



Ruslan and Larisa Telpiz and their three children live in Gotesti, a village in Moldova, a small country in Eastern Europe, between Romania and Ukraine.

Ruslan is the Pastor of the Baptist Church in Gotesti and currently also of the Baptist Church in the adjacent village, Chircani. His ministry includes leading Sunday services, preaching, baptisms, pastoral care and discipleship of church members. He is also involved in outreach and evangelism in these villages and the surrounding areas. In addition, Ruslan leads youth work in both villages.

Larisa runs the Day Care Centre for socially vulnerable children and is involved in the church's ministry with women and families.



Summer camps

This summer has been busy. There were 3 week-long camps for children, attended by 140 children in total and a youth camp, attended by 20 teenagers. The camps were great fun and everyone had a fabulous time, enjoying sports, crafts, games, music, Bible teaching and food. Twenty children gave their lives to the Lord and Larisa is now doing discipleship Bible studies to help them grow in their faith.



Bible study and Floorball game with new youth group

Youth groups

These are going well. Up to 80 young people attended the weekly meetings in Gotesti church during the past year. A smaller group also meets weekly in Chircani church. Ruslan has been praying about starting a church plant in an adjacent village. A camp was held and a new youth group has recently started there (Tiganca).

New ministry: Taekwondo and Bible classes

Churches in Moldova are finding that offering Taekwondo classes is popular with young people. Christian instructors combine teaching Taekwondo with teaching Bible studies. Many children and teenagers come to know Christ through this ministry and Ruslan has been praying for a long time that it would be possible to start it in his local area. One of the young people from Chircani has recently been training to do this at a Ministries Mission School and classes started in September. There will be groups for children and teenagers, meeting in Gotesti church and Chircani church.



Day Care Centre

The Day Care ministry for vulnerable children is flourishing, with 40 children attending regularly. Numbers are expected to increase as school resumes for the Autumn term.

Ruslan regards this as the most effective ministry that the church runs and it makes a real difference in the lives of the children. It also provides opportunities to reach out to those the children live with, to give practical help, share the gospel and invite them to special services.



Many of the children have emotional, behavioural and/or spiritual problems because they are neglected by their parents or they have no parents. Larisa feels called to do one-to-one counselling and mentoring with these children and she is starting this new aspect of ministry this term.



Food parcel for an elderly couple



Chickens for a disabled woman

Giving food parcels and chickens to people in need

The church has given further food parcels to people in need.

Others have received young chickens to raise, providing eggs and then meat. They were very happy with these gifts. These people are very poor and live a very difficult life.

The funds received have enabled this practical help to be extended to four villages, including to disabled people and widows, elderly people and families. Church members had opportunities to share the gospel message as they took food parcels and/or chickens to the villagers in their homes.

Covid update

Vaccination is gradually being rolled out, with about 20% of the population vaccinated by September. Travel to other countries in search of work is becoming possible again and jobs are resuming in Moldova, but there continues to be very little paid work available. Although numbers of Covid cases were decreasing, there is currently another surge.



Harvest

After last year's severe drought and failed crops, it is a great blessing that there has been plenty of rain in Moldova this year and the harvest has been abundant. However, food prices remain high.

A message from Ruslan to St Michael's Church: "Peace be with you. We really appreciate what you are doing in the name of Jesus Christ for the poor people of Moldova. They don't know you, they don't know who takes care of them – but the Lord knows".

Prayer requests:

- For the children and leaders at the Day Care Centre. For Larisa as she expands this ministry, to do counselling and mentoring with children who have emotional and spiritual problems.
- For the new Taekwondo/Bible study classes which have started in the church this Autumn.
- For the youth groups – for the teenagers to come to the Lord and grow in faith.



With love,
Ruslan, Larisa, David, Ruth, Emili
and the Baptist church from Gotesti
and Chircani

Link person at St Michael's: Mary Cottrell