



By *Tibi Majoros*
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Tibi is the founder of the community of St. Paul Oradea and the administrator of Foundation Missio. He is also the former president of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Transylvania. Tibi began collaborating with Renewal Ministries in 1998, promoting and pioneering the work of evangelization in Hungary and Romania. Each year, he organizes evangelistic events, Holy Spirit seminars, youth camps, retreats and rallies, and helps to form young leaders.

He and his wife Martha live in Oradea, Romania, with their three sons.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Romania

For the first time, we recently focused our mission work on areas in northwestern Romania, where renewal and evangelization are virtually absent. We worked in three small towns—Valea lui Mihai, Tasnad, and Simleul Silvaniei, which each have between 8,000 and 14,000 inhabitants—and in the smaller locality of Tarcea. In Tasnad and Simleul Silvaniei, we had to start from ground zero. In the other two localities, we found a few people open to working with us.

We began by visiting these groups with a certain regularity. Later, we tried to encourage them with the greatest faith, and to train them to work with people when we were not available. Having local helpers proved to be a good idea. They helped the local group grow spiritually stronger, and some of these brothers and sisters were able to use their newly acquired skills to serve in other places.

In Tasnad and Simleul Silvaniei, the strategy was different. In each place, we organized an evangelization event followed by a prayer ministry time. Our hope was that this would give people an opportunity to encounter God, and that they would become thirsty for more. We were greeted with open arms in each of these places. Both parish priests were very encouraging. After the evangelization events, in each place, over forty people of all ages signed up for a follow-up seminar!

In Tasnad, almost all of the participants were very open and finished the ten-week-long seminar. In Simleu, only half of the participants finished the seminar. In each city, a group formed after the seminar—with over twenty people in Tasnad and eight in Simleu. Now we have four groups in those areas.

GROWING IN FAITH

The first fruit I want to mention is that the team I worked with experienced immense growth. Racz Rozalia is a good example. At the beginning, she only helped us lead small group talks. She was happy, and she felt useful. A turning point came during the time of prayer ministry in the fifth week, when we ask the Holy Spirit to come into the participants' hearts. It was her first time doing prayer ministry. She received a short training beforehand and become the third member of a prayer team. During their time of prayer for participants, she had thoughts come into her mind, but she had no courage to say them out loud. However, when the religious sister in her group said a prophecy, Rozalia was surprised, because she had the same thought in her mind. It happened again and again. Finally, Rozalia got some courage and spoke something out loud. The person was so touched, she could not stop thanking God and Rozalia for those words! Rozalia flourished. Usually she is a quiet, balanced lady who does not talk much, but on the way home, she could not stop talking. She never thought that God could use her! Since then, she has become a permanent member of our team. Praise the Lord!



Prayer ministry teams prayed with seminar participants in Tasnad.

MINISTERING TO SENIORS

The second thing I want to mention is about the senior brothers. Over the last decade or so, I have worked primarily with youth—even though I never felt that I have a special calling just for youth. I have told people that it doesn't matter to me whether somebody is seventeen or seventy—all of them need Jesus! This year, I worked with a lot of people in an older age bracket, and it was a good experience!

In Tasnad, I learned that, just as the best way to reach young people is with other young people, the best way to reach an older group of people is also with people their age. The priest in Tasnad gave me a group of seniors to work with for the ten-week session, and the helper they most wanted to accompany me was Boer Magdi, a retired woman who has been widowed twice. They were amazed how full of fire she is—she has gone through so much and yet is balanced, happy, and serves the Lord. She is a person like them, but with Christ, she lives so differently.

One of the participants in Valea lui Mihai said it this way:

“I was religious all my life, and attended the church each Sunday, but after the seminar . . . everything changed.”

The participants encountered God in a way they never had before, and they live now in a personal relationship with Jesus they never had imagined was possible.

CONVERSION LEADS TO SERVICE

The group in Tarcea is really converted—trying to follow the Lord, reading the Bible, and thirsty for more. Three hours was barely enough for us to pray with them in the chapel, even though Tarcea is a poor village, and therefore the chapel was cold in February. The worship time was more than two hours, not because they are good singers, but because they couldn't stop. They knew only a few songs, but it didn't matter. In a short break between songs, I shared a testimony about how good God was to me in the previous week. As soon as I finished, the next person began talking about how wonderful Jesus had been to them that week! When she finished, a new testimony came. We would sing one more song, new testimonies would be shared, and so on.

During weekdays, when these brothers go out to the fields to work, they now gather for a short time to pray and worship. It does not matter what the others around them think. They also visit the poorest people in the village. One woman had nobody to take care of her; she was almost black with dirt. They washed her and cleaned her house. One of them washed all of her clothes.

When they got a new parish priest who no one in the village liked, this group decided to love and accept him. When they helped with a parish feast day event that no one else would help with, the priest was so impressed with their work

that he talked about this group and thanked them again and again in front of all the priests who were present. The way he spoke changed the opinion of a priest who had been against the renewal. Now, by the grace of the Lord, the next Holy Spirit seminar will be organized in his parish!

A SKEPTIC'S PRAYER

The best story happened when a local religious teacher, Arnold, joined the Tasnad seminar at his priest's request. He was reserved and skeptical. When we prayed for an outpouring of the Spirit, I said something about this being the day when you need to be open for the gifts God wants to give you. He thought, “I will test God; I will ask for a few things.” He made a mental list of five things. When he received prayer, the prayer leader said: “The Lord wants to give you something today. The Lord gives you this . . . and that . . .” She told him exactly the five things he had asked the Lord for fifteen minutes earlier. The two had never seen each other before. Arnold later said in his testimony that he had never thought something like this was possible. He encountered God like never before, and now he is one of the leaders in his community. Praise the Lord!

After this evangelization event in Tasnad, over forty participants, thirsty for more, signed up for the follow-up ten-week seminar!

