



For God's Children
INTERNATIONAL

Hope,
dignity
& love
in
Jesus'
name

P.O. Box 434, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0434 | www.fgci.org

Merry Christmas, dear friends of FGCI!



Joel with Marcus and Dominik, two of our Home of the Good Shepherd grandkids in Moldova.

Just a few days ago, Jeremy Befort and I and three other American team members returned from our annual Christmas trip to Romania and Moldova. [And it was a terrific trip!] Each year for the past several years, we have taken the "good news of great joy" about the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus to hundreds of children and people with special needs whom we serve there. Christmas is a joyful season full of hope and love, as we celebrate Jesus, Emanuel, "God with us." The Christmas holiday also provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share the message of the Gospel with all of our kids.



Soon you'll be receiving a ministry update with a full report about our trip, but I wanted to take this opportunity to share a prelude with you, one of our beloved monthly supporters. Included with this special Christmas greeting is a special, handmade card created by Carolina Pogor, the house mom at our Home of the Good Shepherd in Nisporeni, Moldova. We have left it unsigned, so you can "re-gift" it to one of your friends if you so choose.

As one of only 75 monthly/regular supporters (comprised of individuals and churches) of our ministry, we want you to know how much we appreciate your faithful partnership in our ministry. It is your generosity and faithful support that helps to keep FGCI going. And God is using your gifts and prayers in some amazing ways in our work with children in Romania and Moldova, as well as with our ministry among adults with special needs. We are seeing the fruit of long-term ministry, as we continue to build relationships and to be involved in the lives of those we serve.



Above: Our team stuffing gift stockings in Babadag. Right: Nootsie and Jeremy read the biblical Christmas story.

The way to say "Merry Christmas" in Romanian is: "*Craciun Ferecit*" (pronounced: cruh-CHOON feh-reh-CHEET). On behalf of our entire For God's Children International staff and the precious children we serve, I wish you and yours a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Love in Jesus,

Joel Burkum

brother joel burkum
Executive Director



Carolina Pogor with one of her handmade Christmas cards.



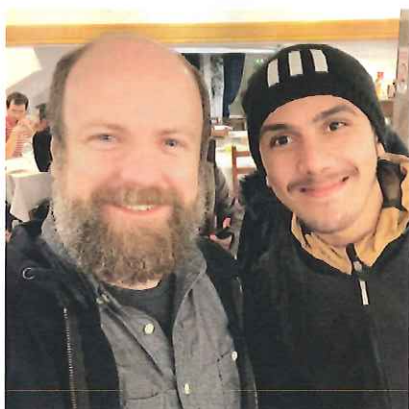
This year, we enjoyed the company of more than 80 of our Roma (Gypsy) friends from Vulcanesti, Moldova, at our annual Christmas celebration!

It was a delight for all of us. God is at work in the village.



Far left: We are very excited about what God is doing in the lives of our family at Home of the Good Shepherd in Nisporeni, Moldova. Pictured here are Vlad and Carolina Pogor, houseparents, and our foster children.

Left: Joel Burkum (left) with Samson, a Roma teenager from Vulcanesti, Moldova, whom FGCI is sponsoring to finish his high school diploma.



We have been very blessed by your prayers and support throughout 2019! Your faithful support makes it possible for me and our FGCI staff to focus all of our time and energy to teaching the Good News of the Gospel to our Fagucci (FGCI) kids in Romania and Moldova. And your prayers continue to open closed doors and hearts for ministry. This year we have been encouraged watching several of our kids, now teenagers, decide to follow Jesus. After all of these years of sharing Christ with them through Bible studies, summer Bible camps, phone calls (counseling), and text messages (Bible verses and advice), they are now ready to personally follow Jesus!

The pictures above are just a couple of examples of God's work. Mamut (above left with Jeremy), one of our "Little Lambs of the Lord," now regularly attends church. I remember the first time I met little Mamut back in 2004 when I moved to Romania. Stefan (above right with Jeremy) was baptized into Christ after spending years attending our monthly Bible studies at a government center for adults with special needs in Eastern Romania. Together with you, we have invested in their lives and watched them grow up, and now we are seeing the fruit through their smiles and changed lives; praise the Lord! Thank you for being there for them and us!

Jeremy Befort
Associate Director