



# Better Life Mission

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## Newsletter - January 2013

This time you are going to hear about the work in Romania. In December 2010 we were able to finance the print of 10.000 *Great Controversy* books in Romanian language. In May 2011 we were again able to finance the print of 10.000 *Great Controversy* books in Hungarian language. We thank God and the sponsors who made this possible. The Romanian brothers and sisters had also books printed like *Steps to Christ* and other smaller books including such ones dealing with health. With this newsletter we would like to let you know a little bit about how the books have been used.

The Romanian brothers and sisters are working on a systematic plan. Their goal is to visit every home in Romania and offer the people Christian literature. They began this project four years ago and now they have covered more than half of Romania. Different groups are working in different parts of Romania.

In October 2012 one of these groups was gathered to plan the distribution for this winter. The pictures in this newsletter were taken at this meeting. From time to time they come together to share their experiences and to encourage each other. Marika has collected some of these experiences so that we can share them with you.



### Experiences from the literature work in Romania

A man told how he had been so confident that he knew how to go from door to door with the books. He was very focused on how he was doing things and forgot that the Holy Spirit had to do the work. With this attitude he went from door to door. He had very bad experiences and many people were aggressive toward him. Finally he tried something else. He took some health books and presented them first. Now people were more open. Through this experience he has changed his attitude. He is no longer so confident that he knows exactly how to do it. He makes no longer his own plans. He is praying instead. He has learned that if we want to do everything ourselves there will be no room for the Holy Spirit to work. But if we let the Holy Spirit control the

work, He will show us in every situation what to do.

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An elderly man went to a village where he had been invited to come and help to distribute the books. They all met at the entrance of the village to begin with a song and prayer. He realized that everybody was much younger than he. But he saw that the young people were working very nicely with the books, so he decided to go with them and help them to distribute the books every Sunday. One Sunday he found very few people at home. Most of them were in church. He went to the houses anyway. He met older people and children. Some were interested. Finally he decided to go to the church to talk to the priest and to give the books to the people there. The priest however was busy and would not talk to him. So he decided to talk to the people and give them the books anyway. Then the priest came and got angry. He asked: "Why do you give the books to the people? Do you not see that this is a Catholic church?" The priest asked for the books but this brother did not dare to give them to him being afraid that he would only burn them. Finally he was asked to leave. But he was happy because he had been able to give the books to the people.

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A young man told how he was ringing the bell at a house. A lady came out with a broom in her hand and was ready to beat him. He had to flee. This experience was so bad that he wanted to tell the neighbours at the next house about it. But they were not interested in this story. They wanted to see the books instead. They took all the health books and even gave a donation. He also showed them *The Great Controversy* and offered it to them. He could see that they were very happy. When he wanted to leave the children asked him what other books he had.

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A sister told how she got into a house. There she met a lady who asked how it was possible to get inside because of their big dog. But our sister had not seen any dog. However the dog was there but it slept. Another member of the family came home in the moment when she wanted to leave the house. Showing him the books she asked him if he also wanted to read them. She saw in his face that he was very interested. She decided to give him the two books *Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy* giving some explanations regarding the latter. When he realized how interesting this book was he said that he felt a little uncomfortable to ask for

more books but he wanted to distribute some in the hospital where he was working. He told her that if it was not possible to get the books for free he would be willing to buy them. He just had to have more books. She put all the books she had left on the table. He kept telling her how interesting these books were and that he wanted all of them. She was sad that she did not have more books in her bag.

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An elderly man was invited to go to the next village and help to distribute the books. Here they had many problems with dogs. But he remembered that someone had told him to take biscuits with him in a bag and keep breaking a piece off and give it to the dog. He took his sandwich instead and began to give the dog a piece of it. Someone saw him from the window and came running because the dog was very dangerous. He was asked how it was possible to get into the house. He smiled and then the dog was leaning towards his leg. He gave it another piece of his sandwich. It was the Lutheran pastor who lived in the house. He gave him a sample of all the books he had in his bag. The pastor asked if he did not have more *Steps to Christ*. He had to call a car to bring more books. The pastor wanted to give these books to his church members.

