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Rediscovering evangelisation

Drd. Viorel Ile



Rediscovering evangelisation

The possibility of people around us knowing salvation should be valuable enough to us to experience a burning desire of the heart, to inspire us in making up the prayer list we present to God, and to shape our lifestyle. Or so we are told. In Paul's case, this is what the apostle says in Romans 10:1. Certainly, his heart and his prayers knew a variety of aspirations and demands, but at a certain point they are compressed into a single desire and a single

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eternal destiny of those in our families, as far as our neighbors, colleagues or friends are concerned, I do not think we can honestly say that our hearts are gripped by a strong desire to proclaim the gospel to them or that we agonize in prayer for their salvation. **How might we rediscover the grace and beauty of the spiritual discipline of evangelism?** The attitude of indifference to the tragic fate of lost people that characterizes the ordinary Christian in our congregations is one of the most worrying failures of Christianity in our century.

In this respect, we are not unique. From the earliest times to the recent history of the church, we know that the church has not been uniformly militant in every era of its existence. When the missionary spirit was rekindled in the eighteenth century, the general interpretation of the text of Matthew 28:19-20 affirmed the idea that the great commission was aimed only at the apostles. This error was corrected with the advent of the early "modern mission fathers." **Fast forward to 20th century Romania where the spiritual awakening in Oradea in the 1970s, along with the return to the fundamentals of authentic spiritual life and the reforming of moral principles, also generated a revival of the missionary spirit.** The testimonies supporting this reality are manifold. From the impressive number of young people who crowded the train stations every Sunday morning to support God's work in small country churches, to the prayer lists of unsaved people that even the children in Sunday school groups had, to the ardent prayer in the congregation, to the prayers of parents for children brought to blessing, the whole Christian experience was marked by this missionary spirit.

Back then, the church prayed for the raising up of a new generation of workers and when the church prays... That's how the Holy Spirit set people apart for ministry with the blessing of the local church and empowered from above. Some of those enthusiastic young people heard God's call and "became ministers of the Word" as pastors or evangelists. They themselves became people of prayer and of the Word. The harvest is as great, and the fields are ripe. **Does anyone else hear the Savior's call to prayer? The field is vast, and the harvest is ready and "who will be enough for these things?" A man? A church? Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest! He will bring forth His workers.** "Every Baptist, a missionary!" I pray that, perhaps after far too long, young people will hear the call again; that holy calling that defies careerism, pragmatism, materialism and all other "isms."

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at my blessing, they tearfully prayed that God would make me an evangelist, and that such prayers were common in those days. Nowadays, such a prayer would make parents seem at least strange, if not totally out of touch with reality. As for me, all my childhood I was impressed by my parents' desire. Even as a teenager it followed me, until I personally understood the Lord's call. It holds me accountable to this day. **Why are prayers like Anna's so rare that ask for children to worship the Lord for all the days of their lives?** We pray for their protection, health, wisdom, well-being, and even salvation, but we won't give them to the Lord. We need children that are given to God, not just beautiful, healthy, smart, good behaved and who "in due season..." You know what I mean.

I recently revisited a biblical passage that made me look at God's call to believers in a new light. In Isaiah 62:6-7, God tells Jerusalem that He has placed watchmen on its walls, whose role was to cry out to God day and night and remind Him of Jerusalem until God fulfills His promises. In this case, it is not the duty of the watchman to warn the city of the approaching danger, but he must constantly remind God that He has committed Himself to restore Jerusalem. **Textually, God asks these people not to be silent, not to rest, and not to give Him rest until He has restored the glory of Jerusalem.** How strikingly similar is the responsibility of the watchmen to the vexatious insistence of the widow who demanded justice from an unjust judge in her quarrel with her betrothed! And what an assurance that, since an unjust judge has allowed himself to be persuaded to do justice only to escape these insistences, God will soon do justice to His elect who day and night cry out to Him!

