



**Friendship
INTERNATIONAL**

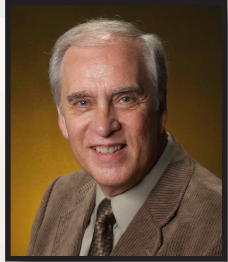
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

UPDATE
MONTHLY ...
2023

Number 03.23

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March, 2023



Del Huff
Executive Director



March 17th marks the day as St. Patrick's Day. We have "celebrated" this as the day to wear green. But in looking a little deeper into the person

of St. Patrick, I found a few things that are little known to us, the spiritual reason, for this day.

Saint Patrick lived in the fifth century. His given name was actually, Maewyn Succat. It wasn't until he became a priest that he adopted the name Patrick. As a teenager, St. Patrick was kidnapped by a pirate raiding party in Britain and sold into slavery in Ireland. As a slave, he looked after and herded sheep for many years before fleeing back to a monastery in England for refuge. While there, he became a devout follower of Christ and ordained as a Bishop, after which he returned to Ireland as a missionary.

He lived out the remainder of his life answering Christ's calling to "Go and make disciples". He could have stayed in Britain and served God in his own church, city and county; his own "Jerusalem and Judea," but he willingly went back to a place of pain. He went to his "Samaria and ends of the earth" and loved the people he could have hated.

St. Patrick is known for having penned an amazing prayer known as "Saint Patrick's Breastplate". Here is the last paragraph of his prayer.

"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, through belief in the threeness, through confession of the oneness, of the Creator of Creation."

This is what we should think of on St. Patrick's Day and every day.

Your Prayers and Support at Work in Ukraine, Romania and Hungary

by Del Huff, Director F.I.

We cannot thank the Lord enough for His wonderful ways in using us and blessing us. But all because we have such wonderful Christian friends and partners from all across the United States. We thank our Lord and we thank those of you who pray and support our ministry on a regular basis. This report is only possible because of you.

It will be my privilege again to return to Romania, Ukraine and Hungary this month. I will be there as you receive this month's UPDATE.

I will be there for several reasons.



1. To visit with our dear brother, Emanuel Popa to discuss perspective ways we might be able to continue collaborating together this year for the benefit of the orphans at Maranata Charity Trust Orphanage. It is my prayer that I will be able to be an encouragement to Emi as he seeks God for wisdom and discernment for guiding the work at the Orphanage.



2. To serve together with two brothers whom I've learned to appreciate for their faithfulness to the Lord in serving in Romania. Adi Muscan will travel with me again into Ukraine with a very important cargo load of used clothing for those who have lost everything, including their homes, family members and all worldly possessions. But, this time because of your generous support we are able to buy a very important piece of medical equipment to be used for serious medical emergencies in the



Ukraine. Thanks to Pastor Radu Ungar, who was able to source this equipment from a local medical facility in Romania, we will purchase it and be able to transport it to our reliable Christian distribution center in Chernivsti, Ukraine, a 14 hour drive from our base in Arad, Romania.

3. To meet with our ministry leadership team while in Romania to discuss what needs to be done in preparing for our camp program this summer. We want to be wise in our use of resources and funds sent to us by you, our partners, in making this a productive and fruitful summer of directing children and youth to a personal relationship with Jesus.

4. To travel to Debrecen, Hungary. This is the last, but not least reason - in fact, this is a huge need for prayer. I will meet with Jozsi Nagy, who has served the Lord faithfully through FI for more than 20 years. He and I will also be meeting with 3 influential people in the city of Debrecen in their home church. Two of these people have been friends of our mission for decades, from the beginning of FI in Hungary, and the other person is the lead pastor of the Baptist church in the city. The meeting will focus on what should be done with The Farm, our camp facility outside of Debrecen. These church leaders want to discuss the possibility of obtaining ownership of The Farm to use it for their church.

And now, we need your prayers. Pray for wisdom for us as we carry out our tasks over the next 10 days. Pray also for good results that will be God-honoring and bring Him glory.

... The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16b NLT

The fervent prayer of the righteous is not in vain. The God of the righteous is the only true God and hears the prayer of the righteous when they call upon Him.

BECAUSE A GREAT DOOR
FOR EFFECTIVE WORK
HAS OPENED TO (US).

1 CORINTHIANS 16:9 NIV

HOPE FOR UKRAINE

**As you read on the front page,
we are heading to Ukraine, now,
because of your generosity.**

And another convoy of Humanitarian relief is being planned for this summer. Stay in tune for updates.

