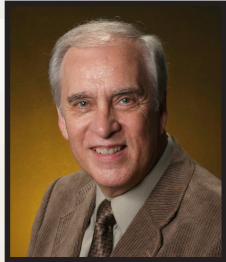




**Friendship
INTERNATIONAL**
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

UPDATE
MONTHLY ...
2022



Del Huff
Executive Director

Do We Have It Within Us To Be Thankful This Year?

As we near the time for all Americans to take time out to celebrate our national Thanksgiving holiday, it seems there are so many challenges, sadness, division, violence and hatred in our world.

We don't need to reflect long to be reminded of the most tragic occurrence of 2022, that being the war in Ukraine, which continues to affect the lives of millions of Ukrainians. And now the fear of winter setting in. Many are still without their homes or shelter, water, food and clothes as the long cold of winter lumes.

And here at home we are facing continuous threats of growing inflation, out of control gas and energy costs, which will definitely be a factor as we move into the winter months. The bottom line is, our future seems very uncertain.

On any given day we can find many reasons to be anxious and complain. However, Psalm 100 exhorts God's people to be glad, joyful, and thankful for "it is he who made us, and we are His; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture" (v. 3). As we remember who we are, we can respond with thanksgiving. For even in the worst of times, we can remember Christ's love and sacrifice for us.

Don't let the brutality of the world take away your thankful heart. Remember you are God's child, and He has shown you His goodness and mercy through His work on the cross. So, yes, we should, we can, be thankful. Why?

"Because He Lives we can face tomorrow. Because He lives our fear is gone. Because we know who holds the future and life is worth the living just because He lives!"



Give thanks
unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

1 Chronicles 16:8 | www.believers4ever.com

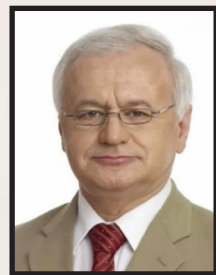
NEWS FROM ROMANIA

This is an update on the results of our story from last month about the meeting our Director and a brother from Romania had regarding the work of the Maranatha Charity Orphanage in Arad, Romania. It's with pleasure that we share with you at this Thanksgiving time, the decision of Friendship International to support this orphanage by raising funds to help with their ongoing remodeling project of the orphanage building, also to raise funds for the orphanage to have a wonderful Christmas party, celebrating the birth of Jesus. Here are more details of the orphanage and its beginning. What a wonderful reason for us to thank the Lord for the compassion and heart of the Popa family to help meet the needs of children in their country.



by Emanuel Popa - Director of the Maranatha Charity Trust

The Maranatha Charity Trust was started by my father, Dorel Popa, in 1990. He was a pioneer who right after the communist regime collapsed, started three amazing and impactful ministries; the Maranatha Baptist Church of Arad, the Maranatha Charity Trust with several orphanages throughout the years, and the Soteria Christian Clinic - one of the



first private Christian charitable Clinics in Arad which gave medicine for free to patients. Today, all of these institutions still exist in different forms, with different leadership.

My father passed away in 2014 and the orphanage (Maranatha Charity Trust) was lead by someone else for several years. In 2019, things started to change and the president of the ministry became Mircea Tarau, who accepted the position with the thought and vision that I would eventually step in and co-lead the organization in the future. That vision came to fruition last year in April, when I accepted the invitation to join the ministry and today, we co-lead the charity.

I believe in LEGACY. I desire to leave a legacy. The main reason I accepted this challenge was to carry on my fathers' legacy that has existed for over 30 years. In God's word we read, ***One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*** Psalm 145.4.

The motto for our charity is: ***Raising and equipping children with Kingdom values so that they can impact today's society through a Christ-like character.***



At this moment, we are involved in a huge project of thermal insulation for the orphanage building. It is a very costly project that is approximately \$55,000, but this will help us save 60 to 65% on our heating bills through the winter. Last winter we paid around \$8000.- just for heating, over the course of 5 months.

