

# Angela Zimmerman



Jan-Feb 2023



## Slowing Down is Hard to Do

Fourteen years ago I was working for the USDA in Plains, MT. I rode my bike to work, and one morning I noticed pain in my upper chest. The pain lessened eventually, but then reoccurred a number of times, until I finally went to the doctor.

And I found out that chest pain can be caused by stress. Not that I actively worry, but the subconscious anxiety of things I was stewing over mentally had started manifesting physically.

Today I was in Maximovca (I am staying in Chisinau temporarily) to see the kitchen cabinets get put in. Stas was also on hand and there were kitchen appliances being delivered, my dog barking at the new people and a quick run to pick up our vacuum cleaner from my old host family.

I realized this morning that I needed to get my car re-inspected after some repairs, so I left the house at 1pm. On the way to the inspection station, I stopped to pull money (in Euros) from my bank account, get a print-out of my new auto insurance and stop by a

restaurant to check if a waitress I wanted to talk to about Jesus was there (she wasn't, I will stop again).

Thankfully my car passed inspection this time, and I had started on my way home when I realized that I needed to pay a traffic fine (for unknowingly parking in an illegal spot). My only cash was in euros (not Moldovan lei), so I tried to find the best exchange rate in the immediate area. Praise God I was able to both exchange the money and pay the fine at the bank! Almost back home, my housemate called and asked me to pick up a headlight bulb for her car, since one was out and she might be stopped by police. I kept driving and looking for an auto parts store.

Participating in the afternoon rush hour and winding around yet another traffic circle, I felt the chest pain come on. Guess it's a sign 😊 When I got home, I took some time in prayer. It can be hard for me to relax when the to-do list is long. It's a tendency that causes me to have to look to God for help. And He will!

### Praises:

- Les, Stas and I enjoyed meeting with farmers and students in Jan.
- The first floor of the house is finished!
- Staying in Chisinau has helped me build deeper relationships with some friends.

### Prayer Requests:

- For construction—of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the house, a room at the Mayor's office.
- To slow down...in the way God will show me.
- To build good relationships with the UDG students and staff.



First team meeting in the headquarters!



Only the best windshield wiper fluid for Crummie :)



Seen in the back of a cleaning products store: Moldova's cleanest cat.

As I finished writing the first page of this update, I thought that it was a nice personal note, but didn't give much information about how the work here is going. So since this is a 2-month update, I added a second page with the overview of ministry work.



The UDG ag club has not been a smashing success—so I am trying to brainstorm ways to help students engage with agriculture, with the hope of encouraging those that might have a latent interest. Many students prefer easier work and may not even want to return to their home countries after graduation. We are praying for God to lead and guide our partnership with UDG.



We visited the home for elderly in Iabloana, where they have a small farm (we have been partnering with this project for at least 10 yrs). They have a few cows, chickens, pigs, berries, a greenhouse and garden—all as food for the residents (they also can preserves for winter). They are hoping to sell the surplus produce for income to help support the home.

A few other things going on in the ag realm—a single mothers' home needs advice for starting a raised bed garden; a center for children with disabilities is installing a greenhouse and wants counsel on growing flowers and herbs; a graduate of UDG has returned to Kazakhstan and is trying grain corn cultivation and raising calves to support him and his wife.

The Dancu farm added a coffee shop and bakery, alongside the existing cheese production and dairy farm. However, the profitability of the farm/cheese operation is unclear, as the finances for the community center and the farm are combined. The donor organizations (from the UK & USA) are concerned; pray for wisdom and good communication between everyone.

Next month a fellow missionary and I will begin filming some clips on soils, crop growth and pest management. I need to spend quite a bit of time preparing the material. Should be fun 😊 Planning will also begin on the addition of two full-size greenhouses, plus a seedling greenhouse. We hope to install those this fall on the adjoining plots we purchased this past year.



During Les' visit in late Jan – early Feb, he taught a dairy nutrition class for farmers in southern Moldova and also one with two UDG students.

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