



4D MINISTRIES 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BY HANK PAULSON

MISSION & VISION

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM, IT MATTERS HOW YOU ADJUST YOUR SAILS.

It is all about empowering churches in Eastern Europe fulfill their mission. We do this by connecting them with partners from across the world and make different resources available, so as to help them become more outward looking and fruitful. Or much simpler said – we are dedicated to putting the wind in their sails. (Hank Paulson)

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Kids that want to avoid punishment when caught in school or by parents, are quick to come up with “**it wasn’t me.**” But with praise, we also have to be careful – it is Jesus who deserves the credit first! We also want to share our thankfulness to you, along with about 2,000 pastors and volunteers as well as their churches throughout central and eastern Europe, for **what God did through you!** And we thank our giving partners for letting God use you in His service. **Together, we were His Ambassadors!**

This was another year beyond what we hoped and planned for. When mid-summer arrived, the word was, “We have ten more churches waiting to join the program than we have funding for. Can we help them and do more?” We gladly gave the green light.

Churches are central in what we do. We want to enable and encourage them to be churches that are outward-looking and reaching out with the Good News of Jesus, to bloom where they are planted, and to nurture the spiritual fruit for growth and future





ministry. It is what 4D calls “field driven” ministry that is locally owned.

This past year, almost all churches from 2022 asked to be involved once again. And not only for themselves. They were also involved in recruiting and training regionally. In Romania, Moldova, and Czech Republic, new churches wanted to join as well. In Romania, Rei, our national director, said, “Out of our 60 partnering churches, 22 were first time and started their first missional project.”

Some are camps, some are “city camps” (they are there all day, including meals, but kids sleep at

home), and some are “festivals” (they are not a full week rather 3 or 4 days, with large outreach events during the evenings and various small groups during the day).

Camps were held according to the local needs (field driven) in Romanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Russian, Serbian, Czech, Slovak and English. There was even one camp held for 50 deaf children, so sign language was being used. There also were other special need camps, such as a camp for displaced Ukrainian kids (because of the war), a camp for kids of parents who are part of substance abuse therapy, and a camp for Roma (gipsy) children. One camp in Serbia was done with the help and participation of unchurched mothers (and worked so well).

Altogether, we ended up with 16,875 kids in attendance! Simply amazing! And about 40% of them were unchurched!

Though 4D is also supportive and partnering with Internet-based programs, the camps are an easy way for a small church to start being missional. And in the following year, the group may grow and break into two age groups. Or a small church in a neighboring town may join the camp ministry and get started. After that, they may become a model for someplace else, and the process gets repeated over and over.

To sponsor a camp, 4D requires:

- Over **50% of the cost** (on average) is covered by local giving (our match is \$28 per child for a week-long camp).
- Over **30% of attendees are unchurched** (it has been about 40% average).
- The local church is eager to **volunteer their workers, and sometimes facilities** when suitable, and is **committed to the much-needed follow-up**.
- The churches to be connected with 4D for **training** (mostly done by national leaders) and a website with themes, games, locations and more.
- There is a process of **evaluating and reporting**.
- Ongoing **mentoring and leader development**.

“It was a challenge to serve children from Ukraine, children from Czech unbelieving families and teenagers who have been coming to our club for a long time. All at the same time. It was very encouraging.” – A Czech Leader

One of our other activities is to encourage “**church revitalization**” and **church-planting**.

Of course, these outward looking churches are also eager to build bridges into their communities, and be part of the camps and festivals as well.

4D does not own camp or conference facilities, which keeps overhead low, volunteer driven, and close to where new friends can have follow-up and children and youth meetings waiting for them. Also, much effort goes toward building relationships with the parents.

What is our secret? Besides God’s amazing grace, it is that **local models that are reproducible** are developed. Hesitating churches see that we are concerned with *their* fruitfulness (not our organizational growth), and 4D has a long track record that provides the needed trust. Intentionally, 4D Ministries keeps a low profile.

Other activities 4D is involved in include the **publishing of tools** and **Internet ministry** (with networks of e-coaches that are part of local churches).

A very different involvement came after Russia invaded Ukraine. 4D donors have been very giving to a **“Ukraine crisis”** fund (separate from our ongoing work). At first, it was mostly for help, emergency accommodations, medical care, and food for those that crossed the borders of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Poland. Those displaced people (mostly mothers with their children and grandparents) were welcomed and helped. Gradually, many of them either continued to Western Europe (better economy) or went back to Ukraine because of the long separation with the fathers involved in the war. Gradually, 4D’s help was increasingly directed to churches in Ukraine, who served as “regional help centers”. Of course, these churches are not only involved in humanitarian help, but also in trauma and spiritual help. The uncertainty and hardships of the war have brought many to consider things of eternal importance!

