

Hello to all from Moldova,

PTL! Not all of my computer issues are resolved, but at least I am able to access email and get on the internet to be able to do some of the things that I need to do. This morning the computer suddenly decided to co-operate and allow me to read emails and discard those I didn't want. There were 694 messages that I needed to go through - many of them unimportant - Home Depot, Walmart, etc, but still needed to be checked to see if they were important.

Right now I'm upstairs in my room at Valeri and Maricica Belous' house, where thankfully the air-conditioning is doing a fine job. It is currently 97 degrees and supposed to reach 99 before the day is over. It has been hot, especially the last couple when we were walking out into fields looking at crops. And none of the places we visited had air-conditioning, some did have fans, so we sweated a lot as we drank hot tea as we visited.

Right now most people are greatly encouraged here in the country. Sunday was election day, and for the first time in a long time - perhaps only the second time since independence from Russia, there is a clear majority in Parliament. The pro-Western president and her party won in what is being called a landslide victory. This is very encouraging, as this party is about reform and wants to the government, courts, and businesses to be free of graft and corruption.

Moldovans have asked us our opinion of the election, and if this makes a difference to ACM. My reply is that we are non-political, and were never hindered or afraid of working in Moldova, but the fact that people are expressing hope, that the potential for better days ahead makes it easier for us to encourage those we work with to make plans for the future. It will be interesting to see what happens over the coming weeks and months as a new government is formed, to see if real reform can and will happen. So continue to pray for what is happening now in Moldova.

It is also encouraging to see how green and lush the country is here in the middle of July. Things look the nicest they ever have this time of the year in all of the time that I have been coming to Moldova. Much can happen before harvest, but at this point in time, things look very good for an above average harvest.

Travel went fairly well - no problems, just long lines and lots of people - every seat on every flight filled, extra time being taken at all points to make sure that everyone was healthy. I arrived about an hour later than scheduled Saturday evening, and I think Angela was getting a little concerned, especially as my Moldovan phone wasn't working. But we arrived safe and sound at the Belous resident where we had a late supper and talked much later than planned.

I had hoped to be able to quietly enjoy church on Sunday, but was asked Saturday night if I would speak, so I spent some time Saturday night and Sunday morning putting some thoughts together - which seemed to be well received.

The man who translated for me and his family came for lunch and we spent several hours getting to know them. They returned to Moldova 3 years ago after living in Canada and North Carolina for 20 years. They had also lived in Allensville, PA for 9 months while Evghenii did some IT work for a company in Huntingdon. It was good to meet people who believe in Moldova, and they have been working at starting some type of business here.

Sunday afternoon Angela and I attended International Christian Fellowship, and then had supper with Jeff Owens - World Team - and his daughter, Paulina. His wife Robin did not join us as she had been having gall bladder attacks - and yesterday had it removed in Austria. Keep them in your prayers.

It was good to catch up with Jeff, as we haven't been able to talk in person for about 2 years. We are hoping to be able to join Jeff in a zoom call next week with one of the UDG students who started a small sheep raising operation in Central Asia. Jeff and Robin have had a lot of connections with the UDG students the past several years, and are excited about the progress between UDG and ACM.

On Monday Angela and I had a busy morning getting my Moldovan phone back in service. I lost my previous number because I hadn't used it so long due to the pandemic and hadn't been able to keep the subscription plan. It took a little doing to be able to figure out a way to have affordable international calling, but have that issue resolved and it's good to be able to call home. We also took care of some banking and visa issues for Angela.

We met with Igor Prisac, head of the Business School at UDG, and discussed the project with their students. Igor was very happy with the recent events getting the students practical experience. We talked about how to continue the program, and how to better schedule events with the students. We are looking forward to picking up where we left off when students returned home for the summer.

The Belous's had a BBQ Monday evening, and invited some friends over who wanted to meet us. They had been hearing about these Americans who are working in Moldova, and wanted to meet us and get to know us. We were able to share our stories and our call to Moldova. They are Believers, with the exception of the one husband, and he was moved by how God is working through us. Hopefully this will help bring him to Jesus. The other family will be coming to New York where the husband will be performing at the Metropolitan Opera House, and then at the Kennedy Center.

Tuesday Angela and I met with Stas and Aia and began the long process of working through the many issues that need to be dealt with by the Leadership Team. We also took the opportunity to visit the house that is being considered for the ASM headquarters. There is so much about it that makes it a desirable location, but there is also a lot of unknowns that have to be determined. Hopefully we will be able to get

some good idea of the total costs to make it suitable for us, but I am reminded not to be Samuel looking at Jesse's oldest son!

On Wednesday Stas, Angela and I stopped at a shelter home for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. It was on the way to the project we wanted to visit, and Stas knew the director of the home as he has worked with her in the past through his being part of the Mayor's Council. The regional director also came to meet with us at the shelter.

They weren't looking for anything in particular from us, but it was a great time talking to these 3 women who were so passionate about helping others. In the 3 years they have been in existence they have sheltered 28 women and 65 children - trying to create a stable family atmosphere for people who haven't experienced that in their past. Our thoughts went to how we can get some of the people we work with involved in this - perhaps donating some of the food they produce to feed the residents.

We spent the rest of the day at the Malancea Brothers and UDG farm. I am greatly encouraged by Sergio's progress from the time I first met him and his brother 6 or 7 years ago. Over the years he has listened to us when we talked and gave advice and direction. Angela has a good relationship with them and has been able to give them some specific technical support.

I particularly like the way he is thinking, and he has embraced the concept of trying new things in a small way. He is also looking for unique ways to market their products rather than relying on the traditional market outlets. We had tried to get him and his brother to US several years ago, but their visas were denied, but I really would like to see him come to US next year. Plans are to pursue this again.

Today was different than the original plans. People we had scheduled to meet today were not able to meet, so being good Moldovans, we simply adjusted our schedules. Actually, we decided this was a good day to have to ourselves. Angela went and took care of some business while I waded through emails, relaxed, read, and prepared for upcoming events.

Tomorrow we head south for the next 5 days, stopping at Igor and Vera's on the way there. It's been over 2 years since I've seen some of the people in that region, as some sickness in the village last March canceled our plans to travel there. It will be good to be able to speak at the church in Vadul lui Isac on Sunday and with their youth on Monday evening - not that it's important that I speak, but because they have become my home church over the past years.

We will be returning to Chisinau for a few days before heading to Dancu and points north for another 5 day jaunt. I will try to give another update when we return to Chisinau and before we take off again. Keep us in your prayers, as there is much to be done, and many opportunities before us.

Thanks for all that you do to make this ministry possible.

Les