



## **FGCI March 31, 2020 Ministry Update**

**by Jeremy Befort**

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV***

***When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. Psalm 56:3-4a NIV***

Dear Friends,

### **Plans have changed, but we are moving forward.**

Joel Burkum, Maleesha Mustion, and I were planning to go over to Romania and Moldova in April for our annual spring trip. We were looking forward to seeing our staff and kids and planning for our summer ministry trips, programs, and camps. All of that changed several weeks ago as we received daily updates from Romania, Moldova, and here in the US about the spread of the coronavirus. So, we had to cancel our tickets and change our plans. In our team orientation meetings, we always encourage our short-term team members to be as "flexible as jellyfish" when they are on an overseas missions trip. After months of planning for a trip, they can arrive in Romania or Moldova to find out that everything has changed and that they are no longer able to do what they had been planning to do. Having the mindset of being as "flexible as a jellyfish" helps us look around to see what God wants us to do next. And God always is faithful to show us where He now wants us to be working and what He wants us to do. Plans change so often in Romania and Moldova on a missions trip that our veteran team members are no longer surprised. And, we are always excited to see what God will start next. Many of our ministries have begun after *our* plans were destroyed and, then, God revealed a new area where He wanted us to work. Looking back, we all can now see how God was working ahead of us, preparing the way and opening doors of ministry for us. Places we would never have found and things we would have never done if God had not shown us the need by changing our plans. And so, we continue to fervently pray to seek God's will and to do His work in 2020, our 25th year of ministry. We are looking forward to seeing our kids and staff this summer, Lord willing.

### **Our staff and kids are doing well.**

Praise the Lord that our Romanian, Moldovan, and American staff and volunteers, as well as our kids, are doing well and are safe. Romania and Moldova are both shut down, so our staff is staying home.



Home of the Good Shepherd family.

Our Home of the Good Shepherd kids and houseparents are safe and doing well; praise the Lord!

A few weeks ago, we sent an emergency wire of extra funds to Vlad and Carolina, our FGCI houseparents in Moldova, to help get them through the next couple of months. Vlad wrote the following message: "Peace, dear Brothers and Sisters. Seeing everything that is happening in the world, we have real peace in Christ. We are trying to



Stocking up on food.

find ways to keep busy and enjoy the moments we have together, and we go out with all the children on walks. Many try to frighten us with rumors of war or other great dangers that await us, but I believe that God's arm is not too short [to protect us]. We have stocked up on food for one and a half months. Thank you for your support and help. God bless you and protect you." Here in the midwest, our US staff is doing well and working from home on summer plans, both overseas and stateside. We are thankful for the ability to communicate so easily with our overseas staff and our kids via social media and video/texting applications. The kids and young adults we work with are doing well but getting tired of being stuck inside all day, either at home or in the state orphanages. Please keep our staff and kids in your prayers.

### Summer ministry plans underway.

We have decided to move this summer's Romania and Moldova missions trips to late summer. Hopefully, we will be able to start sending teams over during the second week of July. We have several Bible camps and day camps planned in Romania and Moldova. In early April, our team members will be meeting online to prepare for those camps and outreaches. If it turns out that our team members cannot go due to the coronavirus, we will reschedule their trips for a later date. Please pray that we will be able to go over this summer and be with our kids.



2019 Roma (Gypsy) Bible camp in Moldova.

### Become a SponsorLink Sponsor.

We have just relaunched our SponsorLink sponsorship program. When you visit our website (<https://www.fgci.org>) and click on the "SponsorLink" button. You will see that there are five areas from which you can choose to become a sponsor. You can choose to **Sponsor Students** (helping Roma/Gypsy students in Moldova), **Sponsor Foster Children** (supporting our Home of the Good Shepherd kids), **Sponsor Ministry Programs** (sending a child to Bible camp), **Sponsor Sunshine Room** (sponsoring our Individual Specialized Needs Care program), or **Sponsor Medical Needs** (helping with surgeries and medication). As you scroll through the website, you will see a detailed description of each area and the needs. By sponsoring the children with whom we work, or one of our ministry programs, you will help us a lot! Your monthly gifts or one-time donation will help us cover the costs of providing for our kids. Maleesha Mustion, our FGCI SponsorLink assistant, will be sending regular updates to our SponsorLink sponsors.

#### Foster Children



#### Sunshine Room



Students



Ministry Programs



Medical Needs

Thank you for your prayers and support! We are praying for you during this time. God bless!

Your brother in Christ,

*Jeremy Bafort*

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[www.fgci.org](http://www.fgci.org)