



For God's Children
INTERNATIONAL

**a
personal
note**

from joel burkum
Executive Director

*Joel with FGCI's new SponsorLink
Ministry Assistant Maleesha Mustion.*

March 2, 2020

*"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."
—Philippians 3:10-12 (NIV)*

Who's up for International Reboot Day?

Dear Friends,

Wouldn't it be great if there was an International Reboot Day every four years on leap year day, February 29—a time to shut down, eliminate the clutter slowing you down, and then start back up in a fresh, new way? How would you use your "reboot" day? I'm so glad that God made 24-hour days, and for the opportunity that arrives at each sunrise to start afresh with hopes of a better and more godly day today than yesterday. I'm glad that God created the 7-day week with a "first day" and ending with a "sabbath." I'm grateful for new years and new seasons that help us put the past in the past as we look ahead and press on to take hold of our hope: resurrection and eternal life with Christ Jesus.

As we enter the spring, it's always exciting here at FGCI, because we delight in all the areas of our ministry that come alive with possibilities. We are preparing for camps and summer team ministry. We get excited about visiting "our kids" in Romania and Moldova, and seeing our Camp of the Good Shepherd campers returning for another week of summer Bible camp. Every spring is sort of a "reboot" for us at FGCI. And this spring is no different. I'd like to bring you up to speed on some of the exciting ministry changes that are taking place in this year's reboot.

A new family member joins our Home of the Good Shepherd family in Moldova

In February, we were blessed to add a new girl to our foster family at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Nisporeni, Moldova. Her name is Zinaida ("Zina" for short). She is eight years old. Our family is just getting to know her. Her early years have been filled with many challenges, but she is starting to get used to family living at our home. Vlad Pogor, our house dad, recently wrote to tell us that Zina had, that morning, eaten fried/scrambled eggs for the very first time. Just today he told me that Zina is having to learn to trust that she will have the food and things she needs at our home. She is struggling to adapt to her new school setting and her new family life. In the same way that each child at our Home of the Good Shepherd has had to work through the challenging experiences



Zinaida is the latest addition to our Home of the Good Shepherd family.

of their past, Zina is having to deal with the same kinds of issues. Please pray for Zina, Vlad & Carolina Pogor (houseparents) and our Home of the Good Shepherd family as they make their way into each others' hearts and lives during the next months and years. May God bless Zina and give her hope, purpose, and a loving family in which to grow up and be all that God wants her to be. Do keep Zina in your prayers.



Zinaida (pictured in back row with kitten ears) joins in Roman's birthday celebration at our Home of the Good Shepherd in Nisporeni, Moldova.

New staff members in Romania and the USA



Left: Nicoleta Breazu
Above: Nicoleta works with Ionela in FGCI's Sunshine (Therapy) Room in Zebil, Romania.

(Individual Specialized Needs Care) staff member serving with us since February 1 in our Sunshine Room in Zebil, Romania. Nicoleta is Romanian. She is from Zebil, which is a real blessing for us. Nicoleta has known us (FGCI) for many years, and has attended our symposiums in Zebil. Now it



Maleesha Mustion of Culbertson, NE is FGCI's new SponsorLink Ministry Assistant.

is time for us to get to know Nicoleta. We are happy to have her on staff and working with our adults with special needs in the Sunshine Room. Please pray for her, and that we can find a partner to serve alongside her in this important ministry.

Next, I'd like you to meet our new SponsorLink Ministry Assistant, Maleesha Mustion, of Culbertson, Nebraska. Maleesha has been serving with us as a missions team member or intern for **more >>>**



