

*May/June 2020*

Hello friends and family,

It's been a while since I have written; I apologize. I will try to bring you up to date on the happenings here in Moldova.

Covid-19 is still quite a problem for us. To date, there are 5 people in my village who have contracted the virus, and the open market in the nearby "city" of Cahul closed again this week after being open for the last 3 weeks. Importing and exporting of goods and border services are restricted, and there are queues for entering stores even with the mandatory mask. Schools and daycare are closed, so things here at the preschool have been very quiet! I think most people are surviving, but it's a financially difficult time and many rely on money being sent in from abroad (which was pretty common already).

Having not been traveling much at all, I still managed to stay busy. Very busy. I recently was contemplating what a great pleasure it is to be very tired and sink into a soft bed at the end of the day. There is something so wonderful about deep rest—and yet occupation and hard work are also satisfying :) Pain isn't so satisfying, but it is probably more constructive than either work or rest (James 1:2-4).

Anyway, just to give you a glimpse into the activities that have kept me busy...growing and distributing sweet potato slips, tomato, cucumber and garlic disease id and treatment, visiting and listening to farmers, working on a system for milk delivery here in Vad, youth group meetings and planning for the youth girls, distributing funds for projects, vegetable planting recommendations, English classes, pulling weeds at an elderly friend's house, planting peanuts, growing flax, eating salad from my garden, preparing songs for church worship (which is outside) and repairing things (car, scooter, shoes, etc). And the general cleaning, cooking, laundry.

So to what end? I always have a to-do list, and never accomplish everything I planned to in a day, and can wonder if I'm going anywhere "work"-wise. So for me and for you, here's what's going down:

- I am praying for, looking for and saving for a house purchase in Stas' (our Moldovan director) village of Maximovca, near Chisinau. Not right now but in a year or two, I am thinking to move there. The house will most likely be used for housing guests who visit the Model Farm and our office in the village.
- The youth group girls could use a woman leader, so I have met with the older girls and am now taking some time to visit possible leaders. I am involved in the youth group, but know that in the future I will not be as available.
- I am trying to maintain some contact with Hope Ukraine, and produce a useful fact sheet for their vegetable clients from time-to-time.
- Dancu has planted vegetables and I have written up a fertilizer plan; this year should help them see how much effort and management is needed to produce a profit/good crop.
- My neighbor Maria continues to show interest in the Bible, and I am praying for her and for her son, Vasile, also an alcoholic.
- I am in the process of analyzing options for visitation and care for the elderly in our church (since I visit a number of them).
- As Ag Connect is developing as an organization, the website and Facebook page are being developed and I will be providing content for those.
- The ongoing farmer support, consultation and visitation. And helping where I can to overcome market obstacles that result from the virus restrictions.



*Above: Visiting a local pastor with several cows.  
Below: After picking up milk and cheese from two farmers with whom we work, I deliver the orders to clients.*



*Kitten photo-shoot. Small joys in the midst of the busyness :)*



I can say that I have a much clearer picture now (compared to when I first arrived) of how Moldovans acquire information, learn and change their farm practices. I am looking forward to developing more educational information and also implementing good ag practices when the Model Farm comes into being!

The one thing that I wanted to share on the spiritual front is how God is teaching me to focus on Him for direction in the use of my time. Of course I need to prioritize time with Him, but He also is the one who shows me how to react to people, whether or not I am doing well in my work, and how I need to interpret people's reactions and ideas. Basically, I need Him to be my filter both for implementing all the ideas in my brain (of which maybe 5% actually should be implemented) and for taking in information and making decisions. I guess it's like living in a tea ball (this is very bad analogy but whatever), where I'm the tea and God is the filter ball around me. Anyway, please pray that I can grow in looking to Him, "with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord" and "being transformed into the same image." (2 Cor. 3:18). Thank you so much for praying for and supporting me! We are in this together.

All His best, *Angela*

*In the village, some growers specialize in raising transplants. This is one of the greenhouses full of seedlings, planted in cups with a peat moss/soil/sand mix.*



*In the open market, sales are by the kilogram. One dollar = 17.5 lei.*

*Below, to the Right:  
In late April, we had a hailstorm that hit only my village, Vadul lui Isac. Many cabbage growers lost money, but thankfully were able to sell a portion of the crop.*