In Isaiah, out of love for Jerusalem, God Himself is not silent (Isaiah 62:1) and this explains why the watchman is not silent. **When you have been near God long enough you understand a glimpse of God's love, and your desires harmonize with what you discover in communion with Him.** Prayer then conforms to what you have received in your heart from God's presence. Communion with God will leave you neither lazy nor fruitless. The desire of the heart, unceasing intercession and personal witness find their vitality in this inexhaustible and blessed source, in God. Remember how much God has loved the world and remember that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! But how shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? **Lay it at the cross**

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you are overwhelmed by Christ's love for condemned sinners, of whom you once were. Then, with others who have been forgiven, rise and seek out other condemned!

Drd. Viorel Ile

Countryside Mission 2023

Dear collaborators and friends of Emanuel University, it is with joyful hearts that we would like to announce that from 16 to 23 July 2023 Countryside Mission carried out an activity of evangelism, VBS and helping the poor in the Republic of Moldova (Bravicea), Scornicești (OT) and Satu Nou (BC). **By God's grace, Emanuel University students, US brothers and local missionaries invested their time and energy in God's work and hundreds of children and adults were exposed to the Truth revealed in the Scriptures.** We want to thank you for the support we have felt through your prayers and thank God for His protection and the opportunity to serve and witness Him before the people. Please support us further in your prayers that the seed of the Word may take root in the hearts of those being evangelized and that they would be integrated into a local church. Praise be to God!

For more information about this ministry, please visit the Countryside Mission website: <https://www.countrysideministries.org>

Marcus Buzle, EUO's Development Office



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Countryside 2023 Testimonials

The Most Holy God has ordained in His will that for a week we serve Him joyfully in Olt County, Scornicești. We gathered from different countries, different cities, of different ages, but all having the same passion - the Gospel. I am thankful because we had a blessed time. **God worked not only through us, but in us, using each of us as He willed.** The desire of our hearts is that every human soul, whether mature or child, who has been exposed to the Gospel will be changed and reconciled to God. There is no greater joy than when a sinner turns to God. We look forward to participating in and supporting this work and going forward, placing ourselves at the Master's service. "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." (Romans 11:36)

Samuel Rusnak, Countryside, Scornicești, Oltenia Team

For me, the Countryside mission was a timely opportunity to learn more about mission, teamwork, and gratitude. This week I had the opportunity to work with many wonderful kids and share my personal experiences with God and talk to them about His person. In the second part of the day, along with my colleagues and the pastor from the local church we visited families to whom I could be an encouragement through personal testimonies. Also, this week we learned about teamwork. Together with the local church youth we made teams, collaborated, and cared for the children attending VBS (songs, skits, games, lessons). Finally, we learned about the virtue of being thankful. Seeing the lives of some families, I felt in my heart that I have enough reasons to be thankful. Only the Lord can bring blessings to a home and happiness to a family. **Countryside Mission was the Lord's way of using each of us for the enlargement of His Kingdom!**

Daria Dăduică, Countryside, Republic of Moldova Team

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guidance, goodness and grace shown both to us who were there, but also to those who perhaps heard God's Word for the first time. Even though I was there to lend a helping hand to the work of spreading the Gospel in the village of Bravicea and the surrounding area, having in my heart the desire to help others come to the knowledge of the Truth, I can still say that personally the ministry with the children and the visits to some Moldovan special people had a great impact on me. I have known faithful people and ministers who, from their youth, have surrendered their lives to the Lord and allowed themselves to be guided by Him. Through their lives and their witness, God has strengthened my faith, but also my confidence in His call to service, which He gives to everyone.

David Cărcăleanu, Countryside, Republic of Moldova Team

At Satu Nou, this year's Countryside Mission was one of the special blessings God has showered on both the mission team and those served by the team. **We saw the sovereign hand of the Father, who placed each individual team member in just the right place, so that we formed a united group, tightened our spiritual relationships with each other and with God.** On the other hand, Christ was proclaimed, and the Gospel reached many children, youth and adults through children's programs, youth meetings and home visits to families, many of whom were searched by the Spirit of God and for whom we continue to pray that the Father will draw them to a life of repentance.

Ionatan Rauca, Countryside, Satu Nou, Bacău Team

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