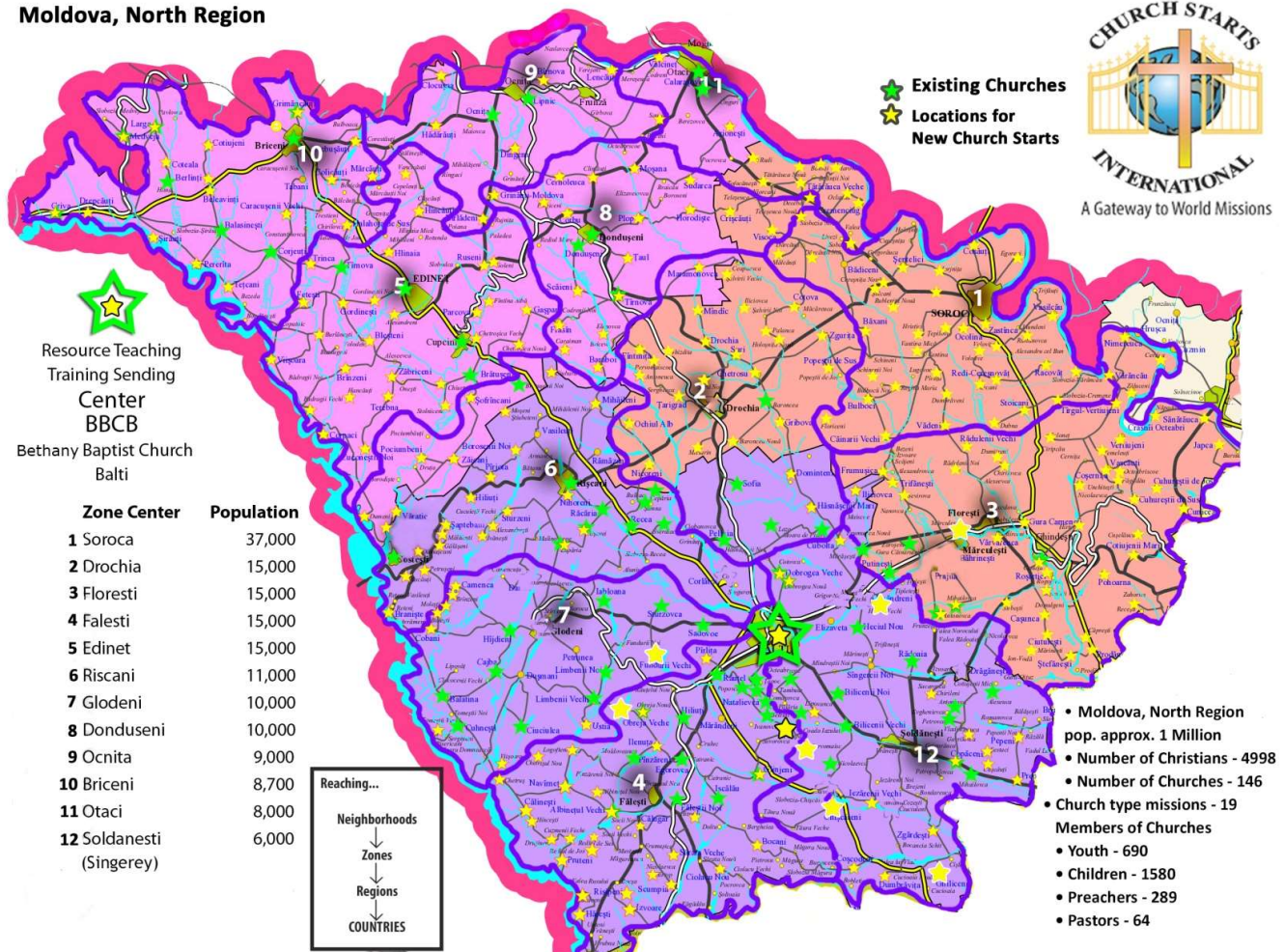


## Moldova, North Region



\*When CSI started in Northern Moldova there were no churches.

