

Memories of J.B. “Rock” Hudson, Jr.

I started participating on Mission Teams in 1994 through the Shiloh Association through the great efforts and leadership (in those days) of Lanny Horton, John Miller, and Jeff & Joanne Bloomer (all of Culpeper). My first trip was to Mexico City and then that fall to Prague, Czech Republic to help with the construction and relocation of the International Theological Baptist Seminary from Switzerland. This is how (and when) I got to know John Miller, who followed our Culpeper Baptist Church group soon thereafter with his from Alum Spring.

I went with John Miller’s team to Slovakia four times (1996, 1998, 2003 & 2004), one of which also included Austria Baptist participation. This was work in the far east of Slovakia for some and north by others working in construction in satellite churches and youth camps for the Slovak Baptist Union. I had quite a lot of joy while redoing a 350 year old Anabaptist house in Sobotiste, Slovakia not far from the previous work in Bratislava. All this was set up and greatly coordinated by John Upton of the BGAV and Craig Waddell.

In 1999, I had volunteered for Richmond’s call to Kosovo (very soon after the war and genocide there) so I missed John’s trips back to Austria. These were construction trips. Several trips to Kosovo I made on my own (2001 & 2003). In 2000 I went to Nicaragua with Lanny and Jeff Bloomer through Shiloh.

My favorite trips were after John Miller became the Director of Missions for Goshen Baptist Association. We had a small team of four leaving January 1, 2007 for Moldova to help in work on a young church there in Anneni Noi (John Miller, Bob Houck, Rudy Wood, and myself). We went back in October 2010 and became close with the pastor, Igor Seremet and wife

Marianna, and their congregation. We built a shed, roof and pavilion attached to the church. We all remember helping attend to the burial of the 80 year-old woman there.

In June 2011, Bob and I joined a larger team from Goshen that John Miller put together on a construction trip to the Pacific side of Panama. The work of building cement block homes for the poor folks allowed us to get dirtier than any of us might have ever been before. The work was quite successful. I missed John’s future trips back to various parts of Panama.

In 2015, John Miller, Bob Houck, J.R. Eley from Alum Spring, and myself went to an even dirtier and muddier job in Mizil, Romania working with and baptizing some Gypsies (Roma) there. They were a great and interesting people in a remote no-where village—the most despised people of Europe. They made us feel welcome.

The next year (October 2016), John Miller, Bob Houck, and myself travelled to the far west of Romania to the area outside of Dobreta Turnu-Severin in the villages of Illovat and Sisesti for floor work on a small, almost-dead little church led by a young burgeoning pastor from that area. We felt much at home. Indeed, one of the great things these trips did for me was to be able to EMBRACE total strangers in a strange land. This has remained with me to this day—no matter where I go—I can feel at home quickly.

I could go on forever about any one of the 15 or so trips that I have had God’s blessing to be able to go and keep sustained therein. I saw minor miracles performed and happen on many trips. Being a re-

tired builder, I can say it is no small feat by mortal man to be led by the Sprit in being able to accomplish so much with limited tools and material.

I have witnessed much needed parts appear right when needed but not available to sight beforehand.

Like the time in Moldova I prayed “for a much needed sturdy, small piece of metal” to accomplish our immediate task. While thinking of what I should do... there it lay in the mud at my feet—a discarded door hinge leaf!