

EDITION 19 - MOLDOVA AND THE MISSION

FAMILIES ON THE EDGE



MOLDOVA

POPULATION 4,000,000

Moldova is a very small country located south of Ukraine and east of Romania. The territory of Moldova has been a part of the Russian Empire, where it was known as Bessarabia, then it was united with Romania until occupied by the Soviet Union in 1940. Moldova officially declared its independence in 1991. In Moldova, the official language is Moldovan (similar to Romanian), however most people also speak Russian, which is a common language among people from different places living in Moldova. Moldova is famous for its delicious wine and other agricultural products. Driving through the beautiful countryside, you might mistake Moldova for Italy!



Kishinev

Moldova is also known as a poor country - the average monthly salary is around 2500 lei - the equivalent of 225 US dollars.



Moldovan Money

Our Family in Kishinev, Moldova

Kishinev is the capital of Moldova as well as the largest city, with a population of about 600,000 people. The church in Kishinev, Moldova was planted on August 4, 1996, with a team of six disciples from Kiev. One member of this team, Lana, left her university studies in Kiev and went to Moldova against her parents' wishes. God has blessed her decision greatly. She still lives in Kishinev and is married to a wonderful Christian husband.

Now, we have 60 brothers and sisters in the church in Kishiniev. Among these are 14 singles and 6 students. On May 9, the church celebrated their first teen baptism! Sergei, 16 years old, is the first child of a disciple to be baptized in Moldova. The church also rejoiced greatly in the baptism of Margarita - the aunt of one of the sisters in Kishiniev. She is still battling with cancer, and her husband didn't want to allow her to be baptized, but God performed a miracle in her life and she is now our sister in Christ!

As disciples in Moldova live on small salaries, they rarely have the opportunity to travel and visit with disciples in other churches. They are always very happy and encouraged to receive guests - and generously offer what they have to build up God's family. They send their greetings and gratitude for your ongoing support!



Teen Baptism -Sergei (right)

THE MISSION FIELD

In Matthew 28, Jesus gives us a great mission - He commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. He wants to bring salvation not only to people in every nation - but also every region, city, and even every neighborhood. In Ukraine and Moldova, there is still a lot of work to be done! The map below shows all of the regions of Ukraine that are waiting for us to come and share the good news (the non-colored sections are regions where we already have churches).

We dream about seeing churches in every region of Ukraine, and seeing each church growing and bringing more people to God!

Each year, when we collect special missions contributions, we take a step closer to that realizing this dream. Last year, missions giving allowed us to strengthen many existing churches in Ukraine. New couples were hired to work for the churches in Vinnitsa and Dnepropetrovsk, and new staff members are now serving the teen and campus ministries in Kiev! Soon, we hope to see our family extend to new regions, cities, and neighborhoods.

We hope that your family has been blessed and encouraged as you have gotten to know your family here in Ukraine and Moldova throughout this series! We constantly give thanks to God for your financial giving and prayers, and look forward to the day we can all meet face to face. God bless and keep you!

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers out into his harvest field." *Matthew 9:37-38*



DISCUSSION:

READ MATTHEW 9: 35-38

What is Jesus talking about here? What is the "harvest"? Who are the workers? What can we do to help bring more workers into the mission field?

ACTIVITY:

Go back through the devotionals about Ukraine and Moldova. What was your favorite story? What did you learn?

Make a list of churches in Ukraine and Moldova, and pray for each church,

CHALLENGE:

Think about a way your family can get more involved in Ukrainian missions - maybe even come for a visit!

Remember your family in Ukraine and Moldova in your prayers.