

MISSION STORIES

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), that cheerful giving becomes our love offering to the world.



IN SERBIA: OUR **LOVE** OFFERING TO THE WORLD

Firewood. Some of us use it to heat our homes in the winter or when gathered round a campfire. But have you ever thought about firewood as an offering of love?

In northern Serbia, winters are often cold and windy, with a cold Košava wind often making the air feel much colder than it is. Over the years, in response to the request of our Serbian Baptist partner, One Great Hour of Sharing has at times provided relief assistance to purchase firewood for distribution to the elderly in the community. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are your love offering to many—including a man named Nándor.

Nándor lives in northern Serbia, where International Ministries Global Servant, Larry Stanton, serves alongside of Pastor Zoltán and the local Baptist church. In the 1990s, during the Serbian war, Nándor served as a radio operator. When the war ended and he returned home, something in him had changed. Like so many who carry invisible wounds, he never quite found his way back to the life he had known.

In recent years, Nándor has been scraping by. He has struggled to care for himself and for his home, and his diet has been painfully



International Ministries' global servant, Larry Stanton, with Nándor

inadequate. On weekdays, the Red Cross soup kitchen provides him with a small cup of soup and half a bread roll—usually his only meal of the day.

Larry first met Nándor while delivering firewood with the church. That simple act of warmth became the beginning of a relationship. Nándor was overjoyed to talk with Larry. He speaks English, and with bright eyes he shared that years ago he used to communicate with people all over the world by radio. These days, he rarely has anyone to talk to. The conversation itself felt like a gift.

As trust grew, the church learned more about just how difficult life had become for him. Mónika, one of Larry's ministry partners, offered to begin helping with weekly housekeeping. This practical care has brought immediate and visible change—his home is cleaner, healthier, and more livable. But even more importantly, Nándor himself is changing.

He shared that for the past two years, before the church became involved, he felt as though he was “two meters underground”—as if he were already dead. Now, he is attending church. He told Larry that he and God are talking about the future.

There is a lady from the church who stops by and brings him food from time to time. Larry shared with Nandor that what he is experiencing is God's love—the most powerful thing in the universe.

Because of you, help arrives not only as firewood, or food, or housekeeping, but as presence, dignity, and conversation. And through those expressions of love, God allows us to witness what happens when someone who has felt buried begins to breathe again.

Thank you for giving to One Great Hour of Sharing—that people like Nandor may receive your Love Offering to the World.