OUR GREATEST NEED - STAFF

We need caring, competent, part-time, experienced Christian therapists who can work with the kids on a daily basis. The kids have major needs and major problems/challenges due to the abusive backgrounds many of them came from before arriving in our care.



At this time, we have 12 children. We had 15 until this summer but 3 of them have been placed in foster care. We have a total of 7 full time staff and over 20 volunteers (3 of which are involved weekly). Last year we had 13 full time staff when I took on the position.

Yes, we are needy, we are weak, but we serve a God of compassion and love for these children that He has entrusted to us. Please pray that our heavenly Father will give us wisdom, the desire, the heart and the love needed to provide for these children who are vulnerable, at risk and no longer have parents to care for them.

And may the Lord bless you as He leads you to pray for these children and if He leads, support our efforts to give these children a home that they deserve. Also, if you are interested in coming to help us, please contact Friendship International - frint@aol.com, with this subject line - **information on Maranatha Charity Trust Orphanage.**



Do You Shop On Amazon? If You Don't . . .

Christmas Is The Perfect Time To Start
Please consider joining AmazonSmile and help us with your Christmas online shopping.

THIS IS A WIN - WIN OPPORTUNITY!

This Christmas there will be more people shopping online than ever before in history.



We are living in a days of great peril. Since F.I.'s inception we have set as our purpose, "To meet the needs of people at the intellectual, physical, spiritual and social levels." (Luke 2:52)

Through most of our work we have been involved in the spreading of the Gospel and discipling Christians in their everyday life, in various ways. But, we also are called upon to meet the needs of people, young and old, at the physical and social levels, as well.

We are living in such days that compel us to help in ways that will meet the needs of people with the very basic elements of life. And thus, **we are calling upon our friends to assist.**

On November 29, 2022, the world will experience its tenth annual *GivingTuesday* event.

What is GivingTuesday?

In the same way that Black Friday and Cyber Monday kick off the holiday shopping season, *Giving Tuesday* kicks off the season of giving. It was created in 2012 as a **global day of giving back and doing good for others.** This is a joint effort of all non-profit organizations, not necessarily Christian, but with the intent to do good for people in need. In its ten years, it has proven to be a real and sustainable fundraising tool. It has grown dramatically each year, with a total of almost \$2.7 billion raised in 2021. All signs indicate that its growth will continue in 2022.

We are pleased to let you know that...

Friendship International will be participating in this year's *GivingTuesday*!

We have a goal of raising \$5,000, and we are trusting that you, our friends, will be a part of helping us reach that goal! The donations received will be divided among two projects.



1. **Maranatha Charity Trust Orphanage** - We have committed to raising funds this year for the orphanage. These funds will go towards two projects;

1. The renovations and specifically insulating the home.
2. To provide a Christmas party, with a dinner, gifts, crafts and to top it off, a Jesus birthday cake.



2. **Ukraine Relief Fund** - We continue to be in contact with Christian brothers working directly in Ukraine with people who have been affected by the war between Ukraine and Russia. There is ongoing need for food, clothes and basic



essentials. Next month we would like to send something special to brighten up their Christmas season.

Here's how you can participate.

Send donations to our office - Friendship International, PO Box 50884, Colorado Springs, CO 80949, **with a note Giving Tuesday,**

OR,

through e-Giving found on our website - friendshipintl.org. Look for the DONATE link at the top of page. Find the fund - GivingTuesday, enter your donation amount and follow the instructions as to how you want to make your donation. It's simple!

Donations given after Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29, will still count.

Thank you and may the Lord bless you richly!

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, **at no cost to you.** When you shop at smileamazon.com, you'll find exactly the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. When you register, choose Friendship International Ministries Incorporated.

How? Copy and paste this url <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1216008>. This takes you to the registration page for signing up for SmileAmazon. If you have an Amazon account you will just need to sign in through the smile.amazon.com website and from there you will go to your amazon account for shopping. Or just click the Amazon Smile button at the bottom of our website - friendshipintl.org - and from there you can register for smile.amazon.com, as well.

God bless you for making a difference this Christmas.