

# BLESSINGS for Women

By Sharon Thomas

*Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.*

Psalms 119:133

## What People Are Saying

It has opened my eyes and my heart to what God is doing across the globe, even in areas like Romania where so few choose to go. God is doing a new thing through the brave men and women willing to give their hearts to a country ripe for Christ's love.

Brian Moll

Years ago in a Virginia Church Sunday School class, I sat at the same table as Andy Baker. We were both 7 years old and I was convinced that he and all his friends had cooties for sure. Little did I know that over 30 years later, I would be serving God alongside him on the other side of the world. Our ministry, Established Footsteps, was blessed this summer to partner with Remember the Children in Romania.

Last fall I agreed to travel to Romania with my daughter on a teen mission trip with RTC. During the early preparations, the Lord began to prompt my heart to dream with Him about how He could also use Established Footsteps to reach out to women with the truth of God's Word while we were there.

As a ministry, our main goal is to encourage women to establish their daily footsteps in the Word of God (Psalm 119:133). Each summer we host a Vacation Bible School for women, and this summer our mission included supporting RTC. We worked closely with Andy to come up with a plan to bless the destitute and hurting women of Romania with gifts, in hopes of softening their hearts to God's truth of love and value for them.

During our VBS we collected money to donate to RTC for their picture Bible project, but we also collected over 300 bags of blessings for women. These bags included things like shampoo, soap, flip flops, hairbrushes, combs, toothbrushes, etc. This was all done in the same spirit as the Christmas shoeboxes which have become so popular each year, only this time the gifts were for women!

Getting the bags to Romania was a challenge. Shampoo and toothpaste weigh a lot more than you think! But, it was worth it all when we went into the Gypsy villages laden down with blessings to share. The Lord allowed me to speak a message

of hope for these Gypsy women (with an interpreter, of course) and then we were able to give the gifts.

It was worth it all when we went to a halfway house, where women struggle to make ends meet, to share the message of Christ and bless them in this way. And, it was worth it all when, at the end of our trip, we still had bags to share and God put us in touch with some other missionaries who needed these supplies to distribute in the destitute area of Romania where they serve.

God always goes before us and behind us. His purposes far outreach what we can see, what we can dream about. The faces of these women and the poverty, not only of habitation but also of spirit, are etched in my mind. I am seeking God's heart and vision now for what else He might have in mind for the women of Romania.

I am so grateful for all the women who purchased the supplies, filled the bags and brought them to VBS. I am so grateful for Andy and the vision God has given him for Romania. And I am so thankful for Miha, one of Andy's partners and my new Romanian friend who also has a heart for the women of Romania. God has done great things since those Sunday School cootie days. Who knows what else He has in store?



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