At first many people in that village were aggressive but when they were told that the Lutheran pastor had taken so many books then they also wanted them. Many *Steps to Christ* were distributed. Finally the elderly man came to a big house and wondered if he should enter. He decided to ring the bell. An orthodox pastor came out. He did not want him to enter the house. But he showed him the *Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy* from outside. As he explained about Luther and other interesting things the pastor wanted both books. He said that *The Great Controversy* would teach him about history and that he could use the *Desire of Ages* when preaching.

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A man told how he saw that all the people were in church. It was a Catholic church. The priest wanted to begin the sermon. When the man saw how the priest was singing with his face toward the wall he gave all the books he had in his bag to the people. As soon as the priest had finished the man went to him and gave him a *Desire of Ages*. After that he began to work in another street. When he entered the last house and began to explain

why he was there a man said: "Oh I remember you from church. You gave me a nice book." They invited him inside. The man of the house said that his family was also interested in the books. The visitor put some copies on the table. He was very thankful that God had opened the way for him. He left many books with this family. From that time he has kept the contact with them. They talk with each other every week.

In another village he visited another family. They had asked him to come to their house and to pray for their son who was very sick. When he talked to this family the neighbour came and said that another family had been visiting them. The neighbour wanted to know the meaning of the number 666. Since that time the book distributor and his wife have bible studies with the family of the neighbour.

It is not always easy to work with people but it is a nice work. It is not enough just to give them books. They have to be visited.

In the same place the book distributor knows a very old man who he normally visits. The old man's neighbour asked him for a Bible. The book distributor is so happy that he got to know the old man's neighbour and his family. When the book distributor and the old man's neighbour talk together on the phone they (the neighbour's family) keep telling him how grateful they are for the Bible. The Word of God is on their table all the time and they read and study it.

One day he came to another place. After opening the gate he entered into a big garden with many flowers and roses. Then he approached the house. The family is selling the flowers. It was such a pleasant sight. He addressed the lady who worked in the garden with the following words: "If it is so nice here how nice will it then be in heaven? God created all the roses and the flowers." Finally he could talk to the whole family. They became friends and they accepted all the books which he recommended to them.

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Another man told how they found a big house on a hill as they worked around the city. A lady about 50 years old opened the door. The house was really big and she lived there all by herself. She said that she had not been leaving the house for several days. She was sure that God had sent them. She was so happy to get spiritual books. They had a long talk together and finally she gave them food to eat. She asked them to come every Sabbath and she offered them a room to have church service in. She told them that if they had nowhere to stay then she would give them two rooms. They explained to her that they lived far away and that they did not want to travel on the Sabbath day. She said that this was not a problem because they could sleep in her house and eat there. We never know how God is leading the way. We just have to follow Him.

One day he was together with his wife in a big building with ten stories. They began walking up the stairs. On the first floor nobody opened. On the 2nd floor nobody opened. On the 3rd floor nobody opened. On the 4th floor somebody opened but they quickly closed the door again. They waited about five minutes but nobody opened the door. They continued from story to story. On the 7th floor a very old lady opened the door. She said that it was impossible to believe and live like them because there was no such thing as the Sabbath day in the Bible. Then she closed the door. On the 8th floor a lady came out with a broom. She was very angry and told them to leave otherwise she would call the police. In this building nobody wanted anything. When they walked out they stopped in front of the building. They put small books like *Steps to Christ* or *From Eden to Eden* in every mailbox. This took about five minutes. Two young people saw what they were doing. They said nothing. They just watched them. The man was afraid to ask them anything. It had not been easy to go up ten floors and have nobody accept a single book. He felt very sad and tired. As they were about to leave one of these young boys asked if they were not giving him a book. They had not planned to give them any book because they thought that they were not interested. But when the boy saw that they were still not opening their briefcase he said: "I am so happy you are still here. I saw somebody else in another street how they go from door to door. I saw that they are very young. They are students. How is it possible nowadays that they do something like this? I was so happy when I saw young people who want to help others. I thought if all the young people in this area could get a book it would be excellent. It would be much better if our young people instead of watching TV and movies and surfing on the internet would think about God."



