

Ruben Man | S.1
Visit to Moldova

Cosmin Tamas | S. 2
High Expectations
in Brazil

Cosmin Tamas & Cosmin Moroita | S. 4
Veränderte Generation in
Lettland

Ronalds Svarups | S. 6
NCM 25

Stepping into Something New: A Memorable First Visit to Moldova

By Ruben Man, Romania



My recent journey to Moldova was more than just a first-time visit—it was an eye-opening encounter with a culture, a team, and a growing movement. Though I had previously met some team members, this event brought us together in a unique configuration that fostered both collaboration and creativity. One of the standout moments was watching the film “Harvest” for the first time. Its message resonated deeply with me and set the tone for the entire experience.



What struck me most was the openness of the local leaders. Their enthusiasm to explore experiential learning, particularly through games, was contagious. For many of them, this approach was completely new, yet they embraced it with genuine curiosity and energy.

If a non-Christian observer had walked into the event, I imagine they would have been struck by the warm, welcoming atmosphere. Leaders made intentional efforts to connect personally with each participant, creating a strong sense of unity despite generational differences. The experience was a vibrant blend of visuals, sounds, and hands-on activities. Every game and exercise carried a clear moral message, offering not just fun, but also valuable life lessons; practical tools that could easily be adapted for schools or general education.



One of the most memorable reactions came from a participant who was surprised to discover that the games used during the course weren’t taken from books—they were original, designed specifically for the age group in focus. This realization sparked new appreciation and excitement. Perhaps the most impactful activity was the Labyrinth game. Blindfolded participants had to trust others to guide them through—a simple yet profound metaphor for trust and guidance. It was during moments like this that we

saw hearts opening, even among those who initially weren't sure if working with children was their calling.



From the outset, the journey unfolded with God's grace. There were no border crossing issues, no complications at home, and even the weather cooperated! Rains would stop just in time for outdoor activities. Despite the main building still being under construction, there were no incidents. The number of participants, even though only a few were registered up until a few days before the event - grew beyond expectations. We saw God's presence clearly in these details and in the receptiveness of every person involved.

Of course, no event is without its challenges. Although we all spoke Romanian, subtle language differences occasionally led to misunderstandings. Additionally, the echo in the unfinished church building made it difficult to communicate effectively. Thankfully, moving the sessions to the accommodation house with better acoustics solved the issue quickly.

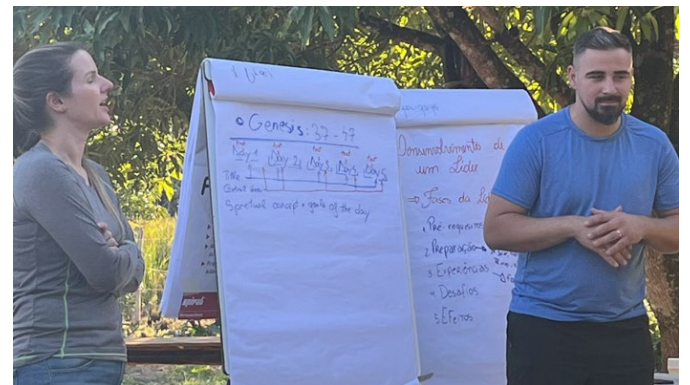


This event marked an important beginning for the Youngstars movement in Moldova. It rekindled passion among those already involved and sparked interest in a new generation of potential leaders. What we witnessed was more than just a course—it was the planting of seeds for future collaboration, growth, and impact.

High Expectations

By Cosmin Tamas CEO Youngstars International

Brazil is a country where the Youngstars ministry is growing very quickly, with an impact that's hard to measure. To continue equipping leaders, Jordelio Souza, the national coordinator in Brazil, wanted us to organize a Group Leader Training. With this course, we were getting closer to his goal of having 150 people equipped with the first three courses—ready to carry out the ministry.



The first thing we had to decide on was the number of participants. We settled on 54, although there were more who wanted to join. We realized we didn't have enough leaders, and with a higher number, it would have been very difficult to maintain the quality of the training.

A few days before the course, Jordelio asked me, "What are your expectations for this training?" Personally, I didn't have specific expectations for the course or the participants—but I had high

expectations for the team of leaders, especially those teaching the course for the first time. There were 15 leaders in total, 12 of them from Brazil. Out of those 12, 11 had previously participated in the Team Leader Training in 2023, a course I taught—so naturally, I was very curious to see how they had developed since then. Were they now applying what they had learned in their own teaching?

