

THE NORTH CAROLINA – MOLDOVA PARTNERSHIP

Following Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, Moldovan Baptists invited North Carolina Baptists to send teams to minister to the hundreds of refugees who were sheltering at the Baltata Ministry Center near the capital of Chisinau. Over the course of three months, thirteen teams and more than a hundred twenty volunteers from across North Carolina grew in their love and appreciation not only for the refugees, but for the Moldovan Baptists who had opened their hearts, their churches, and their homes to them.



OPPORTUNITY FOR NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

Moldovan Baptists have invited North Carolina Baptists to partner with them in the coming years. Recent events have served as a reminder of how fleeting the opportunity to serve in this area may be. The time to strategically assist our Moldovan brothers and sisters in Christ in strengthening an evangelical presence - is now.

A CHURCH PLANTING EMPHASIS: The primary focus of the Partnership between Moldovan Baptists and North Carolina Baptists will be that of supporting a church planting missionary through growing, visionary Moldovan “mother churches”. This is the expressed desire of the Baptist Union of Moldova. These “mother churches” are led by strong, visionary pastors. They are gospel-focused and mission-hearted. Currently there are over 750 villages in Moldova with no evangelical presence. The great desire of these churches is to see that every village in their region has an evangelical church.

PARTNERSHIP ROLES: The Moldovan “mother church”, with the guidance and encouragement of the Moldovan Baptist Union, will develop the planting strategy, identify a qualified church planter or planting couple, sent that planter out as part of their church ministry, and provide regular supervision and mentoring. The North Carolina partner church will provide ongoing prayer support, encouragement through regular and creative communication, and monthly funding for the church planting efforts as described below. In addition, partners may develop mutually agreed-upon projects – such as Vacation Bible School, outreach ministry, sports camps, etc., that mission teams can participate in. Teams traveling to Moldova will register with the Baptists on Mission office who will coordinate logistics including travel, insurance, and background checks.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: NC churches will pair with a Moldovan “mother church” to support targeted and strategic church planting efforts by supporting a church planter for a period of five years. They will be asked to commit to providing \$430 per month during that time. Moldovan Baptists will contribute an additional \$100 per month for a total of \$530 in support. Some notes:

- It could be that 2 or more congregations come together to support one Moldovan church planter.
- The amount given will remain consistent throughout the course of the agreement. Because of legal requirements, the church planter (called “missionary”) will be an employee of the Baptist Union of Moldova. Because of this, it is required that their support remain consistent for the five year period, and not decrease. While the local Moldovan church will provide ongoing local support and guidance, the Baptist Union will provide periodical training sessions and office support for the planters' work.
- It will be stressed to both Moldovan and North Carolina churches that the agreed-upon monetary amounts for planter support will not be increased or supplemented in any way independent of mutual agreement between the Moldovan Baptist Union and the Baptists on Mission. This is to keep everything fair and balanced in each ministry situation.
- Funds for support will come to the Baptists on Mission office in North Carolina and then be wired to the Moldovan Baptist Union for distribution to the “mother” churches on a quarterly basis.
- Quarterly reports of each planter's work, celebrations of what God is doing, and challenges/points of prayer will be sent by the planter/mother church to the Moldovan Baptist Union for translation, and then forwarded to the Baptists on Mission office, for distribution to the NC partnering churches.

For more information on how your church may participate in this exciting new partnership, contact Mark Abernathy, Baptists on Mission, at 919-459-5607 or mabernathy@ncbaptist.org.

Baptists on Mission is an auxiliary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