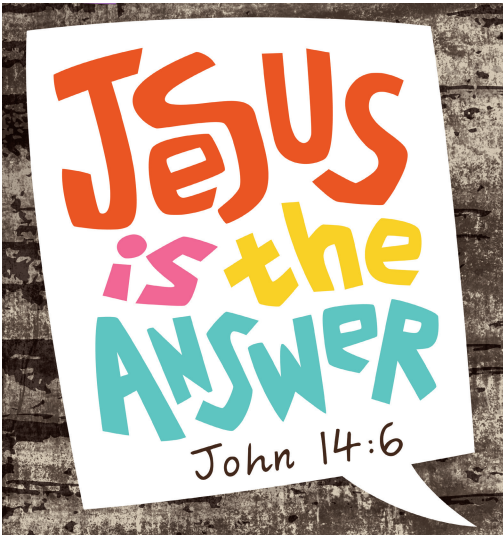
Left: Maleesha (right) with kids at an FGCI-sponsored summer Bible camp in Romania. Below Left: Jeremy Befort and Maleesha at an FGCI-sponsored Bible camp in Zizin, Romania.



more than five years. She loves the Lord and wants to make Him known as she serves in Missions. Maleesha writes: "I love working with kids and making videos to help FGCI sponsors gain a better perspective on what the ministry of For God's Children International is all about. I am looking forward to getting to know those of you who are FGCI SponsorLink sponsors. God bless you." Maleesha will be traveling to Romania and Moldova several times annually to get information,

photos and video documentation to share with our SponsorLink sponsors and greater FGCI constituency. She will be working with Jeremy Befort as he heads up our revitalized SponsorLink program. Be watching for more information about our "new and improved" SponsorLink program in next month's FGCI ministry update.

New CGS Summer Bible Camp season is just around the corner!



Registrations are starting to come in for the 2020 Camp of the Good Shepherd (Louisville, NE) Summer Bible Camp season. This year's theme is "Jesus Is The Answer," based on Jesus' words in John 14:6... "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In this world of confusion and despair, Jesus has the answers for all of life's difficult questions. We'll be

studying the encounters that Jesus had with people in the Bible, and applying the lessons we can learn from those encounters. We hope that you'll encourage your children to attend Bible camp at CGS this summer. You're invited to our free **Rally@theCamp!** Pre-registration Day and Family BBQ on Saturday, May 30, at Camp of the Good Shepherd, 10312 Agnew Road, Louisville, NE. The *Annual Family Bike Ride* will begin at 10:00 a.m. (watch for details). CGS campgrounds open at 10:00 a.m., with pre-registration

available throughout the day. There will be a short program in the camp Chapel at 4:00 p.m. A Free BBQ picnic begins around 5:00 p.m. Bring the whole family! Early-Bird discount pricing ends Monday, June 1. See you at camp!

**Camp of the Good Shepherd
2020 Summer Bible Camps Schedule
& Early-Bird Pre-registration costs*:**

May 30 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Rally@theCamp! / Pre-registration Day (For the entire family!)

June 5 (Fri.) 4:00 p.m. - June 6 (Sat.) 3:00 p.m.

First Chance Camp (entering grades 1 & 2) ~ \$40*
[Cost includes one parent accompanying child.]

June 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Li'l Lambs Day Camp (age 4 - K) ~ \$20*

June 7 - 10

Middler Camp (entering grades 3 & 4) ~ \$115*

June 14 - 18

Junior Camp (entering grades 5 & 6) ~ \$150*

June 21 - 25

Jr. High Camp (entering grades 7 - 9) ~ \$155*

July 6 (Mon.) - July 9 (Thurs.)

High School Camp (entering grades 9 - 12) ~ \$115*

* After June 1, 2020, prices for camps increase. Pre-register online at: campofthegoodshepherd.com.



February and March are "I Love Bible Camp!" months.

February and March are **I LOVE BIBLE CAMP!** months at CGS. We are asking our friends to help us by gathering non-perishable food items to be used throughout the graded Bible camps program in June and July. If you would like to donate some food items, go to our CGS website (campofthegoodshepherd.com) to see a list of items we're in need of, or to pre-register your child for camp online. Thanks!

I can't tell you how much we appreciate your financial support and prayers! God bless you.

Love in Jesus,

Joel Burkum

brother joel



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You may donate online by visiting www.fgci.org!