



*Tie your shoes and pray for the Hughes.*



March 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

With many Moldovans celebrating Christmas on January 7<sup>th</sup> we had **several special events after the first of the year**. The first was a Christmas program at the local penitentiary for the officers and their families. (You may remember that over a year ago we helped with a special Thanksgiving program there.) Viola and the Grosses taught all the kids a song while the adults took a Christmas quiz. The kids sang for their parents and we had some other music together. David spoke on how the message of Christmas affects us still today and afterward we had a few games and snacks. Last year David and I were unsuccessful in our attempt to obtain permission to visit the inmates with a man from another city who ministers there regularly. Our hope is that through ministry to the officers we may one day be granted access to see the inmates.



The following Sunday we had a Christmas themed service in the village church followed by a meal together. On Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> we held a **Christmas program for kids**. We held one first at the Grosses house (we typically have a VBS there each summer) and then repeated the program in Soroca that afternoon. The thing I was most pleased with was the handful of kids that came from unbelieving families, most of whom had attended our VBS last summer. Since the schedule and program went well, we are considering future 1-day programs at other times of the year (Easter, specifically). The final Christmas event was caroling out in the village. A couple of the ladies who live there were planning to go so David and his daughter Abby, Viola and I joined them. We enjoyed sharing with others songs about Jesus' birth. (We even caroled to the mayor of the village and his wife. I was glad I didn't know who he was until after we had sung or I would have been nervous!)



The ladies have a meeting the first Saturday of each month. It is structured for believers and rarely do unbelievers come. With the normally scheduled meeting falling one day before International Women's Day (March 8<sup>th</sup> - a fairly big



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event here), the **ladies decided to make it an evangelistic outreach**. A lady from the village church helped with food. Special decorations, a craft, a game and prizes were all prepared. Viola taught a lesson on Eve and our need for and God's provision of a Savior. As with many things, not as many came as were invited, but 7 unsaved ladies came from the community. We pray the Lord will use that event in His drawing of these ladies to Himself.



Yes, we too have **the Corona virus in Moldova**. The last I heard we have 60+ confirmed cases in the country. Nearly everything is shut down and we are learning to navigate this unusual time. With the cancellations and good weather, we have been able to work on our property. Since construction stores are closed, more of our work has been outside. It has been work that needed to be done, but that would have been put off had we been able to get materials and work more on the house. Some things in Moldova were suspended until April 1<sup>st</sup>, but only time will tell if the restrictions will last longer than that. Grocery stores still have plenty of supplies, so we are still able to get all that we need. We are doing our best to make use of the time for things that we've gotten behind on (like prayer letters) and for others that we don't always have the time for that we'd like (like work on our house). May we each see the lessons our Lord has for us during this time!



In His service,  
Jacob and Viola Hughes

- For Prayer:**
1. Navigating this unique time in ministry
  2. Wisdom in planning late spring and summer ministries
  3. Strength to work on our house while the time is available

- For Praise:**
1. A number of encouraging Christmas ministries
  2. Turnout for the special Ladies' Meeting
  3. Health and progress on our house