



Moldova

Summer Team 2010

Some things to consider

- Have you been praying for Moldova and are you already aware of the work there?
- Is your desire to visit based on a prayerful interest and a clear sense that the Lord wants you to become involved?
- If you live near Cardiff, would you consider joining the Moldova prayer group which meets every 3rd Thursday in the month? This is a very good way to gain more information about the work and to become more practically involved.

Dates

16th - 22nd August Practical Work
22nd - 28th August Summer Camp at Badiceni

The Opportunities

Practical Work

There would be some opportunities for a small group of men with practical abilities to assist in some manual labour tasks. The work will be hard and the materials available basic and good working tools are unlikely to be available - it is likely to be hot. There will not be anybody to supervise most of this work and a good deal of initiative and resourcefulness is required. There may not be an interpreter around all the time. Please contact the UFM office as soon as possible and at the latest by the end of April if you have an interest in getting involved.

The Camp at Badiceni

We are applying again for Government permission to run a camp at Badiceni in the north of Moldova from Monday 23rd August until Friday 27th August. Badiceni is a large, closed institution for about 500 adults - men and women. Some have learning or physical disabilities and some have no disabilities at all but have simply been abandoned by their families. The location is isolated and the conditions in the institution are not good.

During the mornings we plan to go into the institution each day from Monday to Friday and organise activities - sports, games, keep-fit, craft activities (all the activities need to be age-appropriate), singing, testimonies and a Gospel message. We want to take maximum opportunity to make friendships. Language is a barrier, but you will still be able to befriend people there. Our main aim is to take the Gospel and the love of Christ into Badiceni. There is an ongoing work there with regular visits. Do not expect a quiet congregation! Sometimes we have to break up fights and concentration times can be very limited and distractions numerous. Everyone needs to go prepared with some very short Bible messages and words of testimony.

We will be rough camping outside the institution with a group of Moldovans. Conditions will be very basic - no toilets or washing facilities and no lights at night apart from the torches we will need to take.



We will need to take our camping equipment with us - but maximum luggage is 20kgs. Everyone will help in the setting up and running of the camp, including food preparation and collecting water. It is likely to be hot during the daytime and cold at nights and there could be mosquitoes.

Travel Arrangements and Costs

A meeting of all those interested in going will be arranged in April. We will discuss travel arrangements then. Last year we travelled with Wizzair to Bucuresti and then overland for many hours to Moldova.

There are flights to Moldova but these are more expensive (around £400). £100 each for the camp - for food and transport etc. You will not need any extra money once there.

Please be Prepared

- Planning in Moldova is last minute. If you go do not expect to find things well organised and smooth running - it will be the opposite. Sometimes you will be frenetically busy and other times you will think you are wasting your time. This is a cultural reality - be sure you can cope with this.
- You will need to see your practice nurse to ensure you have all the necessary vaccinations - you may have to pay for some of these. Moldova is a small country with poor medical care. In any medical emergencies, you will not have access to good medical facilities and it will not be possible for you to fly home quickly. There is a high incidence of diseases such as TB, polio and Hepatitis A and B.
- Driving in Moldova is much more dangerous than in the UK. Be sure you can cope with long, fast journeys on poor roads.
- You will be given the very best food. It may not be to your taste, but it is culturally impolite to refuse it. Can you cope with this?
- During the camp at Badiceni, it is very important that we do not isolate ourselves into a British group, but mix well with everybody else on the team.
- It would be helpful for you to learn some basic Romanian or Russian before going.
- We need to take responsibility for organising the camp activities between us and bringing the necessary materials with us.

Please be Prepared Spiritually

- Christians over about 35 will have known much persecution under Soviet Communism. There is now freedom for the Gospel and the church has grown rapidly since 1990. However the political situation is very unstable and corruption abounds. The police are involved in this corruption. Well over 1 million Moldovans have left the country in the last 10 years. There is a Russian army in occupation in part of Moldova - Transnistria.
- Prayer is very important in the life of Moldovan Christians. They always stand or kneel to pray and will usually fast and pray one day a week. We will be asked to join them in this. Pray much before going - you will need to look only to the Lord for all you need - there will be no organisation to support you whilst you are there.
- Moldovan Christians are very hospitable. They will do all they can to make your visit a good one, but they will be quietly watching your life and witness. However tired or frustrated you feel, please avoid criticism of them or each other or the circumstances, and pray that the Lord will keep you very close to Himself.
- Their Christian tradition is in some ways a conservative one. For the women, jewellery and make up are better left at home and a long skirt will be needed for church and married women wear scarves. Use of alcohol is not acceptable at all.
- Moldovan Christians love music and would expect us to contribute with songs and playing a musical instrument if you are able.
- You will be expected to pray or speak publically when asked to do so.

Thank you for your potential interest! May the Lord direct all of us as we consider this together.

Maureen Wise



To apply, please visit our website for an Application Form and a Pastor's Reference Request. You will also find information on our other Summer Teams: www.ufm.org.uk/smartweb/serving/summer-teams

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