

# LOVING ROMANIA

## Sufficient Bread Ministry

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## "A Future and a Hope" Success Story

Written by Andrei

The F&H program was started out of a vision God gave my wife and me. By faith we stepped forward and trusted the Lord to finance it and make it successful.

It is my pleasure to share with all of you our first success story.

Cosmin was one of the original teens that entered the program. When he did, he was just shy of turning 18 years old. The summer of 2011, Cosmin came to Sufficient Bread Ministry for help. He was a very well known teen in our town who had friends who were far less than a good influence. I should know--I was in a very similar situation at his age.

Cosmin was a boy who was very confused about the idea of God and being a born-again Christian. He felt that he had a personal relationship with God and he believed that he was saved, but his knowledge of the scripture was very weak. He didn't know very many people with a strong relationship with God. He didn't have a strong male example, friend, or better put, father to teach him how to walk the straight and narrow and to give him parental advise.

From an early age, Cosmin lived on the streets. I remember seeing him constantly when I went out in town to play soccer as a teenager. We would find him next to the soccer field by the water pipes. This was his "home." I remember that he would always come play with us. We all grew to know him very well. Cosmin was, as we say in Romania, a "child of everyone." After we would finish playing, one of our gang would buy him some food.

For a while, a missionary raised Cosmin. This woman took him into official placement with his little sister. Unfortunately, as time went by, Cosmin became a troubled teen. He was a problem child at home, at school, and everywhere he went--constantly making poor choices.

Because of this, he went back to the streets worse than ever. Being back on the streets and not going to school or work, this teen began stealing, swearing, and gambling. He was a smart guy with great potential!

But nevertheless, he started having more and more problems.

I would meet with Cosmin in town and ask him about himself and why he was living in rebellion against God. Every time he would listen to what I had to say and he would respond, "I know God, but right now I am lost." He would ask me every time how I went from a "boy" to a man who walks in God's way, lives as a missionary, and has a happy family. My response was, "faith and God's grace changes anyone, even sinners like us." I would invite him to our weekly Bible studies, but he rarely came.

In the summer of 2011, Cosmin came to us for help, saying he was tired of the life he was living and wanted to leave it all behind.

Kelle and I prayed and talked about how we could help him. Cosmin was not the only teenager who needed support financially and spiritually. We already knew about two other teens that desperately needed our support. After several days of prayer and thought, we started putting together the F&H program.

While we were waiting for finances to come together to start the program, I spent a lot of time discipling Cosmin through scripture and Q&A. Slowly he began to come to our home Bible studies and would stay at our house and attend family dinners. He began to be a part of the church and our family.

During this time, SBM launched the F&H program. This program, soaked in much prayer and discussion, was designed to address the problems associated with teenaged



## "Future and a Hope" Success Story Continued:

orphans coming out from under the authority of the State.

God's work had begun! Cosmin began to improve and continued to attend our weekly Bible studies. He even began to come with us to the local orphanage and loved the children along side us. He also returned to finish high school. Of course we had our ups and downs, even to the point of having to temporarily dismiss him from the program because he violated various house rules multiple times. During that brief time we kept in touch and he learned a lot from that "tough love" moment.

After his apology and being reinstated into the program, Cosmin managed to obey the house rules. This last chance totally changed Cosmin's life. We all have had moments when we may not have deserved another chance, but God, great in mercy and grace, loved us and offered us forgiveness.

With the help of F&H, and most importantly God, Cosmin has a closer walk with his Father in heaven. He has passed his Driver's License exam, learned how to provide for himself, learned how to put money aside, and with much toil and sweat on our side and his, he completed high school! He learned what a family looks like and what it feels like to be supported by people who love him. I say this with tears in my eyes because I am proud to have had the opportunity to be a father, friend, and teacher to Cosmin. Cosmin will forever be a part of our family.

Yes, I can say that it was complicated, it was hard, and sometimes I could not believe how much trouble I went through with this boy. But I was that same person before I came to know Christ as my personal Savior. There were times when I felt as if I was looking into a mirror, seeing myself and

then Cosmin.

Cosmin is a changed man and we are very proud of him. When he left our program, he said, "Thank you for everything you taught me. Thank you for all you have gone through for me. Andrei, thanks for not letting me down. Thank you for saving my life." And what blessed me the most was that he said that it is his dream to someday save a life as we did for him.

In September, Cosmin left the F&H program with courage and faith in God, ready for his next journey in life. He is currently in Spain working and calls me every week to touch base.

Kelle and I want to thank you because, through your support of us, a life was saved and forever changed by God.

God bless you!



### Where do you see yourself next Summer?

**Andrei and I will be leading a 10 day trip to Romania next Summer 2015. Please contact us if you want more information. We will be living at Betania amongst the children and seeing how they live day to day. It will be a wonderful trip and I hope many of you can be a part of it!**

**Contact us for more information.**

### Prayer Requests and Praise Reports

- Continue to pray for the transitional youth of Romania. That they would walk in the power of the Spirit and not by their own might.
- Pray for Betania Family Center . That God might be magnified in the lives of the children living there.
- For wisdom and direction in ministry.

#### PRAISE:

- We are so thankful for the sacrifice each of you make monthly to support Sufficient Bread. With your help, these kids are experiencing a significant change in their lives. Blessings to you all in Christ Jesus! Keep up the good work!

THANK YOU, FATHER! We give YOU praise!