



## Sports Outreach in Moldova

Last year I met with some Christian leaders in Moldova to discuss ideas about how we could evangelize youth in the country. I was told that times were changing and they could no longer draw youth to Christian camps. As a result, they no longer did youth camps-just children's camps. Our European outreach coordinator suggested a sports camp utilizing volleyball since it is a very popular sport in Moldova. Over the last year, 34 co-ed teams of ten players each were signed up from across Moldova. Uttermost paid the \$50 per person camp fee and local Moldovan churches provided transportation for the teams to and from the camp. Around 70% of the players, who were between the ages of 14 and 19, were unchurched and from non-Christian families. During the first week of camp, the teams from southern Moldova came and during the second week, the teams from northern Moldova attended. We had chapel services every morning and evening and I preached nine times to each camp. The youth, who were very talented to be amateur players, had a wonderful time. The top three teams from each week competed in a championship series at the end of each of the two camps. First, second, and third place teams were awarded medals and trophies. In the end everybody was a winner because they got to hear the Gospel proclaimed in creative and culturally relevant ways during the week. We praise God that around 200 of the youth made public decisions to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.







## Romanian Outreach “Grace Fest”

In July we partnered with Grace Baptist Church in Targu Mures, Romania, to sponsor a city wide outreach we called “Grace Fest.” The multi day outreach involved four creative and culturally relevant ministries. First was a soccer tournament at a local sports complex composed of teams from the community; second, a live outdoor painting competition at a famous historical site; third, a culinary competition; and fourth, a two night concert series and cultural enrichment program held at an amphitheater in the middle of the city. The varied events drew both participants and spectators from a diverse cross section of the community. We held recognition ceremonies for all the competitions and awarded certificates, medals, and trophies to the participants. The awards were handed out at the amphitheater during the cultural enrichment program. A mass choir and praise team with a full band were joined by poets, professional classical musicians, and artists to provide a powerful presentation of the Gospel. I shared the Gospel at all of

the competitions and preached at the amphitheater services. It was awesome to see people from such diverse backgrounds give their lives publicly to Jesus Christ.



## Ukrainian Pastors Conference

In July we hosted a Bible conference in western Ukraine for 34 pastors and church leaders. We met at a wonderful facility in the countryside with a beautiful lake where the participants were able to escape the ravages of war for a time of physical, mental, and spiritual refreshing. The conference challenged the pastors to be leaders like Nehemiah in the Old Testament who was used by God to lead his people to rebuild their homeland after the destruction caused by the war. All of the participants testified that the conference helped them personally and blessed their lives and ministries.



## Holy Land Trip

We have 3 seats remaining from Memphis for our Holy Land trip December 28-January 6, 2023.

If you are interested in joining us from Memphis airport, please let us know. We would love to have you join us on this pilgrimage journey.