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Two men reported how they went to different villages in order to go from door to door. The books they offered were not accepted in every place. It also happened that people talked very angrily to them. From one house they even had to escape. But in another house they found a very old lady who was 93 years old. Those who were taking care of her were not at home. The lady began to cry and say that nobody was taking care of her

and that nobody wanted her. She wondered how it was possible that having given everything in her life to her family and to the church she was now alone. One of the men decided to give her two books. He thought that maybe somebody who would come to take care of her would read the books to her. Then they left the house. About 15 minutes later they entered another house. Here they heard someone talking on the phone. The person on the other end of the line was telling that someone had given her grandmother two books. One of the books was *The Great Controversy*. She read something from the book and explained how nice it was. The lady answered that she was so sorry that she had not been there. If the book was so interesting she desired to have a copy herself. Exactly in this moment the two men were in her house with *The Great Controversy*. She immediately accepted the book. She also offered to pay. They told her that the book was for free. Then she offered them something to eat instead. But since it was meat they kindly told her that they could not eat it. They told her that they were vegetarians and gave her also the reason why. This opened the way for a deeper talk and the lady had many questions. They decided to come back and visit her again so that they could answer more of her questions.

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Two men went to the Gypsy area in a village. It was not possible to meet the people at home since many were in church. They discussed whether they should go to the church. Finally they decided to enter the Baptist Church to see whether they would be welcome or not. When the people in the church saw that one of the visiting men was a Gypsy and the other man [Gyuszi's father] explained who they were they began to cry. They remembered Gyuszi. They said that since Gyuszi had died nobody wanted to teach them anymore. They need somebody who understands their life and somebody who loves them. They had many questions and they asked the two men to come back because they were not sure what was right. The visiting Gypsy explained the narrow way to them. With the help of this illustration it was easier for them to understand what he was talking about. What is the difference between worshipping God on the Sabbath day or on Sunday? What is the difference between doing what God says and what the pastor says? He explained to them that it was not enough to be a church member and to attend church on Sunday. If you went to smoke and drink alcohol after church you would not go to heaven. This is false teaching. We should not listen to anybody. When we want to study the Bible we should pray and then the Holy Spirit would help us to understand God's way.

The Gypsies live a different life. Some of them live in a dirty environment and some are aggressive. Many do not know how to read and write. It is hard to find a person who will accept the Gypsies like they are. It would be nice to teach them but it is not enough to visit them just one or two times. There are not many who are willing to do this job. But the big question is what God has in mind for them. If the Gypsies see that you have something to offer to them they are ready to listen. - Three men have been found who are willing to go and have Bible studies with the Gypsies.

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#### Encouragement from Laci

We were in many villages and many places. But we did not finish the work. The workers of the 11th hour - who will they be? Maybe the people to whom we are giving the books? God knows. It is something to think about. It has happened not just once when somebody called me that they asked if it was possible to have a bible study. Somebody else called and asked for a Bible. Another called and said: Please teach me how to live healthy. Today I go to a catholic family because they have asked for a Bible. I want to thank God that although we are not many we are working for Him.

#### Encouragement from Gyuszi's father

It is so interesting that when we began to do this work we had so many questions: Will we have enough money and from where? From where will we have the cars that we need? From where will we have enough books? From where will we have enough diesel? - But now as we have covered the county of Salaj we can thank God because all the time we had enough. Three years ago we began this work of going from door to door. In all this time we never had an accident. We never had a problem with the cars. We never lacked money. We were never without books. Please pray and we will finish the work.

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Thank you for your support and your prayers for the work in Romania. I wish you God's rich blessings.

Lena Clerc

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