

*Extending a Vision of Hope Through Hands-On Christian Love*

## Living Letters

*Walking in Truth and Love* by Sarah Boyd

**B**ut the only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves! Your lives are a letter written in our hearts, and everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ prepared by us. It is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on stone, but on human hearts.

-- 2nd Corinthians 3: 2-3 (New Living Translation)



**W**hen I arrived in Romania at the beginning of June, the green sunflower fields were no more than a promise. Yet when I left Romania at the end of July, those promises had exploded into endless stretches of gold, each flower craning its face toward the sun. A sunflower seed strikes the eye as small and unassuming. Yet it holds the potential to grow into something beautiful. Two months as an intern with Global Hope this summer brought me great joy to find children growing into beautiful disciples of Christ, as they are learning to walk in his ways of truth and love.

Sitting by the stream at camp in Marga one morning in July, I read these words from John and knew just how well they reflected the footsteps of the Global Hope children. Through the examples of their house parents and the work of the Spirit, *they are learning to walk in God's truth, to seek to know him through his Word.* During church one Sunday, paging through my Bible kept Cristina from House of Hope occupied for a considerable time. Yet at one point, she gave my Bible back to me, opened her own Romanian Bible to a psalm, and

wanted me to read the same psalm in English. Though only six years old, *Cristina seemed to know that God whispers his truth to our hearts no matter what language we speak.* At seventeen, Oana Kiş from Ana's House showed a deep enthusiasm to know Christ more and to share him with others. After her devotions one morning, Oana could not wait to share with me a verse from Isaiah that captured the Lord's love for her and his willingness to stand in her place. Oana said, "When I read that, all I could think was, 'Wow.'"

As they are amazed by the truth of God's love for them, the kids of Global Hope respond by walking in love, both love for the Lord and love for others. I witnessed the joy and cheerfulness of three-year-old Lisa overflow in spontaneous choruses of "hallelujah," while the heart of worship in five-year-old Hoiny sparked her desire to play "biserica" (church) and sing praise to God in her own backyard. As nineteen-year-old Sanda anticipated her baptism, *she spoke freely of the joy that comes from knowing Jesus' love* for her and her passion to love him in return. Though she said she thanks God every day for her Global Hope family, she sees this familial love as just a little glimpse of the width, height, depth, and length of Christ's love.

**A**nd finally, their love for the Lord flows beautifully into love for others, as Christ himself desires of his youngest disciples. During camp, the children found good behavior rewarded with a chance to "shop" for prizes; yet rather than choosing gifts for himself, sixteen-year-old Ionuţ selected thoughtful gifts for each of his siblings at Steven's House.

Steven's House, ten-year-old Cristina showed an enthusiasm to love the body of Christ. I was delighted to watch her during church as she greeted everyone around her with a hearty handshake, a big grin, and an animated "Peace!"

**Y**et most of all, I saw the children of Global Hope walking in the love of the Lord simply by welcoming a stranger into their families for the summer. Though I arrived in Arad as a stranger, I left two months later renewed by the love of twenty-six younger brothers and sisters in Christ. *Our Heavenly Father is truly unfolding a work of redemption in each of the three Global Hope homes.* And as the children grow in the hope that comes from walking with the Lord, they hold the potential to plant seeds of hope in their own part of the world. "It has given me great joy," as John said, to find children learning to walk in truth and love in Romania. And it gives me even greater joy to trust that though the kingdom may begin with a child as small and unassuming as a sunflower seed, God's grace can make that seed flourish and multiply into something beautiful.

**"I**t has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. . . .As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love" (2 John 4, 6b).



*Sarah Boyd served Global Hope in Arad, Romania during the summer of 2008. We are grateful for her service.*





## A Note from Mama Rodi

by Rodica Stepan

Here in Romania autumn has arrived and the children have joyfully picked up their backpacks and headed for school (some for the first time!) The reunion between children, classmates and teachers has been a joyful one, but it has been cold and rainy which reminds us of the sunny days we spent together at the summer camp in Marga.

This year at camp the children learned about Daniel; the teenagers marveled at Daniel's faith and character, and the smaller children learned from his example of daily prayer. With your help, and our work as a team (Roni, Doina, Rodi, Tanti Rodi and Tanti Ica in the kitchen, as well as the American missionaries and some Romanian volunteers), we can say that camp was a success!



Cleaning garden veggies to put be canned for winter is everyone's job.

As the first-place winner, Teodora qualified to go to the country finals, which were held in Austria. She enjoyed the week-long European vacation! She took 8th place in the final competition.

