

CONNECTIONS

AGCONNECT NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2021

During my recent trip to Moldova in July people asked me what the most significant thing I noticed about Moldova since my March 2020 visit. There were many things I could have mentioned-the growing season this year is one of the best we've experienced in all of our years of working in the country, due to the abundant rains; construction was taking place all around the country, with the addition of new buildings and improved roads; an election solidified a new political party with a commitment to reform and justice, bringing a sense of hope and change to the country. But after all the traveling and visiting, my answer is: Garbage cans.

What do garbage cans have to do with change in Moldova? As we traveled throughout the country I noticed new garbage cans placed along the main streets in a number of towns and cities. To me, this signified that people were starting to think of things beyond their own survival and prosperity, and started to think about how to benefit their country and ways to make life more enjoyable and pleasant for other people. It showed that they are starting to care about their environment, and are invested in the perception of their country.

It might seem like a small thing-even a silly thing-to highlight, but for me it was a sign that there is a sense of hope and the possibility of better times ahead.



The small grain harvest this year was excellent. Even with some delays due to rain, many people experienced some of the best yields in many years. Sunflower harvest is well underway with great yields, and corn is just starting to be harvested. This year's rains had negative effects on crops like hay, making it difficult to cut and bale on time. While some vegetable crops suffered from the rains as well, by and large, it has been a great year for farmers.

Demonstrating God's love through agriculture

UNIVERSITY DIVITIA GRATIA

The next phase of working with students from University Divitia Gratia is going well, with some more intensive classroom trainings, and then getting those students to visit various farms that we are working with. This exposed them to some practical experience, getting to do various tasks in greenhouses, learning how to graft trees and other orchard growing practices, and helping with a therapy session at a horse farm.

Plans are to visit livestock farms this fall and to continue to develop specific individual training to those students who are serious about starting agriculture enterprises as a way to support themselves as they share the gospel in their home countries (many of them are from Central Asia). Angela and I had the opportunity to have coffee and ice cream with two of the students who shared how beneficial the program has been so far. They are looking forward to more training and the opportunity to get practical experience in their respective fields-apple orchards and cut flowers.

We will also have the opportunity to share the work of AgConnect Ministries at a Pastor's Conference arranged by UDG for pastors from Central Asia and from Moldova. Again, the goal is to be able to assist those who want to use agriculture as a way to support their Church Planting efforts. Keep this conference and ACM's participation in your prayers. The conference will be held October 28-29.

HEADQUARTERS

Thanks to the successful \$50,000 Matching Donation campaign this summer, we now have a purchase contract on a property in the village of Maximovca. We anticipate finishing all of the paperwork when the owner returns to Moldova in October. In the meantime we have the keys to the house and are able to start doing some work on the property. A lot of work needs to be done to the house to make it a habitable and functioning headquarters.

This would be the headquarters for the ministry, and Angela Zimmerman new home. Plans are to make an upstairs dormitory where UDG students (and others) could stay for extended periods of time while they get practical experience with some of the small scale agriculture projects that would be established on the property. A greenhouse would be the first thing that would be built, followed by other projects as they can be developed.

This would be the first stage of establishing a Model Farm that would be used to showcase better agriculture practices, and a place where people could get practical experience in these practices, as well as a place where field days could be held to see various methods of farming being used.



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GIVING CAMPAIGN

ACM will be launching another Giving Campaign in the coming weeks to fund the needed work on the Headquarters and establish agriculture projects on the property. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$250,000 towards this project and other projects that are currently underway in Moldova. Be praying about your involvement in this, as we will not only need the necessary funds, but more people to get involved with some of the specific projects.

All of this is only possible because of the generous support of many people, and we thank you for the way that you are supporting the work of this ministry. Be on the lookout for more specific information about how you can support this work.



FUNDRAISING BANQUET

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022 | SHADY MAPLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Moldova Trip: October 22 - November 6



717-278-8539
www.agconnectministries.org

DONATE TO AGCONNECT MINISTRIES

There is much work to be done to bring in the harvest—both literally and spiritually—but we can't do it alone. AgConnect Ministries is in urgent need of funds to continue bringing Jesus' hope to Moldova and beyond; would you please consider making a donation this month? We are extremely grateful for your prayers and financial generosity! Donations can be made online or sent to:

**AgConnect Ministries
P.O. Box 631
Gap, PA 17527**