



URGENT REFUGEE UPDATE

Dear Friends and Partners,

This is not our typical newsletter... as these are not typical times. As most of you are aware of the war in Ukraine and Romania's close proximity, it is urgent that I update you as to Heart of Hope's response. Media is reporting that as of Friday, March 4th, more than 57,000 Ukrainian refugees had crossed into Romania, with another 100,00 expected in the next few days. Un-officially, I believe that number has already been reached. I personally know of 2 Christian men who have been helping to transport those fleeing Ukraine.

Camp of the Good Shepherd is uniquely positioned to help provide relief, refuge, and comfort to women and children in this man-made crisis.



We attended an urgent meeting at the Governor of Sibiu's office this past Thursday. 25 NGOs were in attendance to coordinate with the Ministry of Emergency Services for Refugees. Each organization presented what aid, housing, or assistance they could provide. Heart of Hope has committed to provide 12 rooms at the Camp of the Good Shepherd that will provide 61 beds for refugees. We will facilitate a refugee program at Camp initially for 90 days, with an evaluation at the 60-day mark. For now, we will be responsible for ALL costs at Camp of the Good Shepherd. Romania's inflation rate ending in Dec. 2021 was 8.2% and going higher; fuel prices are now over \$7.00 per gallon; we need your help!

We are seeking to raise \$55,000.00 to cover the initial 90 days of provision for refugees

This coming Monday, March 7th, we will have a visit to Camp by a coordinator responsible for the placement of refugees that have crossed into Romania and are currently heading towards various churches for shelter. We estimate we will receive the first refugees by March 10-12th.

We have taken this last week to create in-country partnerships with other like-minded organizations responding to the refugee crisis. With this fluid situation we have only received one firm commitment of bottled water for all refugees. Gratefully, we have received several offers from previous Romanian volunteers to come prepare, clean, and help with day-to-day tasks. We also have an offer of counseling for refugees from a Romanian therapist. We will continue to actively recruit Romanian volunteers, seek additional partnerships, and any possible in-country food donations.

Thank you so very much for responding to this urgent need ~ Donate online at: www.heartofhope.org

I will end this newsletter quickly, no time for current Home of Hope stories or pictures, so we can get the information to you as soon as possible, but will close with some final personal thoughts.

In many ways it is hard to believe my first trip to Romania was in January of 1991. I arrived January 15th; the day before the Gulf War started. George Bush Senior had warned Saddam Hussein that bombing would start January 16th if withdrawal from Kuwait was not under way. As that fateful day approached, so did my travel schedule to Romania. Concerned family and friends encouraged a delay in my trip... but the Lord said simply 'go'. My legs felt like cement as I walked down the ramp at the Portland airport to board, leaving behind my 3-year-old son and family to head into the unknown.

That first trip to Romania was in response to a man-made crisis created by the ruthless dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu... whose final day on this earth ended in execution by firing squad. Arriving just one year after his fall from power, I saw firsthand the fall-out from Ceausescu's decades of un-checked power and tyranny.

I never imagined that first trip would lead to the formation of Heart of Hope Ministries that would minister to literally thousands of orphans and children in need these 3 decades

I'm thinking today of all the donors and volunteers who have brought us along these decades. Those that came to build, over-see, and volunteer at Camp of the Good Shepherd. Those that have never traveled to Romania, yet their financial gifts and prayers are being multiplied by the Lord to use for yet a new crisis. I'm praising the Lord for His ways which are always unexpected and yet higher than we could ever imagine on our own.

This unexpected opportunity to minister to Ukrainian refugees is bittersweet. I'm so grateful the Lord can use our facilities to minister to the refugees in need. Yet, this 'opportunity' is because someone else is suffering in the midst of another man-made disaster.

My personal prayer is the love of Christ will be demonstrated and embraced by those in this great crisis... taking what was meant for evil and turning it to eternal good.

Please pray for:

- Each refugee on their way to seek shelter – protection, physical and spiritual nourishment, rest
- Heart of Hope staff and volunteers – wisdom, discernment, good health, perseverance and protection
- Provision for the seen and unforeseen expenses
- Prayer that Jesus would be seen in all that is done
- Peace of heart for those on both sides of the ocean

I was already preparing to head to Romania March 18th to facilitate our Easter program but will possibly head over sooner – urgent preparations are being made as of this writing. We will be able to communicate the most current information through our Instagram and Facebook page.

Find and follow us at: Heart of Hope Ministries International.

So grateful for your prayers!

Yours in Partnership,

Debbie and your
HHMI Board