

Ruslan and Larisa Telpiz, Moldova

November 2016



Ruslan is a Pastor and the leader of **Gotesti Baptist Church**.

He is married to Larisa and they have three children. Ruslan leads meetings and preaches in the church and Larisa has oversight of the church's work with women and children.

They are involved in pastoral visits, offering practical help to church members and others,

evangelistic outreach and prayer.



Moldova is a very poor country in Eastern Europe. In recent years there has been an increasing shortage of paid jobs. Many people go to European countries or Russia to work, splitting up families. If both parents go, their children are left with grandparents, who often struggle to survive financially. Many families move away, hoping for a better life elsewhere.

Despair and lack of hope leads many people in Moldova to turn to alcohol and domestic violence is common.

These are the challenges faced by the church.



What is the Baptist Church in Gotesti doing to help?

Day Care Centre for vulnerable children. Started in 2015, this takes place in the church during term-time after school – providing a cooked meal, help with school work, games, craft, Bible stories. It is hoped to be able to provide facilities for the children to wash and have their clothes washed.



The new leader of this ministry is Viorel, youth worker with the church. He also runs a football ministry for teenagers in Gotesti and a youth club.

Viorel's wife, Olesea, is in charge of the Sunday School.



A weekly **women's meeting** in the church provides an opportunity for fellowship and Bible study.

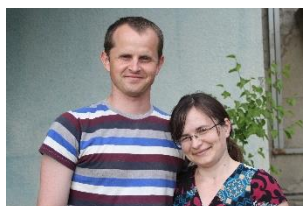
Aid packages of food and firewood in the winter are given to those in greatest need. These people are visited in their homes by some of the church members.

Evangelistic outreach programmes aim to bring the gospel message of hope and salvation to those living in the area. Coming up soon, a team of evangelists from the UK will be in the South of Moldova. Church members in Gotesti and other villages will be inviting their family, friends and neighbours to their homes, to hear the gospel message. Those responding will be followed up by the local pastors.

Chircani church update

Chircani is a village near Gotesti. Ruslan was involved in planting a church there a few years ago. HOTC tithe funds from St Michael's contributed to building the church.

Chircani Church



During 2016, further rooms were completed, providing facilities for Sunday School, youth work and special events. The church is led by Pastor Igor and Tanya. There are close links between the church in Gotesti and in Chircani.



Members of St Michael's have visited Gotesti and Chircani every year for the past 6 years, helping to run day camps for children in the summer, visiting church members and others in their homes and joining in with other church activities.



If you are interested in finding out about joining a team to go to Moldova in 2017, please contact **Mary Cottrell**, the link person at St Michael's, via the church office.

Prayer points:

1. For Ruslan and Larisa – for strength and encouragement in their work with the church.
2. For the Day Care Centre - to have enough helpers, to be able to befriend the children's parents and to have good results with the children.
3. For outreach to children and young people through Sunday School, the youth group and football ministry.
4. For the outreach mission in the church members' homes that is taking place on 26 Nov – 6 Dec. Please pray for people to be open to the gospel.



Ruslan's newsletters are sent to St Michael's via TEN (Transform Europe Now), a Bristol-based mission organisation involved with evangelism and social outreach in several countries in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. www.ten-uk.org