St Michael's Church
Stoke Gifford

Mission Support Hub

Mission Partner of the Month - November 2026
Ruslan and Larisa Telpiz, Moldova



Ruslan and Larisa Telpiz live in Gotesti, a village in Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe. Ruslan leads the Baptist Church, teaching, preaching and supporting outreach to the community, while Larisa runs the Day Care Centre for vulnerable children. The church also offers sports training, Bible programmes and practical support to families, elderly and disabled people, sharing the gospel and meeting both spiritual and practical needs.



The ministries of the church are going very well.



Dinu, the football coach and youth leader, has two groups of boys. He does a Bible study with them before each football training session. The Gotesti teams play matches with teams in other villages. The other coaches, players and parents remark about the difference in behaviour between Dinu's teams and other village teams – FC Gotesti players are well behaved, respectful and don't use bad language, fight or get angry. This a positive testimony to Dinu's guidance and mentoring of the boys in his teams.



Andrei graduated this summer from Precept International Mission School in the capital, Chisinau, as a teacher of Taekwondo and Bible studies. He now has a black belt. Andrei teaches groups of children and young people. **Ana** is also training as a Taekwondo coach and she teaches groups of younger children. Taekwondo is a martial art which is popular in Moldova. Apart from being a sport, it promotes discipline and respect in the participants.



Daniel also studied at the Mission School. He is teaching English to a group of children, using a Bible-based course book written by a Moldovan Baptist minister.

The **Day Care Centre** is an after-school ministry held in Gotesti Church, which provides help with school homework, Bible-based activities, games and crafts and a hot meal, in a caring and supportive environment. It is attended by 60 children aged 7-15 years. They come from families where the parents are very poor and/or are alcoholics or the parents are working abroad. Many of the children have difficult home lives, with domestic abuse, neglect and lack of discipline being common.









The children prepare for a special event in the church to celebrate Grandmother's Day – with teachers **Mariana** and **Larisa**.



Lilia and her mother **Dora** cook meals for the Day Care children and for people in need in the community.





Ruslan, with his assistant **Petea** and other church members, are actively involved in outreach to the community. They take food parcels and cooked meals to people at home, chat, share the gospel, pray and provide other practical help where possible. Many people in the village, especially the elderly, live alone and are lonely. These visits are welcomed.

Looking ahead ….

- A monthly meeting for widows was started in winter last year. It was popular and up to 50 widows attended each month. It is planned to resume the meetings this November.

- There are also plans to start a new weekly meeting for men, as many men live alone and are isolated.

- There is concern about how people will heat their homes this winter. Coal is usually imported into Moldova from Russia and Ukraine but because of the war, coal is not available this year. Other types of fuel are expensive and/or difficult to obtain.

Please pray:

- For the evangelistic meetings held weekly on the streets of the village.
- For the meetings with widows, starting again in November.
- For a new ministry to be started for men.
- For winter fuel to become available so that people can heat their homes.



Link person at St Michael's: Mary Cottrell

Other Mission News

- **Open Doors** is seeking 1 million signatures on the 'Arise Africa' petition (over 920,000 when this was written!). Will you read and sign TODAY (it closes tomorrow 2/11) to prompt debate by the African Union, United Nations, EU and UK governments? Find at Arise Africa petition - Open Doors UK & Ireland. The Open Doors UK and Ireland petition will be presented to the UK Parliament on 12 November.

- **Encounter Christianity** gives thanks for over 100 sixth formers at their recent 'Evidence for Christianity' Conference in Bristol.

- **Katia Rocks** and her Florianopolis Church in Brazil are helping a local Venezuelan Pastor whose church is welcoming families arriving as refugees from Venezuela. Very recently, nine new families arrived. Katia's Church was able to help these families including with blankets and warm clothing.

- **The Brickworks.** Pray for the final week of youth discipleship training taking place in Yei (S Sudan) this month and for the training of parish treasurers that follows. Elections are due to be held in December - pray things will remain calm.