



For God's Children  
INTERNATIONAL

## a personal note

from joel burkum

FGCI Executive Director

January 6, 2021

Dear Friends,

The light of Jesus shines brightest in the darkness. We live in a world of spiritual darkness and confusion. There is one simple answer...Jesus. Today, is Epiphany for Orthodox Christians. It's the day when God revealed the Light of Jesus to the Gentiles living in darkness (Matthew 4:16). The first Gentiles to receive this light were the Magi we read about in the Gospel of Matthew. We aren't exactly sure how they discerned that the star they had seen in the East would lead them to Messiah Jesus. But, somehow, when they saw the star, and they understood this sign as pointing to the newborn King of Israel.

Jesus told His disciples, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16/KJV). There is something very powerful and compelling about light. We seek to let the light of Jesus shine all over Romania and Moldova and wherever else we live and serve.

In just a few days you will be receiving our 2020 FGC year-end ministry summary. But, I wanted to include this "mini" Personal Note preview with our December contributor letter to highlight a few of our Romania and Moldova Christmas activities this year.

Unlike other years, I was unable to travel to Romania and Moldova this Christmas, but our wonderful staff of nationals in Romania and Moldova were able to purchase and distribute food gifts and do a lot of ministry with our kids and needy families during the Christmas season. Here are a few snapshots of what our staff was up to this December.

Thank you for your generosity and support. We wish you a Happy New Year! And we look forward to what God has in store for us in 2021. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, and let us keep the light of Christ burning bright into this new year.

Love in Jesus,

*Joel Burkum*

brother joel



**Left and above:** Nootsie delivers food to needy villagers in Zebil, Romania.

**Top to bottom:** 1) Mama Nootsie takes gifts and food to a family in Zebil, Romania; 2) Nootsie and FGC volunteers visit one of our Little Lambs families to deliver food, gifts and encouragement; 3) Young people from Vulcanesti re-enact the story of Jesus' birth during a Christmas program; 4) Roma children sing a Christmas carol during a Christmas program sponsored by FGC.



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