

# OPERATION COVER-UP & 'GIFTS IN KIND'



**We would also still love to hear from companies who have excess stock to donate.** We have lists of items our beneficiaries need, but would love to talk to you about any offers you may have. Please contact our office.

For collection points, we need more people willing to come forward as collection points. We have a small list at this stage. If you have items for collection – **everything must be new please**, please contact either:

1. Our office (02) 9793-8100 or by email [Australia@mwbi.org](mailto:Australia@mwbi.org)
2. Sheryl Rumball in Sydney, our amazing volunteer who coordinates the collection of our 'Gift in Kind' from companies and individuals: Sheryl Rumball - phone 0432952762 or email: [sherylrumball@hotmail.com](mailto:sherylrumball@hotmail.com)
3. Jenny Grainger in Melbourne who is playing a wonderful role in collecting our 'Gift in Kind' and also acting as a spokesperson for our ministry (03) 9795 6141 or email: [jennymarg@hotmail.com](mailto:jennymarg@hotmail.com)

For the most up to date information on our 'Gift in Kind' and 'Operation Cover-Up' ministries, look at our new website – [www.mwb.org.au](http://www.mwb.org.au) - you will also see some great photos of the blessing of your donations so far!

Thank you for your partnership! One child, one family at a time, we are making a difference!

**God Bless**

*Michelle Dorey*  
Michelle Dorey

The goods are flowing in from individuals and companies right around Australia – thank you for your donations! Keep them coming!

We would still love your donations of knitted items – blankets – large and small, jumpers – with a particular need for older children and adults, scarves, hats, beanies and so on.

We know many have held off knitting with the hot weather – more than understandable! This ministry is ongoing, and therefore as the weather begins to cool down and many of you are encouraged to take up your knitting again – be assured we would love to receive your donations all year round. As soon as a container is full, we immediately pack the next one. The need is great.

For those keen to donate something extra, our field countries have asked for knitting, crocheting, embroidery and sewing supplies for the vocational training and community centres.

Thousands have already benefited from your knitted items so far- children, families and the elderly, but there are many thousands more who still find the cold unbearable and need our help.

*Despair Turns to Hope*

March 2008

# FOCUS news



mission without borders, Australia



**Meet the Boroiban family of Romania. They live in a single bedroomed house made of clay. They do not have enough furniture for all family members to sit down at the same time.**

### Greetings dear supporters of Mission Without Borders!

As you sit down to read this latest news from Mission Without Borders, I invite you to contemplate the perspective from which you read this article. I think, so often we can become drenched in desperate stories of poverty and heartache that we compartmentalise the information... We still feel something, but our compassion becomes fatigued. We miss the pang of grief and joy in our hearts we received all those years ago when we first read of the injustice of poverty, but also of the beauty of God's saving Grace. May I encourage you to pause for a moment before reading about the work of Mission Without Borders and the need for continued assistance in our Family Care Program... because the needs are real, and they deserve our care and compassion...

**Problem:** Summer 2007 was one of drought in Romania. In some parts of the country, no rain fell for four months. Consequently, 75% of crops failed, and many farmers lost livestock. As food availability declined, the price of basic food items increased by 40–60% in September alone. Although this drought affected the entire population of Romania, the consequences for the most marginalised members of society, with whom MWB works, were disastrous. For many needy families, the drought exacerbated existing poverty, making already challenging financial situations impossible.

### Meet the Boroiban family.

This is a large family of seven: parents – Marian (40) and Mihaela (32) - and their five children – Cristina (15), Marius (12), Alina (8), Alexandra (6) and Irina (3) from Romania.

This family lives in a single-roomed house, made of clay. The roof is old and the rain and snow seep through.

They have old furniture, and do not even have enough furniture for all seven family members to sit down at the same time. They do not have a table and chairs for eating their meals.

With no electricity, candlelight is all they have in the evenings. This is problematic for the children, as three of them attend school - Marius (5th grade), Alina (2nd grade) and Alexandra (1st grade), and must do their homework before the sun sets, otherwise the lack of light strains their eyes. In the height of winter, daylight is limited to 8 hours.

Both parents are unemployed. The monthly income of this family is \$130, which comprises of social allowance and children's benefits. Father, Marian works occasionally, but the money he receives is inadequate to meet the family's needs, particularly in light of inflation. Mother, Mihaela, is a housekeeper. Mihaela struggles to find more than occasional work, as her health has already been compromised by two minor heart attacks.

Meet the Deac Family. Mother Florica has been married twice, but now struggles to raise her two daughters as both husbands have died. MWB's help has encouraged them and relieved their suffering...



Marius, Alina and Alexandra work hard at school and receive good results. However, the eldest daughter, Cristina, was forced to leave school after 4th grade due to the financial situation of her family. She should now be in 8th grade... She is deeply depressed that she cannot continue her studies, but for her to continue school, and be enrolled in 5th grade; her family would have to pay an additional tax. This is completely out of the question for this desperately poor family... Cristina is further burdened, after losing three teeth in a car accident. However, her family does not have enough money for the dental treatment she now requires. She now struggles to eat. She does not smile any more...

Despite this sadness, Cristina willingly and graciously helps her mother with chores around the house: cooking, cleaning and helping her younger siblings with their homework.

The sadness of this situation is heard in the words of parents, Marian and Mihaela, "We would do anything to give our children a better future..."

It goes without saying, the needs of this family are critical.

### Solution:

Praise the Lord, MWB was able to enrol this family in our Family-to-Family (F2F) Program last July.

