

**Del Huff**  
Executive Director

### And How Shall We Then Pray?

in just over one week, we see, we hear, we experience, again, Evil raising its terrifying head. Now with two major wars raging in our world, one in Ukraine, another in Israel, there are literally hundreds of thousands of people experiencing pain, anguish, death and sorrow. It is a very sad time for humanity and we are in the midst of it all.



The appeal goes out -Pray for Israel! Yes, pray for Israel! But how? We have no words when we see the live images in the media and the news.

And what about those caught in the cross-fire as colateral damage? What about the normal citizens of Palastine? Are they not living in torment and need? Our hearts go out to the Israelis.

This is what God's word says in Romans 8:26-28, when we have no words.

*26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

*27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

*28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

May God's will be done, through this season of raging war, and may thousands bow their knee to the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.



getting to know each other as Ovi says, "by God's grace". I trust these brief videos show some of what we're seeing and doing.

Watch Video - <https://vimeo.com/854456763>



Watch Video - <https://vimeo.com/854461017>



I could ever ask for, and they, who come from nothing. Even my suitcase seems extravagant in comparison. Please keep us in your prayers that we would learn from their joy!

Watch Video - <https://vimeo.com/855788776>



### WRAP UP REPORT

#### Summer Ministry 2023

by Rev. Corey Gray, Team Leader  
College Ministry Romania Mission Trip  
from 4th Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD

August 5–12, 2023 - Friendship Camp, Arad, Romania

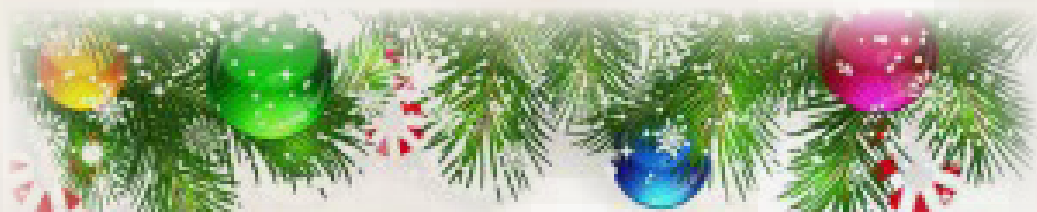
**Editor's Notes:** F.I. was pleased to host 4th Presbyterian this week of camp. We have had a long standing relationship with this church and had on various occasions the opportunity to have our music group, A New Song, serve in their church through the years. Thank you for coming 4th Pres. May the Lord continue to bless your service.

Corey Gray: Nine of us left Dulles on a Saturday evening for an overnight flight to Romania. Sunday afternoon we were able to visit the Romania Christian Enterprises campus and meet the children of Darius House. Monday we left for the camp that RCE runs where we were charged with helping the staff of RCE lead over 60 children (ages 7-18). The guys sleep in tents and the girls in cabins. While most kids don't speak English and none of us speak Romanian, we're truly enjoying

Theo Dietrich: When we arrived I was hesitant with the kids but shortly after I realized all the love and joy that was pouring out of these kids. Each of them has something different about them but it's clear they all have a hunger for Christ. Their smiles are so big that's it's impossible not to smile back. This is a clear representation of the beauty of fellowship and the journeys and relationships that fellowship can create.

Nina Ruiz: Since arriving to Friendship Camp on Monday, I've learned two things: first, in Romania, kids do as they're told without complaining or backtalk. Second, they really do cling to the Lord as their deliverance in times of affliction. Two sisters in my cabin, Naomi and Damaris, shared their testimony, explaining that their family of 11 lived in a one room house until they could afford to finish building a

Julia Gray: As I was thinking about what to write, I walked past some girls that screamed my name as I passed. They have made all of us Americans feel like celebrities, when we are so unqualified to feel so. I am no better than them simply because of where I was born, yet it sometimes gets portrayed that I am. We take so many things for granted, and these kids, they have so much joy for what they do have. I thank them for what they have taught us!!



# CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

December 2023

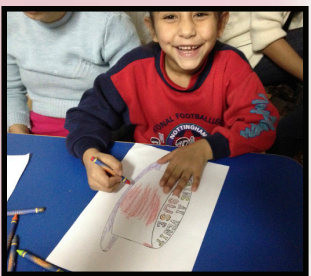
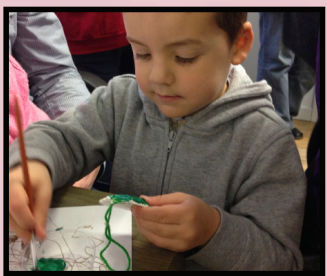
## You Can Have A Part This Year Celebrating Christmas In Romanian Orphanages WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We will not be able to send a mission team this year, unfortunately, there was not enough interest shown to prepare a team. Of course, we are disappointed, but we know that God's timing is always perfect, and we rest in that knowledge. We are still committed to making this a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birth with orphans in Romania.

It is also too expensive and uncertain to consider sending gifts by mail because of the challenges with shipping these days. So, we want to invite you, again, to share with your donations, as many of you did last year.

We are still living in the shadows of the COVID aftermath, but the Romanian government is allowing our Romanian team to organize Jesus Birthday partys in several orphanages in and around the city of Arad.

Our program will begin with our team singing some Christmas Carols with the children, then the Christmas story will be told and the children will be given the opportunity to ask Jesus into their heart. This will be followed with a snack and finish with the distribution of Christmas gifts for each child.



Our team, led by the Muscan family will be visiting the orphanages the second weekend of December, so **we are asking that all donations be received at our office by November 27.**

### Here's how you can participate.

Send donations to our office - Friendship International, PO Box 50884, Colorado Springs, CO 80949, **with a note Orphanage Christmas Project 23**, OR, through e-Giving found on our website - [friendshipintl.org](http://friendshipintl.org). Look for the DONATE link at the top of page. Find the fund - Orphanage Christmas Project, enter your donation amount and follow the instructions as to how you want to make your donation. It's simple, but what an impact you can have in the life of these children!

*Thank you and may the Lord bless you richly.*

**The Christmas Heart:** *"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has*

*meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."*  
**George Matthew Adams** - American newspaper columnist (1878-1962)



**Looking Forward**  
by Callum King,  
Camp Supervisor

As we reported in last month's and this month's UPDATE, the number of campers far exceed our hopes or imagination. We were amazed at how everything went so well.

We were full to capacity all summer with our cabins, tepees and covered wagons full, sometimes over the number allotted in order to be able to provide housing for everyone. In fact, we had an additional weekend group of Ukrainian campers ask to come in September. These were young people from Ukraine but who have settled as refugees in the Arad, Romania area.

This past Spring we were able, with massive help from our friends in Scotland, to get almost completely caught up on remodeling, repairing and upgrading the facilities before camps started this year. What a blessing it was!

Now, as we look forward to 2024, we are full of anticipation, but also recognize the challenges that lie before us.

We have mentioned this project a couple of times, but we will need to do everything we can to make one specific major change for next year. We were only able to invite about 60% of the campers this past summer due to the strict regulations of the government as to how many kids we can put into one sleeping structure. We need 6 new "cabins" to bring our capacity back up to what it was before COVID, which was 100. This is what the bare structure looks like. But in the coming months we



want to share with you what they will look like when they are completed to fit into our Old West Town camp.

One finished container - including the cost of delivery, outside wood cladding, porch and furniture for the inside will be \$6,500. Every dollar/euro/pound or Romanian lei helps. Maybe your church or business could consider sponsoring the cost of one container. *Can you help?*

Donations can be sent to our office or made online through e-Givng, [friendshipintl.org](http://friendshipintl.org).