What I saw overwhelmed me, in the best way, and filled my heart with joy. Each leader taught in an interactive way, bringing in their personal style, life experience, or academic background to enrich the material. I watched each of them deliver their lessons one by one. I already knew the content, but the way they presented it and the emphasis they placed on certain parts made a big difference. They were able to meet the participants' needs even better than a leader from another country might have.



Even though they did an amazing job, what impacted me the most was their ability to receive feedback and apply it immediately. In Brazil, there isn't a strong feedback culture where people evaluate their work in order to improve and encourage one another. This practice started only after they got involved in the Youngstars ministry. Every day after lunch, we had a meeting with the leaders where we reviewed each lesson. After every evaluation, their work became better and better—they applied every piece of feedback they received. They improved not just the lessons themselves, but also how to be effective day-leaders. The participants were absorbing what the leaders were teaching, while the leaders were

applying everything they had learned from previous courses and from the daily evaluations.



On the last day, we had several pioneering constructions to build: a tower, a carousel, a tree platform, and a picnic table with benches. My role was to supervise each project and make sure the knots and techniques being used were safe. I was confident that I knew what I was doing and that I had a better grasp of the knots than the participants, but once construction started, every participant knew how to tie the knots. They knew more knot variations than I expected, and each structure was executed by the book. All of this was the result of multiplying a technical course Youngstars International held in Bulgaria in 2023, where eight leaders from Brazil had participated.

I went home feeling very encouraged and motivated. Youngstars ministry is transforming and preparing youth for life. We're helping leaders in Brazil—and around the world—create their own programs, apply their own ideas, and think in ways that address the specific needs of their country. In doing so, they can multiply even more leaders, so that teenagers and children can hear the gospel,



become part of a local church, and, why not? ... serve in the same ministry that helped them grow.



teenagers praying, tears in their eyes but joy on their faces.”

This year, I received news about those same young people and their ongoing transformation. What follows are the testimonies of the leader of that group and the teenagers who, during last year’s camp, acknowledged their need for salvation, and who this year publicly declared that Jesus is their Lord and Savior.



Transformed generation – part II: The decision to follow Christ

By Cosmin Tamas & Cosmin Moroita

“Multiplication and discipleship” - one of the seven values of Youngstars International has been lived out by the Youngstars ministry in Romania - Micii Exploratori - for the last 20 years and it is exciting to see God continue to transform the next generation.



Cosmin Moroita – main leader of the local club, writes:

“This year, at the end of May, a group of five young people from the church in Sânpetru gave a testimony of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through baptism.

Four of these young people are members of the Tineri Exploratori Sânpetru club and were active participants in the Micii Exploratori (Youngstars in Romania) club for several years, since its founding. They also attended various camps and events organized by the association. In talking with these dear young people, we were deeply moved by the way the Lord used this Christian ministry in their personal lives.



In summer of 2024, Micii Exploratori held a camp for teenagers aged 12 to 15. At the time, I wrote in the newsletter about the day that impacted me the most—a day when I saw a generation being transformed: “Finally, I began to pray that all those present to whom God had spoken would have the courage to come and when I opened my eyes, one of the most beautiful sights unfolded. With each leader sitting on the field, there were two or three

This is a special encouragement for us - the local club leaders and for everyone involved in the Micii Exploratori Association - to continue the mission of evangelism and discipleship among children and youth. That's why the words of the Apostle John are a living reality in our community:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 1:3)"

Here are a few excerpts from the testimonies of the young people who were baptized, which speak best about the impact the community has had on their lives:



Vlad

"The regular Saturday meetings, beyond the activities we did, were also times when I reflected on my faith journey, thought about what I needed to change in myself, and I did some self-examination. I believe that was very helpful for me. Also, the events organized by the association that I participated in (the TE camp, the BT course) helped me make the decision to follow Christ."

