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I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6



Dan & Marta Lewis

## February 2017

*John 10:10 (Amp.)*

*The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).*

As we mentioned briefly in our January newsletter, "overflow" is the theme the Lord has given us for 2017. All through 2016 our theme was "harvest" and we certainly saw great harvest in many ways. As soon as we recognized the theme for the new year, we started studying and meditating on its meaning.

The first thing I thought of when I heard the word "overflow" was the picture of a river overflowing its banks causing flooding. While this kind of overflow can be disastrous, there are also areas of the world where the overflow of a river is depended upon to bring life to a dry area. Excess and surplus are words that come up when investigating overflow.

One of the definitions that caught my attention states that overflow is *going beyond set limits and boundaries*. Many times people set boundaries that limit what they can do. I believe this is a year of "taking the limits off of God" in order to go beyond limitations that have been put in place by our own thinking.

For the sake of anyone who might be horrified that Dan & Marta have stepped over into "Prosperity teaching" let me remind you that Deuteronomy 8:18 tells us that it is the Lord who gives us power to get wealth, and the purpose for that wealth is to establish His covenant on the earth. Where prosperity teaching loses Biblical backing is when the desire for "things" becomes the motivation for pursuing prosperity, rather than building the Kingdom. If we really want to do everything the Lord has called us to do, we need to go beyond our own resources and tap in to God's overflow. If we want to be a blessing, we must be blessed! It may surprise you to see the number of times the Bible emphasizes overflow. We will be exploring this more in future newsletters.

This year once again, thanks to our partners, we are able to provide bread once a week for each church family in Székelyhid, Romania. This may seem like a small thing, but it makes a huge difference in this Roma community, as there are very few people with any income at all during winter months. We typically continue the bread program through March, depending on how long Winter hangs on. The cost of the bread ministry is \$100 per week, and your support for this is greatly appreciated.

This year, we have made a minor change to the way the bread is distributed each week. In the past, bread was bought and given out every Saturday, and people could come at any time to pick it up. This was putting an unnecessary burden on the leaders who were responsible for getting the bread into peoples hands. This year, bread is being given out each Wednesday night at the end of the evening church service. This means that in order to receive bread, you have to come and listen to the Bible teaching! Not only has this helped free up Saturdays for the leaders, but people have started to be "doers" of the word, not just hearers. The Word of God is making a difference in peoples lives.

We start each Wednesday service with a short teaching on tithes and offerings, and people are finally starting to make the connection that harvest can't happen if I haven't planted. One young man was so stirred up about the teaching on tithing that he went home and repeated the lesson to his father. The father was also convicted by what his son had learned, and although he had no money, he did have a huge pile of wood that he brought to the church as his "tithes". This may sound like a small thing, but wood is almost like gold in a Székelyhid winter. The Word changes people!

The widows and elderly, children and youth are also getting a hot meal and vitamins twice a week at the Székelyhid church. This year we invite the whole church in once a week for a hot meal as well. Thank you, partners, for making this possible.

Last month, we asked for help in providing a chain saw for the Székelyhid church. We are happy to report that Pastor Karcsi has already picked up the chainsaw, and not only is he able to make short work of the wood they purchase, he is able to start a little wood cutting business on the side to help bring in a little income. Most people receive their wood in long sections, and although the delivery people will cut it, they will charge more than the load of wood costs (which is quite expensive).

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for Light to the Nations Ministries. We believe Light to the Nations is good soil, and your gift to this ministry will receive an overflowing harvest. Thank you for your support both in finances and especially, in prayer. Thank you!!!

Love and blessings,

*Dan & Marta Lewis*



**Top left:** Winters are typically long and very cold in Székelyhíd and wood is expensive—even more expensive if you have to pay someone to cut it. **Center:** Thanks to our partners, the church can now cut their own wood with this new chain saw, and also earn a little income by cutting wood for others. **Top right and all three photos below:** Pastor Karcsi is shown passing out loaves of bread after a recent Wednesday church service.



**Above left:** The Light to the Nations churches in Eastern Hungary are growing fast. Here are children from the new church in Botpalad. **Above right:** Youth from all the towns where Light to the Nations has a presence are shown gathered here for a special meeting in Uszka.

**Below left:** Children perform during a service in Uszka. **Below right:** Pastors Jenő & Erzsike Orgován are shown setting apart people for service in the Uszka church.