An area that is of foundational importance for both the churches and their members is **stewardship, generosity, and transparency**. We are working in partnership with Compass Financial and GTP/ECFA on the internet, in print, and in person. In some ways, our US incomes are so much higher, and it seems easier for us to be generous, but for them it is just as important. We know that God loves the generous giver! He looks at the heart. It also helps local ministry to be more self-sustaining long term.

Keeping a low overhead and making your giving go as far as possible **is important to 4D Ministries!**

In 2023, less than 10% of giving was used for administration and fundraising combined. That means more than 90% of all giving was used in programs that help churches be missional, reaching out especially to the youth. Our financial statement for 2023 is presently being reviewed and produced. Feel very encouraged to request your report.

Please keep the momentum, nurture, and spiritual fruit in your thanksgiving and prayers,



Today a life changing time at camp, next time, an assistant and recruiter among her friends. And in a few years, a small group leader!

4D Ministries



AMBASSADORS TOGETHER - SUMMER 2021 REPORT

	Camps/ Projects	Participants	Volunteers/ Leaders	Churches/ Ministries	Total Camp Expenses	4D Grants	4D Infrastructure	4D Total Expenses	Notes/unbelievers
ROMANIA FESTIVALS	3	1750	80	4	\$34 000,00	\$8 000,00	\$0,00	\$8 000,00	
ROMANIA	31	2656	447	22	\$218 274,00	\$55 593,00	\$14 160,00	\$69 753,00	
ROMANIA (HU)	3	69	17	1	\$3 828,00	\$2 000,00	\$0,00	\$2 000,00	
MOLDOVA	32	1260	197	19	\$22 000,00	\$20 000,00	\$21 000,00	\$41 000,00	83% Unchurched
SERBIA and BOSNIA	4	116	21	3	\$2 240,00	\$1 800,00	\$0,00	\$1 800,00	Bosnia 90% unchurched, Serbia 65%
CZECH REPUBLIC	13	338	136	12	\$50 755,00	\$13 000,00	\$2 000,00	\$15 000,00	45% unchurched
TOTAL	86	6189	898	61	\$331 097,00	\$100 393,00	\$37 160,00	\$137 553,00	

AMBASSADORS TOGETHER - SUMMER 2022 REPORT

	Camps/ Projects	Participants	Volunteers/ Leaders	Churches/ Ministries	Total Camp Expenses	4D Grants	4D Infrastructure	4D Total Expenses	Notes/unbelievers
ROMANIA FESTIVALS*	6	8650	196	11	\$57 200,00	\$18 000,00	\$0,00	\$18 000,00	
ROMANIA	47	3857	609	47	\$277 880,00	\$90 400,00	\$13 500,00	\$103 900,00	
ROMANIA (HU)	2	117	19	2	\$10 150,00	\$4 000,00	\$0,00	\$4 000,00	
MOLDOVA	25	1406	227	19	\$26 896,00	\$18 938,00	\$22 710,00	\$41 648,00	67% average
SERBIA and BOSNIA	4	120	52	2	\$6 200,00	\$2 500,00	\$0,00	\$2 500,00	Serbia 80%, 40%
CZECH REPUBLIC	17	624	280	16	\$99 443,00	\$19 466,00	\$4 584,00	\$24 050,00	55% Unbelievers
SLOVAKIA	1	24	13	1	\$2 750,00	\$1 200,00	\$0,00	\$1 200,00	33% of unbelievers
TOTAL	102	14798	1396	98	\$480 519,00	\$154 504,00	\$40 794,00	\$195 298,00	

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ROMANIA FESTIVALS*	4	7100	160	6	\$548 000,00	\$18 000,00	\$0,00	\$18 000,00	
ROMANIA	56	7220	960	43	\$342 380,00	\$102 000,00	\$19 100,00	\$121 100,00	
ROMANIA (HU)	4	221	49	1	\$17 882,00	\$3 500,00	\$0,00	\$3 500,00	
MOLDOVA	25	1461	251	22	\$44 851,00	\$20 180,00	\$23 464,00	\$43 644,00	69% unchurched
SERBIA and BOSNIA	4	152	53	5	\$7 400,00	\$1 800,00	\$0,00	\$1 800,00	60% unchurched
CZECH REPUBLIC	21	721	348	21	\$120 833,00	\$15 872,00	\$8 428,00	\$24 300,00	30% Dorost, Other 85%
SLOVAKIA	0	0	0	0	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	
TOTAL	114	16875	1821	98	\$1 081 346,00	\$161 352,00	\$50 992,00	\$212 344,00	

* Romanian staff explains: the festivals are the result of the joint effort of several churches in the area where the event takes place. The best thing about it is that through these events, churches come together, collaborate and partner to make great things happen. Greater and bigger than each church could do on their own. Festivals are often for teens and youth, who bring their friends. They last for 3 to 5 days and in 2023, the



Children from Ukraine, displaced by the war, who had an unforgettable time at camp and were reached with the Good News of Jesus in Czech Republic.