**\$2,500 is needed for one van.
You are invited to participate
as the Lord leads.**

**YOUR GIFT OF ANY SIZE
DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
HERE ARE 3 WAYS
YOU CAN GET INVOLVED**

1. **Donate any amount** towards the purchase of food, water, daily essentials.
2. **Send a refugee child to camp this coming summer.** The cost for one child, for one week, is \$50.-, you may sponsor more than one.
3. **Have Sunday School children make greeting cards of encouragement to send to kids in Ukraine.** A great way to get children involved. We need thousands. Send your cards to the address at the top of our letterhead.

Make checks payable to -
Friendship International, P.O. Box 50884,
Colorado Springs, CO 80949-0884
OR - e-Giving at www.friendshipintl.org,
look for the Donate button at the top of
page and follow instructions for your donation.
Mark for Camp or Ukraine Aid.

**We Need YOU,
in order to
Help THEM!**



Lest We Forget!
The Stone Family
Desperately Needs Our Prayers



If you remember, the Stone family was looking forward to finally being able to spend a whole summer, after COVID, working at Friendship Camp in Romania in 2022. That all came to a screeching halt in May of '22. Here is their story. It's a long read, but it will give much insight into how to better pray for the family.

We need to pray without ceasing for this dear family.

David was arrested by FBI agents on May 2, 2022 at the Portland Oregon airport while our family was trying to return to the mission field in Romania. The agents initially refused to state why David was being arrested. He was taken to an interrogation room in the airport where he learned that he was being accused of securities fraud, specifically insider trading. Gwen did not learn what the charges were until David was able to call from the county jail late that evening.

Thankfully, he was released on bond and has been with the family during this extremely difficult time. After consulting with 5 different attorneys and cooperating as much as possible with the government, David eventually took a plea agreement. A person is considered culpable even if they were unaware that they were violating any laws. The old adage "Ignorance of the law is no excuse" seems like a reasonable and good legal principle, except that there are currently over 300,000 federal laws in the USA and many of them are vague and broadly applied.

Only 2% of federal cases ever actually go to trial. It is very expensive to go to trial. Usually the attorney fees will be twice or more of what they would be to accept a plea agreement and you will receive twice or more the punishment than you would if you had accepted a plea bargain. Consequently, the vast majority of them are resolved by plea agreements.

David's sentence hearing was held on February 14th. The probation office, the prosecutors, and the defense counsel agreed that the sentence should be below the guidelines of 46 to 57 months. Probation recommended 18 months. Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil handed down a sentence of 28 months, as a general deterrent to discourage anyone else from committing insider trading. Study after study has shown that harshly punishing crime does not deter others! What does work is making laws clear and holding everyone to the same standard.

Unless the Lord miraculously intervenes, David will surrender to the bureau of prisons on May 15, most likely it will be at Sheridan, OR, but he has not received his official designation yet.

Though David's sentencing is not what we have been asking for, I praise God that He is with us! That He is working everything together for our good! That we were able to share the gospel with the judge, prosecutors, and everyone in the courtroom! I praise the Lord for enabling me to sing before and after the hearing! I praise God for His miraculous provision for our family! I praise God for making us aware of how incredibly unjust the justice system has become! I know that the Lord is calling us to raise awareness of what things are actually like in the justice system and to work to make things better!

The Lord has given me assurance that He will be with my husband and He will not allow any harm to come to him! I praise God for setting limits on how Satan is allowed to attack us just as He set limits when Satan attacked Job. I fully believe that the Lord will not allow the US government to seize our house or my aunt's house that she gave us as an inheritance! We will see what the Lord does!!!

Many Christians love Micah 6:8 **"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."**

How can we say that we act justly if we ignore injustice? How can we say that we love mercy if we do not give mercy to our enemies? How can we say that we walk humbly with God if we do not take up our cross and follow Christ?

Many people can not believe what is happening to us because it is so unjust and crazy! It is easier for some people to think that David must have done something really bad than it is to face the truth that our justice system is incredibly broken and being used as a weapon against the American people, especially those who love and serve Jesus outspokenly. It is overwhelming! I invite people to at the very least pray for deep reforms, repentance, and revival in the US justice system, the government, and the whole country!!! I believe it is also very important to be aware of what is actually happening!

I would ask people to please pray for us too. Prayer is always our greatest need! The devil is trying to thwart God's plan for us, but I feel very strongly that we must boldly declare the gospel message wherever we are!!!

We are confident that we will return to Romania in the Lord's time! His call for our family to serve there was unmistakably clear, and it has not changed. We were just given the opportunity to share the gospel with the incredibly godless FBI agents, prosecutors, and the judge. And now I'm sure there will be great opportunities for David to share the gospel in prison.

I have to keep my focus on the Lord and keep praising Him. Sometimes I am overcome by how evil this all is. I know and believe that God is working everything together for good!

If you would like to read more details about the Stone's journey, they will be posting more details and update at - <https://stonefamily.ro>