## Statistic information about CSI materials used in 7 different Camps (VBS) in Moldova, Summer 2016

#	Baptist Church of Village	Zone #	# of kids	# of Youth Volunteers (church workers)
1	Chepariya	6	45	8
2	Sverdiac	6	75	12
3	Zarojeni	6	95	9
4	Grigoresti	12	124	14
5	Alexandreni	12	45	5
6	Ciuciueni	12	80	10
7	Catranic	4	75	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 villages</b>	<b>3 zones</b>	<b>539 children</b>	<b>65 Leaders</b>

The camps are not something that we have planned on but summer time in Moldova is the time when one has access to bunches of kids playing in the village streets being ignored by their parents who are in the fields. This gave CSI Moldova team the idea to challenge some churches who did not have any plans for children's ministry for this summer. We have suggested the Pastors of 7 churches to organize 3-5 days summer camps and use this opportunity to show the local Christians how to use CSI materials "Stories for all ages". The churches were responsible for the financial expenses which included lunches and other treats for kids, gifts for the winners of games, handicraft materials, and leaders for kids' teams. CSI team provided the program and the printed materials for teaching the lessons from "Stories of all ages". It was a very blessed time both for CSI team and workers of each local church involved in this project. For CSI it was significant that 539 kids heard the word of God and used CSI materials. We had 65 leaders who have been exposed to CSI materials and know the method of using them. This encouraged many of them to take up these materials for Bible clubs and Sundays school classes. 25 out of the 65 leaders have attended the CSI Youth conference. They were happy to see how the materials work in real life situation. Alina Romaniuc from Sverdiak, who taught the 3 lessons from OT 2- about Joseph, mentioned: "It is so easy to use these materials. I even did not need a special preparation. The text of the lesson said all I needed for teaching. The kids loved especially the Questions for discussion and of course, coloring the pictures". Andrey, a 7 year old boy from Zarojeni said: "I have never colored any picture from the Bible. It is such fun to do it".

The pictures gave the teacher the chance to speak about the history and events related to the Hebrews and the exile and to show that God is working in people's life in any circumstances. Anna, a 12 year old girl from Grigoresti said: "I never thought what the life of a slave is like. Poor Hebrews, they suffered really bad. But God saved them". Somebody was surprised that God can divide the waters of the sea and make it a wall. Several boys discussed it with much passion after the lesson.

In the village of Zarojeni and Cheparia they have put on stage the lessons about Joseph sold into slavery. Children are great actors! We had a lot of fun watching their presentation.

The Pastors of each of the churches involved in this project appreciated very much the materials and the CSI team's effort of running the program. Pastor, Peter Maga from Chiuchiueni, challenged his youth team (10 people) to learn from CSI workers how to run a camp and next year to do such a wonderful job with kids in the

neighboring village of Izareni where they plan to plant a church. He said: “I believe that teaching children first, can bring their parents into church either. Kids respond so well to the Bible truths. They are opened and sincere> this is what we shall start planting the church in Izareni with. “

In 4 villages out of 7, the church invited the kids who attended the camp and their parents to the Sunday morning service where the kids had a presentation . Many parents turned up and many were surprised at their child’s beautiful way of glorifying God. Kids sang and recited poems. It was a real time of awakening for these grownups.

The Camp experience demonstrated once again that “Stories for all ages” is a very effective material because:

1. They can become the starting point of any children’s event: Bible club, Sunday school, or VBS. This is where CSI Moldova team started the camps from – from our materials.
2. The stories are related in a clear, accessible way.
3. The children like to be the participants in the lesson, not the listeners.
4. Children like to discover the truths by themselves in discussions.
5. The teacher does not need a special preparation for teaching CSI materials.

The CSI Moldova team believes that the camps are great events for attracting children into church. Before the camp many parents did not allow kids to come to church but they could not stop them from coming to the camp which was the brightest event of the whole summer in these villages. The camps attracted kids like a magnet. The camp opened the way to fellowship with the kids and their parents. They have broken the barrier in many villages which stopped kids from coming to Sunday schools. Daniel from Alexandreni said that after camp many kids would call his name in the street. They would stop and talk to him. They became great friends. Now these leaders can easily visit with these kids and their parents.

I am very grateful to God who has mightily blessed CSI team of Moldova this summer with this project. I thank Tanea, Corina, Mihail for cooperation, devotion and hard work. At times it was really hot and the country roads to villages were terrible but with God’s help we reached each of them. The team has done a great job! Karina’s husband, Vasiliy, who understood the hardships of the camp work, dropped his farm work and decided to join his wife and the CSI team as a volunteer and was a great helper in games which requires so much energy. Karina said that their family became more united after such common efforts in the name of Christ.

CSI Moldova believes that camps could become an Effective part of CSI strategy.

**Stella Gorbani, CSI coordinator CSI Moldova 08.29.16**