

## OCTOBER 2020

"I'm just not enough, God," I said. Then a thought crossed my mind, "That's not a big issue. The real question is 'Do you believe that *God is enough* to provide for your not-enough?'"



I arrived in Dancu last month just as the wheat seed was being sown (hard red/white winter wheat). A day later, the rain started pouring. I think it rained three days that week. I was so happy to see rain after three months of drought.

Between downpours, I attacked the huge pile of grass clippings that had accumulated over three years, forking the dry grass to an adjacent area and mixing it with straw and aged cow manure so that it would compost. This took much longer than anticipated (what doesn't?) because of the candy wrappers, bits of broken roofing tiles, plastic bottles and empty packets of sunflower seeds mixed in with the grass. I eventually constructed a nice-sized pile and felt quite proud of myself. Except then it rained again, and I had to flip the entire pile so that it didn't stay too wet. The idea is that once the grass clippings and straw and manure are broken down by naturally-occurring bacteria, there will be a beautiful pile of compost that results which can be mixed into the soil in the greenhouses.

I was also at Dancu to see how things are going with the dairy farm, cheese production and the social programs that the local church oversees. I took a sample of the new corn silage and ran it to Chisinau for analysis, cleaned out the greenhouses and seeded a cover crop of long white Daikon radishes, chatted with the ladies who milk cows and weighed the portions of grain mix, hay and silage given to each cow so we could accurately figure the feed ration.

This is the type of life that I have. After two weeks at Dancu, I headed back home to Vad. In the south, my work is a mixture of ministry and agriculture—one day harvesting peanuts and documenting the yield of each variety (I had 6 varieties planted), the next day giving a driving lesson and having a heart-to-heart talk with one of the young women from church.



*At right: The peanut plants were defoliated by chickens let loose in the garden, but thankfully this was after the pods had grown pretty much to maturity. :)*

Although I enjoy both the work and the ministry that has developed in my life here in Moldova, I realize that it is important for me and Ag Connect as a whole to work with a strategy in mind. I have become involved in many “good things” both in the community and church as well as agriculturally, but need to consider how my activities contribute to our goal of developing better agriculture/business both in Moldova and countries beyond.

A wiser, older Moldovan friend of mine asked me how I make decisions about who/when to help. All I could think of was, “I ask the Lord and trust His Holy Spirit to lead me.” “Great,” she said (herself being a Christian), “anything else?” She challenged me to put together a list of criteria that will help guide my commitments and think more strategically. I also need to consider how being helped affects the personal growth of others—towards responsibility or toward dependence? Right now we have a few projects where perhaps the farmer needs to learn the hard way instead of depending on us for aid....prayers appreciated!

And because of the coronavirus, conversations between me here in the field and the Ag Connect leadership at home have been patched together through Zoom calls, emails and Messenger chats. We know that we need to develop a coordinated, clearly-defined and strategic plan in order to wisely process the multitude of opportunities before us—there are relationships with farmers in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, and soon perhaps Central Asia and Africa.

I believe that God has called me here to Moldova, to serve with Ag Connect. I want to be ready to follow Him anywhere and humble enough to be used as He pleases. I know that Les, Don and the board of directors are looking for God to lead this work. The fields are white for harvest.

Please pray for us as I travel home and meet with our leadership, that we can listen to and hear God’s direction, wisely evaluate the needs and our resources, and communicate clearly between ourselves as team members. Please pray for Les and Suzanne as they give leadership to the ministry. Please pray for Don and Karen McNutt, as they provide guidance and wisdom in the detail-side. And pray that I can see God’s leading for the days ahead.

On a side note, I have decided not to buy a house at this time, instead waiting to see how our work unfolds and if/when a house would really be needed. I am quite content in my preschool lodgings ;)

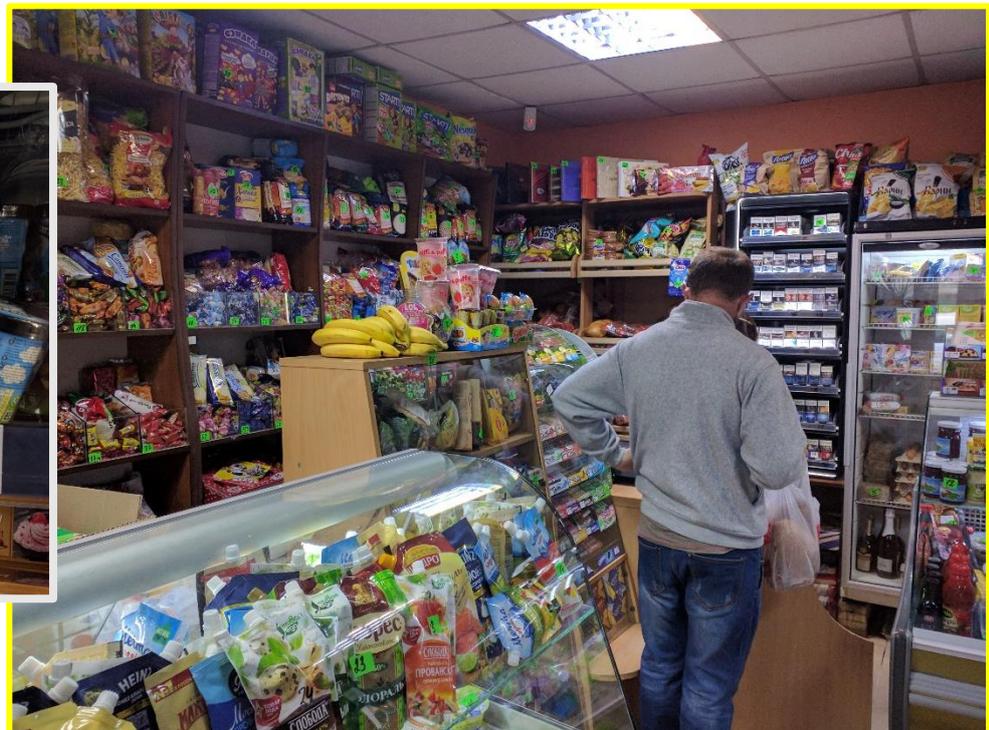
On a further side note, I am also still pursuing the idea of a peanut butter business. Many details need to be figured out, least of all where to get the peanuts, and cost of the processing equipment, transportation and even whether or not God wants this to happen.

I am not enough. But He is, and that is why we praise Him. May He glorify Himself in us!

*Angela*



Above: \$1 = 17 lei. Ben & Jerry's for \$8.50 a pint? Yeah, crossing the ocean makes ice cream awfully expensive.



At right: The biggest of our 4 village stores in Vad. Everything behind the counter :)