



Introduction: Harvest for the Hungry is a life-line for many in desperate need. Thousands of families in eastern Europe face a harsh winter without food, especially this year, due to the loss of vital earned income as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Watch the short archive video from Moldova:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdw9JOhmGm8>

Over many years, the Christian charity “TEN” has provided food parcels which have become an essential source of basic food for many. Your gift to Harvest for the Hungry will enable our partner churches in Eastern Europe to help needy families and the elderly to survive the cold months of winter.

Reading: Hebrews 13:1-3

“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

Context – the writer of Hebrews is summing up their letter. Making key points and pushing forward those things he wants to really highlight to the readers. If that is the case it is the worth us paying attention! Written for those with a deep knowledge of the Old Testament. Possibly to a house church near Rome. Members of the church were becoming discouraged by their Christian commitment and needed challenging and encouragement (Heb. 2:1-4, 4:14, 6:9-20, 10:19-39, 11).

Watch the short video “The Angels of Ihtiman” showing a current initiative in Bulgaria:

<https://youtu.be/sRQHHcoci8>

Discussion questions –

1. What can we learn from their example?

2. What are the key takeaway points for you?
3. What else can we learn from the passage in Hebrews 13:1-3
4. Who are the strangers, prisoners, abused – in your community context?
5. What stops you loving the stranger, the prisoner, the abused?
6. What one thing could you do in response?
7. FINISH by praying with and for each other

Concluding Prayer suggestion:

“Dear Father God, Thank you that you love us and that you consistently show us your steadfast love. Thank you for the example of the Angels of Ihtiman consistently showing love to the Roma communities in Bulgaria. Help me to see that and to then live in the light of that love. Please give me a deeper love for the stranger, the prisoner and the abused. Please show me how I can put that love into action and give me the desire to do so. Right now, I stop and in the quiet ask that you would speak to me about how I should respond [pause for several seconds and give time for people to hear from God]. Give me the courage I need to make a difference this week.

For Your glory and in Jesus’ name. Amen”

Finally: Please request members of the group to consider making a donation to “Harvest for the Hungry” (or you could consider making a group donation so everyone feels involved). Every £15 donated will feed a family with hot meals for a week.

Donations can be made online at:

<https://www.ten-uk.org/get-involved/give/>

or to donate £15 Text: HARVEST2020NOW to 70085 (texts cost £15 plus your standard network rate).

[If members of the group want to know more about the Roma people, they can watch TEN’s film – “Forgotten” www.ten-uk.org/forgotten