone was afraid to socialize with because I was very aggressive. I did not let anyone get away with anything. I was a leader wherever I went. All of the children, older and younger, at the orphanage looked up to me in fear and in respect. I had all of this before the age of thirteen.

When I turned 18, the orphanage system would not hold us anymore. I had to leave the orphanage. But where would I go and with what? What would I do in this world? No one wanted to give an orphan a job, and no one wanted to help. When we left through the gates of the orphanage we had about 10 dollars, and a set of new clothing, and our files that told a few things about ourselves. We did not have someone to ask for help. We looked up to the sky and wondered what to do. Many of the kids that left the orphanage committed suicide. The majority ended up in prison for different reasons. The girls became prostitutes or immediately married an older man just to have a place to sleep, eat, and feel a small amount of security, even if the men beat them or treated them like slaves. The strong ones and maybe smarter ones found a way to survive, but these were very few.

Do I have the tools to make something of myself? Do I have the right to become what I dreamed of? The right to build a family? Do I have the courage to move forward without any help and without any parental guidance? These are the overwhelming questions every child pondered as they stepped outside the boundaries of the orphanage into the unknown world.

I went to high school in Deva and stayed on campus. It was a large and beautiful town. I commuted by train back and forth from school.

On the weekly train ride, there were a lot of us "orphan" children and many children with parents. Because I was popular and feisty, many of my colleagues came to me for protection. I was a friend to any weaker child. Because of this, the kids had trust in me and we became a gang of about 40-50 kids. I became the leader of this group. If someone had problems in school, or if someone was beaten up at school, whoever had a problem, they would come to me to resolve the situation. The situation was always resolved because we became a brotherhood and fought for each other no matter what. I still have the nickname "The Judge."

At the beginning I liked that I had power. I liked being above everyone. I liked that I had the ability to take care of the people around me. Then I matured and I became tired of all the fighting, all the "fun." There were nights

that I hated to fall asleep. I would avoid sleep. I wanted to be with friends, I wanted to feel good, and I believed that this was the only way for me to feel happy. On March 25th, I was in my dorm at school. It was the weekend, and I did not return to Petrosani as I normally did. It was night, and I had come home from the Club and I was sad, upset, and angry. I got ready to go to bed to see if I could sleep it off. And it was like I could hear in my head and heart, "Stop, you don't want to live your life like this. This is not real happiness. Real happiness can only be found in Me." At that moment I became scared but I began to hear things clearer.

I fell on my knees and began to pray. I saw all of my sins before me. All the faces of people I had hurt went through my mind, every face that I had beaten, and I was frozen in fear. Until that moment, I was not afraid of anything or anyone. This was a feeling I never believed I would experience. I then realized what I had seen in those missionaries that came to visit me as a child. I felt a spirit come over me and I heard a voice saying, "You are forgiven of all your sins if you believe in Me and follow Me." I felt the strength to pray and I began to pray in tears and almost yelling to the heavens because I felt so guilty for the sins I had committed. Suddenly, I opened my eyes and it was morning. I felt like I was alive. I felt a happiness I could not describe and I wanted to tell everyone what happened, but I still did not know for sure what happened myself. In my room I had a Bible and I began to go through it page by page, I read some verses and did not fully understand it. I turned to John 3:16 which says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." This I finally understood.

Jesus Christ calls all of us to be a light, to show His brilliance and holiness to the world, and that we can have a relationship with the Father through His beloved Son who sacrificed himself to show us sinners how immense His grace and love is toward us. I hope to show the people around me the true happiness found only in Jesus Christ.

I especially desire to show this to the youth around me so that they will know the truth from a young age that this peace and happiness comes only through belief and faith in Jesus Christ.