Overall, the goal of our Family-to-Family program is to assist families, like the Boroiban family, who live in abject poverty. We achieve this by

catering for the Spiritual, Emotional, Educational and Material needs of each unique family. MWB staff make monthly deliveries of food, hygiene and medical items, as well as deliver Operation Christmas Love parcels and Operation Winter Rescue items of warm clothing, blankets and footwear. We also provide Christian literature, emotional support, and work with the families toward the goal of self-sufficiency.

The MWB Family-to-Family program is in operation in Albania, Bosnia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

This program is proving to be a particular blessing for the Boroiban family, as prices for basic food items continue to increase due to drought. Under such conditions, the food and hygiene packages delivered to the Boroiban family, among others, have been invaluable. "Every product we receive is very useful for us because it can improve the meals I prepare for my family. The washing powder and the dishwashing detergent we received are of the best quality. We could never have afforded to buy such things, particularly at this time of drought. Thank you to all the generous people who are making this possible!" said Mihaela Boroiban.

Marian and Mihaela Boroiban are grateful to God for giving them great, well-behaved, healthy children and for the support of the Family-to-Family program. As faithful servants of Christ, the family continue to place their future in God's hands, and praise him for the work of MWB in their home.

**Similar problems of drought and inflation exist in all our field countries, and therefore we have families desperate for assistance in all five countries. God, however, is doing exciting works through the F2F program.**

The Deac family are another poor family who struggled to afford basic food and hygiene items. The situation of drought and inflation only intensified their struggle.

Encouragingly, this family are now well supported and blessed by the F2F program. Florica Deac (35) is unemployed and cares for her two daughters Codruta (13) and Iuliana Andreea (5). Florica has been married twice. Unfortunately, both husbands died from chronic disease and cirrhosis.

The monthly cash income of this family is about \$250, representing unemployment benefit, the children's allowances and the pension received by the girls because of their fathers' deaths.

**We can be tempted in this instance, and in the many stories we read, to presume that this would be sufficient income in Eastern Europe, as living costs are considerably cheaper than Australia. However, when a loaf of bread costs \$1.50, milk is \$1-2/litre, meat is a luxury at \$6+/kilo, and a pair of shoes cost \$80, one comes to realise that trying to feed and care for a family on such a meagre income is impossible.**

At the beginning of last year, before enrolment in the F2F program, Florica and her daughters were living in a small house, which was in danger of falling down. The walls were plagued by excess moisture, because of inadequate insulation and roofing, which caused leaks in every room when it rained. Furthermore, any attempts to heat their home were futile because of the leaking roof and lack of insulation.

Thanks to a Special Project implemented last year, the life of the Deac family improved immensely! "This family's living conditions were atrocious and they needed urgent help. When I told them they would receive financial support to repair the roof and renovate their humble home, Florica started to cry. She shared that as a widow, nobody helped her and she had been desperate to provide her daughters with a better future. There are still many things which they require, such as construction materials for finishing the renovation of their house and a semi-automatic washing machine, but I told them to be faithful because God can fulfil all their needs," said Sorin Bucur, F2F Coordinator in this area.

**The Deac family know all the wonderful things that happened in their lives over the past months are proof of God's unfailing love.** They love their coordinator's visits, especially when he talks to them about Jesus. They have learnt to commit everything to God in prayer, and to thank Him for all the good and bad things in their

lives, because He is in control and He takes care of all who put their trust in Him. Codruta is feeling more encouraged as she now attends the youth program at the Baptist Church in their town, and is enjoying meeting new friends and learning more about Jesus.

I have often thought that the beauty of sharing wealth, loving others and committing to missions, such as Mission Without Borders and the Family-to-Family program, is that we are giving hope to someone's daughter, someone's friend, someone's Mum. Although we may never meet the individuals, be encouraged in the knowledge that in blessing someone, you are also blessing the people they love. You are blessing entire families!

**If you would like to contribute toward this worthwhile ministry, we would love your support! Our overall Family Care program, assists all families in our care – those enrolled in our Family-to-Family program, as well as the daily and urgent needs of all families affiliated with our programs.**

Your one-off gifts to our ministry today, will bless the thousands of families in need of our assistance.

Structured help, such as the assistance the Deac and Boroiban families received, is thanks to the Family-to-Family sponsorship program. We have many families waiting who need this assistance.

Practically four donors from our

Australian affiliate, each paying \$35/month, sponsor one entire family in a field country. Each family is provided with, at a minimum, a hygiene and food parcel each month, as well as other structural and material assistance where needed and possible, visitation from MWB's staff and Christian literature to minister to the spiritual needs of the family.

**Your support means the world to families...**

Please consider carefully what you are able and willing to do this month, so together we may show love and support to those families who need it most, in Jesus' name!

For details, please contact our office on (02) 9793-8100, or visit our website at [www.mwb.org.au](http://www.mwb.org.au) to see a list of families who are ready for sponsorship now. We now also have a secure online donation feature on our new website – for donations from credit cards to this appeal and all our ministries.

**For those who received our Focus News last month, you would have received our new sponsorship brochure – outlining the four sponsorship programs we offer:**

- 1. Family sponsorship through our Family-to-Family program**
- 2. Child Sponsorship through our Child Rescue International program.**
- 3. Ongoing Sponsorship of Vocational Training in Children's Homes as well as our Community Centres.**
- 4. Ongoing regular sponsorship of the Scholarship Fund – which offers scholarships to students undertaking tertiary study.**

If you would like to take up any of these sponsorships, we would love to have your partnership!

If you have any questions about the programs, please don't hesitate to contact us.

If you no longer have a sponsorship brochure and would like one, or would like additional copies to give to friends, family, your church or group, let us know – we will happily send you as many copies as you need.