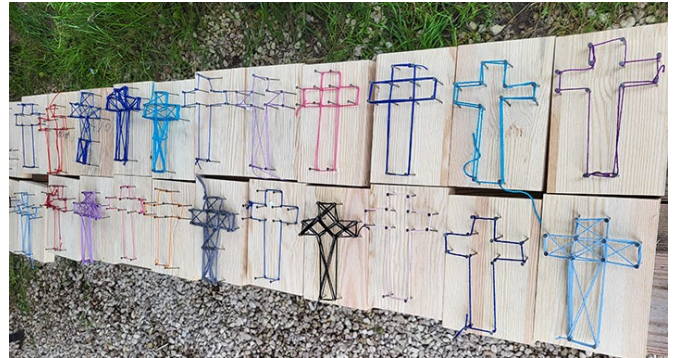
Ruth

"Thanks to this club, the camps that were organized, and many other things, I came to discover more about God. The 2024 Tineri Exploratori summer camp was the first step in my decision to follow Christ."

Martina

"The Explorers camp last summer helped me a lot because I had a special moment where I talked to my leader, and she explained more about the Christian life and also prayed for me. That was the

moment when I decided I want to follow Christ for the rest of my life."



Madi

"One of the messages from the 2024 Tineri Exploratori camp especially spoke to me and helped me realize how much I need God. The studies we did in the Tineri Exploratori club also helped me want to know God better and supported me in my daily spiritual life."



Testimonies like these remind us why we do what we do—they give us renewed strength and purpose to continue the incredible work God has entrusted to us. While we celebrate the visible stories of transformation, we know there are many more



children and teenagers who have been touched by the Gospel in ways we will only see in heaven. That's why multiplication must become more than a method—it must become a way of life. We are called to make disciples, trusting that God is at work even when we cannot see the whole picture. One thing remains certain: the harvest is ready, and we must be prepared to step into it.

different culture while surrounded by like-minded people was truly a gift.

NCM 2025: United to see lives transformed through Christ

By Ronalds Svarups

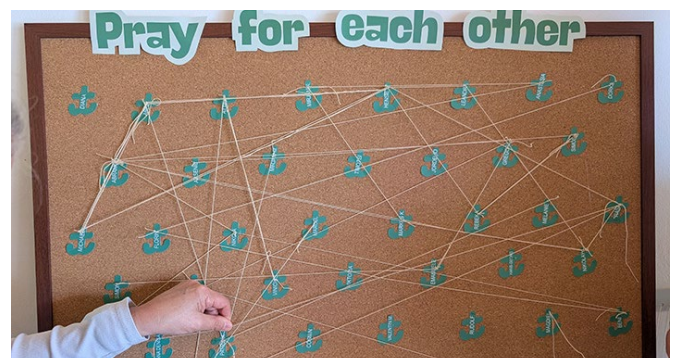


My name is Ronald, and I serve as the national coordinator for Youngstars International in Latvia. This year, I had the privilege of attending NCM 2025 in Romania, together with my family and two dedicated volunteers from our local Youngstars club. It was an unforgettable experience that deeply inspired and re-energized our team. For them, it was eye-opening to see so many passionate leaders from across the world, all united by a common mission: to transform the lives of children and their families through Christ.

We stayed at a beautiful Torchbearers facility nestled near the majestic mountains outside of Braşov. The location was stunning, and the hospitality was just as memorable. The food was delicious, and we had the chance to experience a taste of Romanian culture through traditional costumes, joyful dances, and local specialties like the famous Papanashi dessert. Being immersed in a



One afternoon, we even took a trip to the city of Braşov, where we enjoyed a guided tour. I have to say, it was the first time I genuinely appreciated having a tour guide! The history, the stories, the atmosphere, all of it made the city come alive. Each day of the conference began with a spiritual reflection, which we then discussed in small groups. These moments set the tone for the rest of the day. The workshops were practical and deeply insightful, covering topics like how to create spiritually meaningful camp programs, fundraising strategies, and essential principles for child protection. What stood out most was the sense of authenticity—you could feel that these leaders weren't just sharing theory; they were speaking from years of hands-on experience and heartfelt passion for ministry.



But if I had to choose one highlight, it would be the prayer afternoon. A prayer journey had been set up with different stations, inviting us to pause and pray—for one another, for our struggles and uncertainties, for our ministries, and to give praise

for God's work in our lives. It was a moving and vulnerable time, where people opened up about everything from family challenges to the impact of war, and even the process of choosing new board members. That sacred space created a powerful sense of unity—a reminder that even though we serve in different places, we carry many of the same hopes, burdens, and joys.



I honestly can't recommend NCM highly enough. It was such a meaningful opportunity, and I'm truly grateful to God for making it possible for us to be there. We're already looking forward to NCM 2026 in Hungary—and I hope to see even more of you there!

