

# The Connecting Link



Winter 2009

224 Bomberger Rd  
Akron PA 17501

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality.

II Corinthians 8:13,14

## In This Edition

Annual Banquet

Tabita Home for the Elderly

Trip Plans

News from Cantemir

Trip to St. Petersburg Region

Board News

## Tabita Home for the Elderly

by Igor Hmelic

Cross Links financially supports Tabita, a home for the elderly in the village of Iabiona, Moldova. State social workers or churches refer people to the home. In winter, Tabita is filled to capacity with 54 residents. Occupancy is reduced to approximately 30 in the summer. Residents generally live at the home for the rest of their lives. Deaths average five a year. Tabita employs a staff of 11 and is not equipped to serve residents with emotional or psychological disorders.

## Cross Links Annual Banquet March 14, 2009

You are invited to the annual Cross Links banquet on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, PA. A program will follow the 6 P.M. dinner. Music will be provided by the worship team of a local Russian congregation, The Resurrection Power Church. There will be short stories shared by recent travelers with Cross Links including Phil Yoder, Anna Fortuna, Esther Kennel, Ruth Burkholder, and Ramona King. A silent auction is being held again this year featuring items from Eastern Europe. Please make reservations with Judy Zimmerman at 717-738-0184 or email at zimfamily@dejazzd.com. See the enclosed reservation form on page 3.



*Tabita home for the elderly*

Using funds provided by the Dutch organization Europa Desk, the Baptist Union built the home in 1996 with the intent that Tabita become self-supporting. Funds from the state and church collections also helped meet needs at Tabita. Until 2004, Europa Desk provided funds for operating expenses and the salaries of two employees. Currently, each resident receives a monthly state pension that is transferred directly

to Tabita. Each resident receives five percent of the pension in cash. Local churches donate food and regularly visit residents at the home.

A 60-acre farm located next to Tabita supplies much of the food for the home. The farm employs three and produces and sells hogs and watermelons for market. It also provides frozen meat, sunflower oil, wheat flour, and vegetables for the home. Each year the farm supplies Tabita with food valued at \$8000 (U.S.). Agri Service Moldova provides developmental resources to help the farm operate more efficiently.

Ongoing needs of Tabita include sufficient funds to adequately support staff. Cross Links contributes \$370 (U.S.) each month toward staff salary and other expenses. An additional \$400 (U.S.) is needed monthly to maintain qualified staff. Cross Links representative in Moldova, Igor Hmelic, suggests implementing alternative fuel systems utilizing methane gas or corn to reduce heating costs. Perhaps money saved on heating expenses could be allocated for salaries.



*Directors of Tabita Home*

## Invitation to Join 2009 Mission Trip

Cross Links is planning a mission trip to Moldova and Ukraine in early fall, tentatively scheduled for the first two weeks of September 2009. Work possibilities include home visitations and distribution of school kits and food. Other possibilities under consideration include a ministry to widows or youth and a work project. You are invited to join this group and discover how God is working in other parts of the world. Travel with a purpose, experience firsthand the work of Cross Links, and allow God to touch your heart in a unique way. To join the group or for more information, please contact Cross Links at [crosslinks@juno.com](mailto:crosslinks@juno.com) or Phil Yoder at [philyoder@yahoo.com](mailto:philyoder@yahoo.com) or telephone 574-294-2033.

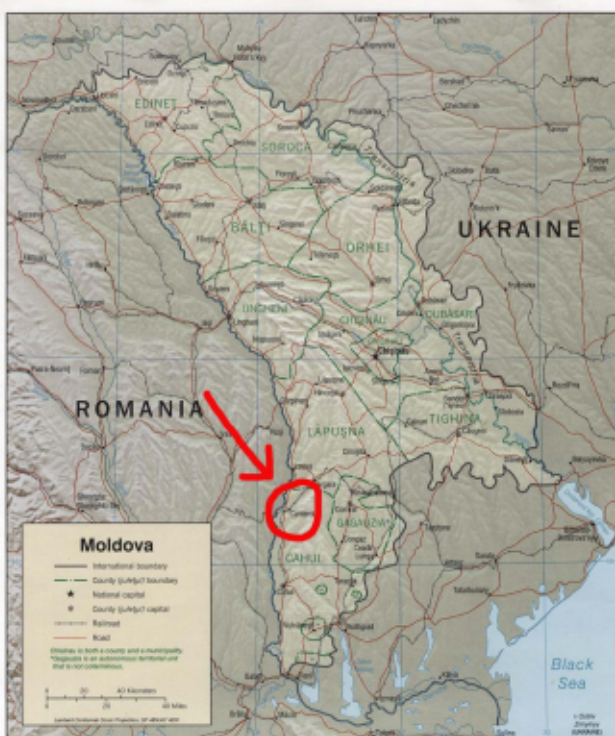
## Outreach in Cantemir, Moldova

Begun by Pastor Vladimir Boncev in 1992, the church in Cantemir, Moldova is experiencing steady growth, and God is blessing the various ministries of the congregation. Pastor Vladimir's son Tony reports that members of the congregation have planted churches in four surrounding villages. Each week more than 40 teenagers gather to study English using the Bible as their study book. This class has been used as an outreach for the past five years. The congregation also provides an active sports ministry.

