



A ministry of
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Dan & Marta Lewis

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

JANUARY, 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2 Cor 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The beginning of a new year is similar in many ways to the experience of being “born again”. Many people look at the new year as “starting over with a clean slate”. This is exactly what happens when we are born-again, all things do become new. Yet, even though a new year has arrived, we are essentially the same person on the outside. In the same way, changing from December to January doesn’t look much different - especially if you live in a place that typically has cold, miserable winters, January can actually be more cold and miserable than December was. But we know change is coming and Spring will eventually arrive.

When we commit our lives to Jesus and allow Him to be Lord of our lives, change may not be instantly obvious. It is our spirit, the inner man that is born again, and that *is* instant. The Bible tells us we are to renew our mind (Romans 12:2) and be transformed by the Word of God. The apostle Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 9:27, the importance of disciplining and bringing our physical body into subjection. Your body and your soul (mind, will and emotions) should change, but it is up to each one of us to bring both in line with the Word of God. Change should come in every area, even though some of the change may seem slow and almost imperceptible. The Word of God will bring change, even if it doesn’t seem like it at first.

The reason we are taking time with this subject of change is because of a message we received during our recent visit to Hungary and Romania. Our original plan was to spend all of our time with friends who are starting a new work in and near the town of Ozd, Hungary, but, since we were just a few hours drive away, we stopped in for a short visit in Székelyhíd, Romania and Uszka, Hungary. Before we left to return to the US, we received the following message (translated from Hungarian) from Csaba Beres, who is the mayor of the town of Székelyhíd:

Dear brother Dan and sister Marta,

It is so good that we have you. Many years ago you started the work in “Gypsy lane”. Here is a short version of the results: Today, the trade school in Nagykágya has 300 students, and of those, 100 are Roma students who are learning a trade. Today there are young people, mothers, fathers who otherwise would be without education,

without a trade and would be socially rejected. Thank God and thank you that these young people are learning trades and do not have to beg and steal to survive. Unmeasureable joy and thankfulness is in my heart towards this.

Csaba Beres

It has been more than 20 years since we started ministering in Székelyhíd. Besides teaching the Word of God, one of the first things we did was to establish an elementary school for Roma children (and adults) who had not finished their education. When Romania joined the European Union in 2007, the EU took over our school, but used it as a model for others, keeping most of our Bible-based curriculum intact. This school helped open the eyes of many of the Roma families who had not seen the value of education previously. This also made it possible for Roma kids to attend the trade school in nearby Nagykágya. Csaba Böszörményi, who we wrote about in our last newsletter, was the very first Roma student from Székelyhíd to attend the trade school in Nagykágya, and is now one of those people mayor Csaba mentioned who have a job and support their own family. All glory to the Lord!

Change is happening among the Romas. Even though it might seem slow to us, it is real, and others are noticing. All of the change is because of the Word of God being heard and received by individuals. I believe we can all expect positive change in our lives as we enter a new year, as long as we continue to stay close to the Word and stay close to God.

A special thank you to all of you who responded to our yearly gift of food packages to Roma families in Romania and Hungary. You can still be part of this Christmas gift, as we will once again be providing bread every week at least until February. Seventy families can receive bread for one week for \$100. Thank you for your help.

As we enter into the new year, we want you to know how important you are to this ministry. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated and we are confident that any good thing that arises from this ministry is deposited to your account. Our prayer for all of you is for a blessed and prosperous 2019.

Love, blessings and Happy New Year!

Dan & Marta Lewis



Above left & Center: A few days before the adult families in Székelyhíd, Romania received their Christmas packages, the children (left photo) and Youth (right photo) received their own special (age appropriate) packages. We are so pleased with how the youth have taken on the responsibility of teaching the children every Saturday. **Above right,** Székelyhíd Pastor Karcsi and daughter Évike are ready to help load the food items purchased by Light to the Nations partners.



Above left: Every family in the Székelyhíd church received a package with everything you see here. The next three photos **above** show some of the people as they received their packages provided by partners of Light to the Nations. We were able to do a short teaching on Skype and encouraged the people to "tithe" some of their gift by helping someone who was in need. We then watched as packages were handed out very peacefully and orderly.



Above left: The Light to the Nations church in Uszka, Hungary also was blessed with Christmas packages. Under the leadership of Pastors Jenő and Erzsike Orgován (far right) 68 families from Uszka, Botpalad and were blessed. They are shown here with some of the leaders from the church receiving their gift packages. **Center:** Here, the leadership of the church in Botpalad hold up their packages. Shown here are Pastor Gábor Bognár, his wife Mariann and Károly Gertner. **Above right:** As part of their Christmas preparation, kids in Botpalad make and decorate (with adult supervision) Christmas cookies!

ROMA CHRISTMAS - EXTENDED!

As we have done for several years, we would like to extend the gift of food for families in Romania by providing bread weekly for church families throughout the cold Winter months. If you'd like to help, please send your gift to the address on the front of this newsletter. Your gift will mean so much to many needy Roma families. Please pray about helping these precious people make it through the winter.

Thank you!

We can't say enough about the way you, our partners have responded every year to make Christmas and beyond a very special time of year for our Roma friends in Hungary & Romania. Thank you Lord, thank you Light to the Nations Partners. All the glory to our GREAT GOD!