

Hello to all,

I finally get a chance to send an update of what has been happening the past week or more. It has been a good trip, even if it wasn't always smooth or pleasant. Angela, Stas and I covered a lot of ground and saw a lot of people and the next weeks and months will be full of discussions about how best to carry out the work we are called to here in Moldova.

I had hoped to be able to send an update yesterday - a planned day of rest - but the day of rest didn't happen, surprise, surprise! We returned to Chisinau Tuesday evening after our 5 day trip to the northern part of Moldova. We arranged an appointment for me to get my COVID test, and there was someone close by that we were trying to meet with.

It worked to meet with them, and then someone else wanted to meet with us, and while we were on our way another person requested meeting. And then some students from UDG responded to a 2 week old request about meeting that they would be available. So there went the day. But all of them were important and valuable.

This morning we stop to pick up the - negative, PTL!- results of my COVID test so that I will be allowed to come back home. Then we pick up a contractor and take him to look at the house we are considering for the ASM headquarters to get some idea of what it will cost to finish the house. Then Stas, Angela and I will attempt to wrap up our time and start working on our plans to move forward.

While in many ways the trip was too aggressive in covering so much ground and seeing so many people, it was necessary in order to get a complete picture of all that is happening with our projects. And Stas had not personally been to some of them, so it was helpful for him to get a better understanding of our past workings.

There continues to be many challenges and obstacles in the work we do, but the opportunities abound, and there is a sense of hope for improving the future within Moldova. We were blessed to renew and strengthen our relationships with past partnering organization and are encouraged with new opportunities to partner with others.

And we were certainly encouraged by the many stories of how people and families have been helped by the work of the ministry. Plans are to write some of these stories to share with our supporters. So, while the trip has us all tired, we are strengthened to continue this work.

One last day of dealing with Chisinau traffic - plan an extra hour to go anywhere because of all of the road construction that is happening. One last day of hot weather - another one in the upper 90's. One last day of drinking hot tea in the summertime!

Thanks for your prayers and support. The work is difficult and challenging, but it is a good work, many people's lives have been changed and God's love has been shown and shared. It is making a difference.

See you soon.

Les