In December, a few people from the congregation distributed Bibles to eager students and adults in several nearby schools. The number of people desiring a Bible exceeded the number of Bibles the congregation was able to provide.

During the Christmas season, families visit, share meals together, and celebrate Jesus' birth.

The congregation also reaches out to neighbors by distributing food packets, sharing the gospel, and praying with recipients. Currently, this program reaches approximately 30 homes. Pastor Vladimir and son Tony give this testimony, "God is good, all the time." The ministries in Cantemir offer numerous opportunities for us to support and encourage.



# Banquet Reservation Form

There is no cost for the banquet but reservations are required.

Respond by March 9th, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending

Names of people attending (include your name)

\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor  
a table @ \$175 (8 seats)

---

---

---

\_\_\_\_ Number of seats I will fill

---

---

\_\_\_\_ Number of seats I would  
like Cross Links to fill

---

---

---

---

Reservations should be made with Judy Zimmerman by phone, email or mail.

Phone - 717-738-0184 email - zimfamily@dejazzd.com mail - 550 W Church Rd, Ephrata PA 17522

## Trip to St. Petersburg Region

Cross Links board member and Russia project coordinator Robert Zimmerman and his wife Regina traveled to Russia from November 11- 19, 2008. They represented Cross Links in Tosno and Ivangorod at two-day conferences sponsored by Co-Missions, an international mission organization. The conferences focused on educating the Russian people about adoption and foster care opportunities in Russia. As a cost-cutting measure, the Russian government intends to close 80 percent of its orphanages within three years. To encourage participation in the adoption and foster care program, the government will issue monthly stipends to families for the care of adopted and foster children.

Robert and Regina also visited a children's home directed by Peter and Liya Krafchuk, parents of one biological child and 19 adopted children. The children at the home helped prepare the foundation for the new Children's Education Center. They shared



how God is faithfully answering their prayers and believe God will continue to supply funds to make the Center a reality. If you want to contribute to this project, please make your check payable to Cross Links, Inc. and write "St. Pete Children's Education Center" on the memo line.

Pastor Misha Kozitsky informed the Zimmermans that the children's summer Bible camp is slated for mid-July 2009. The ten-day camp will host children from orphanages as well as from foster care families. Pastor Misha expressed appreciation for support of

this ministry that nurtures children and changes lives. A gift of \$100 will allow one child to attend camp. If you would like to sponsor a child, please make your check payable to Cross Links, Inc. and write "St. Pete Children's Camp" on the memo line.



## New board Member and Officers



Newly appointed board members Ruth and James Peshina began their term of service with Cross Links on January 1, 2009. Jim and Ruth have been married 25 years and live in Goshen, Indiana. Jim has roots in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Ruth in Goshen, Indiana. They are parents of three children. Elya is married to Braden Brubaker from Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Destiny is engaged to be married to Chris Higdon from Macon, Georgia, and Ryan lives in Lansing, Michigan.

Jim and Ruth operate J & R Cleaning Service, and Ruth has been employed by Interra Credit Union for the past eight years. As consumer loan verifier, she makes sure correct interest rates are given and all details are correct. They are members of Locust Grove Mennonite Church in Sturgis, Michigan.

Patrick Glavce has also joined the Cross Links board of directors and will share CLI bookkeeping responsibilities with Norman Shenk. Patrick and his wife Elena live in Rothsville, Pennsylvania with their children, Andreea and Stefan. They moved to the United States from Romania in June 1998 and attend Stumptown Mennonite Church. Patrick's business, PNG Logistics, provides shipping logistics. We are excited about the skills and gifts Patrick brings to Cross Links.

In other board news, Paul Wenger has accepted the position of board chairman, and Phil Yoder has accepted the position of vice-chairman. The board appreciates the leadership of Paul and Phil. We are grateful, too, for the years of service John Fry has given to the board. John served as chairman for the past several years and completed his term at the end of 2008.



Cross Links Board of Directors  
President: Nelson Zimmerman

Chairman: Paul Wenger, Vice-Chair: Philip Yoder

Treasurer: Norman Shenk, Secretary: Glenn Gingrich

Lynette Brenneman, Clara Fox, John & Jane Gerlach, Jane Gingrich,  
Patrick Glavce, Arlene Hartranft, John Herr, Richard F. Hess, Henry &  
Mabel Hoover, James & Ruth Peshina, Philip Yoder, Robert Zimmerman

Cross Links Inc.  
224 Bomberger Rd  
Akron PA 17501  
717-859-2220

Email - [nzimmerman@cross-links.org](mailto:nzimmerman@cross-links.org)  
Web - [www.cross-links.org](http://www.cross-links.org)