Thank you for considering Global Hope in your plans for 2008 end-of-year giving. We are a 501c3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Some of our children decided to participate in the Bible Olympics, which were held in Arad this August. The theme of the contest was 1st and 2nd Kings (two books I'm sure we're all familiar with!), Mark, and Philipians. **They had to learn 50 verses by heart, and be prepared to answer around 100 questions for every book.** Although it was tough, and the time was very short (3 weeks!), the children were well prepared. Simply put, they stole the show; Teo, Simona, Robi and Mircea took first, second, third and fourth place!

As summer comes to an end we are grateful to have a pantry full of supplies for the winter, straight from our own garden. We are fully stocked with pickled cucumbers, tomato sauce, cherry and strawberry jam, fruit preserves, vegetables for soups, hot peppers, zacusca (a mixture of vegetables that we spread on bread), eggplants, squash and peas.

Thank you for choosing to invest in these very special children. Although they face difficult circumstances, their potential has no limits. Your generosity gives them the chance to become independent adults, to be used by God and to give back to the community.



Children and staff work hard each season to reap a bountiful harvest from our vegetable garden.

We know that your country is going through an economic crisis and we want to express gratitude for the efforts you are making to support our work with the children of Global Hope. We believe that God will reward your efforts in a great way. May God bless you.

Rodica Stepan (a.k.a. "Mama Rodi") has been serving as a housemother with Global Hope since 2001.



12 year-old Teo dons her first-place medal from the Bible Olympics.



## Sponsors Help Global Hope Raise \$15,000 at our 7th Annual Golf Tournament

A message from Ike Elliott



Over forty golfers joined us on a beautiful Saturday in August to play a fun scramble tournament and raise over \$15,000 for Global Hope. The Vista Ridge course was in great shape, but it couldn't keep the Ball team from winning their fourth straight championship, this time by only two strokes. Congratulations to David Rhinesmith, Ted Schmidt, Darrell Perry, and Bruce Doelling on their fourth straight win.

Thanks to all of the golfers and sponsors who help us raise so much money each year for such a great cause.

Without the support of so many generous sponsors, Global Hope could not continue its mission to rescue abandoned and orphaned children. Thank You! We hope to see all of you at next year's tournament!

### This year's major sponsors included

Ball Corporation    Cerretani Aviation    LCS LLC    Covidien  
& GE Johnson Construction Company

### Our prize sponsors included

Supper Solutions	Dave & Buster's	Woody's Wood Fired Pizza
Golfsmith	Pappadeaux	Noodles & Company
Abo's Pizza Broomfield	Blue Parrot	California Pizza Kitchen
Disneyland	Casa Alvarez	Ted's Montana Grill
Splitz Bowling	Connor O'Neill's	BJ's Brewhouse
Mimi's Café	Damons	YMCA of the Rockies
King Soopers	Yak & Yeti	the Rocky Mountain Rage
Red Lobster	Rock Bottom Brewery	Original Pizza
Raining Faith Massage	Madcap Theatre	the Colorado 14ers
Omni Interlocken Resort	Elitch Gardens	

We also had 18 great child hole sponsors

*Ike Elliott has served as the executive director of Global Hope and Chairman of the Board since 2004.*



## People You Should Know

Beatrice Nafula - House "Grandmother" at the Hope for Orphans Rehabilitation Center

Beatrice will be 60 years old this year and is the resident "grandmother" at HOREC. After raising two children of her own, and two beautiful grandchildren, Beatrice has joined HOREC as a full-time housemother. In addition to cooking and cleaning, she will help the children throughout the day-getting them up in the morning, tucking them in at night, and everything in between.

She joined HOREC last month and loves to teach the children the gospel through song. Beatrice's salary is \$41 a month.

In your plans for financial giving in 2009, please consider sponsoring Beatrice as she serves the children at HOREC.



Beatrice has been working with children since 2005 when she got a job at Joy Divine Children's Home. Due to the post-election violence that threatened much of Nairobi last year, she had to leave that orphanage.





www.globalhope.org

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## Short-Term Mission Trip Opportunity to Kenya!

**E**ach of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. 1 Peter 4:10

Join Global Hope on a short-term mission trip to Africa from January 23-31, 2009 to serve children in Nairobi, Kenya through hands-on Christian love and service.



Here are some of the opportunities we anticipate on this trip:

- Teach Bible lessons, stories and songs to children at the Hope for Orphans and Rehabilitation Center (HOREC).
- Help with construction and minor home-maintenance projects as HOREC transitions into their new home!
- Visit other ministries, such as schools and soup kitchens, serving children and families living in the slums of Nairobi.
- See the beautiful country of Kenya on safari! (optional)

Mission trips have proven to be powerful, enriching, and transformational experiences for those answering God's call to serve. For more information about joining a Global Hope mission team, please contact Will Johnston at [willjohnston@earthlink.net](mailto:willjohnston@earthlink.net) or Jacci Knight at [jacciknight@yahoo.com](mailto:jacciknight@yahoo.com). You can also contact Global Hope by phone at 720-887-4673.

