



**Winter Transport Moldova**

The truck made it safely to Moldova, well in time to deliver the goods to the poor for Christmas. A big thank you. It really meant a lot to these families!

**"... so that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." Joshua 3:4 NIV**

**Editorial by Helen Jesze: GOD OF THE NEW YEAR!!**

When God told Moses to rescue the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, the task seemed overwhelming, and he said if God would not go with them, he could not possibly do this. But God assured him that his *Presence – he himself – would go with them*; this fact would bring Moses rest.

Our Bible verse here, God said to Joshua, as he led God's People into the Promised Land. The Ark of the Covenant (symbolising God's Presence) was to go in front over the river, then the people would know which way to go. They needed guidance for they had *"not passed that way before."*

We are now two months into 2022; we too, have not passed this way before but the God of 2021 is also the GOD OF THE NEW YEAR! His Presence will go with us and bring us rest. Nothing takes him by surprise. He maps out our way, puts things in place, sends the Holy Spirit to guide, brings us together with the right people.

After Hitler took over, Nazi Germany's Third Reich spread terror. Great Britain entered the II World War in September 1939. The nation was gripped with fear, waiting for sirens and more bombs. King George VI brought comfort and direction, as he quoted some lines from Minnie Louise Haskins poem *"The Gate of the Year"* in his Christmas radio broadcast to the British Empire:

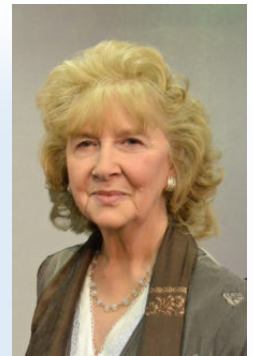
***"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way'. So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night..."***

In our personal lives and in mission work we face challenges, because we 'have not passed that way before'. Russia is massing troops along the Ukrainian border, threatening bigger operations than the war they have waged for a while. EEO UK has missionaries in the Ukraine. We have friends and projects also in Israel, and although not often reported in the News, thousands of rockets have been shot into the country. Please pray that God will intervene and put an end to the terror. Also in the day to day office work and planning, many new situations arise, where only God can help.

**Prayer: Thank you faithful Heavenly Father, your Presence will go with our mission friends and with EEO UK, giving us rest in 2022. Hold us steady with the anchor of your Word, when fear and difficulties would overwhelm us. Send your delivering power to set us free. We put our hand in your Hand. You will bring us safely through, light our path, cause us to come out victorious. In the Name of your Son, Jesus, we pray! Amen.**

**Our grateful thanks to those of you who have been praying and giving financially to EEO UK. Please stand with us again in 2022! May the Lord reward you for your love and faithfulness! God bless you!**

**On a personal note, thank you to those of you who prayed for me at the end of 2021. The operation was a success; I am learning to walk better now with my new hip!**



**Winter heating**

In the previous newsletter, we wrote about the situation in eastern Europe and the need for firewood and help with utilities, as the energy prices have gone through the roof. A big thank you to everyone who has helped with this over the past couple of months. The winter is long and it is still very, very cold. In Romania the temperature has dropped to as low as -30C. February and March are likely to be cold as well. Your help will be much appreciated.

## Introducing David McSween

It is with great pleasure that I get to be welcomed as part of the EEO family.

I was born into a Christian family and I've been going to church for as long as I can remember. I made my first commitment to Jesus Christ when I was 7, although it wasn't until I was 10 years old that I started to understand that I needed to change my ways to follow Him. Then it wasn't until 13 that I understood that I needed the Holy Spirit to work in me on a daily basis to make me become more like Jesus and it's a journey I've been on ever since.

I have a servant's heart and I want to get involved serving those in the communities I am involved with. My wife and I have been attending our current church for 8 years, in which our family has grown from one child to three.

Romania has a special place in my heart. Mainly due to my wife being Romanian. But my first adventure into the country was when I was 17 years old. My parents were good friends with a missionary who regularly went out to Romania and in 2004, my parents agreed for me to join their friends for one of their trips out there. It was life changing. For the two months I spent in Romania, I helped out with children's groups, youth groups and evangelism on the streets. Every day was an adventure in which I eagerly wanted to see what God would do through us that day.

After returning home, I knew I wanted to get back out on the mission field again, although it didn't happen immediately. In 2008, I had a God-given opportunity, which is a story for another time, to get back out to Romania. God made it very clear that Romania was where He wanted me to go. So, I obeyed and headed back out. It was on this special trip out to Romania when I first met Loredana, who I didn't know at the time was my wife-to-be.

I look forward to getting the opportunity to share more of my heart with you at a later stage. But in the meantime, I look forward to serving the EEO community in my role as a Trustee.



The McSweens left to right: Daniel, David, AJ, Emily and Loredana

## Cuna family, Albania

The Cuna family is one of the poorest families, but also one of the most grateful, to God and to the sponsors for the blessings they receive through the Children's Sponsorship Plan. In 2020 we helped this family with house repairs so now they have better living conditions. Father Cuna is a very handy man, a blacksmith and a good house painter. Since he is unemployed, we asked what he might be able and willing to do. He wants to work hard for his family, put bread on the table, enable his children to go to school and learn to be useful to the family and society. There are many opportunities for a blacksmith, as this profession was widely practised in Tepelena, where he lives.



Many have left Albania to work in the West, so there is a need for people who can ply this trade. To start the project, an amount of about £2200 is needed, to buy necessary tools and pay three months' rent for a work place. After the start up period he would be able to afford the rent himself. We are eager to help him and hope that other parents who are supported through the CSP in the city of Tepelena, will also be inspired to start something so they can support their own families. For donations for this project, please mention the Cuna family.

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*Eastern European Outreach is a faith ministry. All our activities are dependent solely on the financial gifts we receive. We work on an interdenominational basis, and our goal is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way open to us. Our newsletter is published regularly and sent free of charge on application. However, a freewill gift of £12 per year would help to cover postage and production costs. EEO UK works with Eastern European Outreach International, a group of missions and ministries. The main partner is Stg. OostEuropa Zending (NL), on behalf of Child Sponsor Programme, Christian Care East West, Children's Relief, Medical Relief, Israel Support and Vision Latina*

## Roma work in Ukraine by Viki Antal

One of my biggest tasks, in addition to sharing the Gospel, is to help children in education, especially those in bad situations, from poor families. The Roma children are a big challenge because I work not only with them but also with their parents as they do not see the value of studying. The children come to school without a notebook or a pen, although the parents could receive social money.

Last November, the government decided to stop social money for those Roma families whose children don't go to school. At my school 95% of the pupils are Roma. After this decision, many Roma parents came asking for help to let their children come to our school. From 114 pupils, now there are 356, and still growing. Most schools do not want to have them, so our 15-20 classes are now 30-35. Difficult to teach before, now there is utter chaos. Because the children are from poor families they do not know the basics, e.g. how to use the toilet or keep simple hygienic rules. This winter has been cold, but they come to school in a thin jacket or just a sweater. Not to mention the shoes! Mornings are usually -10C to -17C.

Another big problem is that parents should pay for the daily hot food but they don't. I pray God will change their mentality, help them have a better life, integrate in society, get to know Jesus. Let's pray the children will love learning, that the parents see the value of education, and that the teachers can love these children. And last but not least, that we always seek to share the Gospel.



**The teachers have been paying out of their small wages to buy food. EEO's Children's Relief Department want to help Viki's students. CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR HELP AS WELL?**