

April 9, 2024

Greetings!

Looking at buildings with severely cracked foundations always causes me to think more theologically about our human condition. On buildings, the evidence of foundation cracks is always seen higher up in the structure: cracks around windows and doors, sagging walls and uneven roof lines. When considering the human condition, a bad foundation is always evident later in life: insecurity, loss of hope, and no desire to even continue living. The cracks of life can be seen as the addictions and abuse that we often deal with in our Teen Challenge programs.

These thoughts of foundations and cracks were inspired by a recent trip to Moldova. I was traveling with two dear friends, Jan and Marja, together with our incredible Moldovan leaders to visit a rehabilitation center near the capital city of Chisinau. The rehabilitation center was located in a very old, two-room house complete with cracks in the foundation! Everything was orderly and clean and the walls were even whitewashed. However, no amount of whitewash could have hidden the evidence of the bad foundation. The house looked as though it was waiting for the next strong wind to blow it down.

When I saw this, a strong sense of irony struck me. Inside that failing structure were 12 men who were in the process of establishing a new and secure foundation in their own cracked lives. The building they were living in served as a sharp contrast to what God was doing in their lives. With God, it is possible to remake foundations, not just cover cracks with whitewash.

Directly behind that dilapidated building, a new structure was being built—one that was well designed and will be well constructed. When complete, it will house 30 men. What a joy to see such things and draw life lessons from them.

We sat with the staff and students in that program over tea, coffee and sandwiches. We shared testimonies of God's goodness, heard plans for the future and prayed for one another. I mused as we sat and listened, *How amazing is our God who is the rebuilder of broken foundations.* I was also struck with the thought that God's Spirit is alive and well in Moldova!

As always, none of these things would be possible without faithful friends and churches who continue to contribute to this work. We are now in our 41<sup>st</sup> year with Teen Challenge, in Europe, and continue to see the hand of God in all that we do.

Thank you, and God Bless you all!

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