

Bridge of Prayer

Mission Without Borders Australia

November-December 2008

"To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour." Psalm 25:1-2 & 4-5 NIV.

DAY 1. MWB AUSTRALIA. As financial pressures mount, we are very thankful for those able to give. Prayer, financial giving and donations of knitted items all make a difference! Pray the Lord will bless all those who support our ministry.

DAY 2. 'Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'. Praise God for the huge quantity of knitted items we have received over the last number of months! We know knitters have been busy over the cooler months. Pray the container we will send by the end of 2008 is received safe and sound and for those that receive your knitted items will be touched by your love and care.

DAY 3. 'Gift in Kind'. Melbourne. Give thanks for our new 'workshop' in Melbourne's East – Dandenong. God has provided a wonderful workspace for us to pack, store and then send your knitted items direct to Europe. Give thanks for the provision and pray it becomes a meeting place for those already supporting MWB, and those considering partnering with us.

DAY 4. ALBANIA. FAMILY-TO-FAMILY (F2F). Bici. Alush and Susana, both unemployed, have 3 daughters and live in a village north of Durres. Both are depressed by their situation. Alush battles alcoholism and there is domestic violence. **New to the F2F program, they need 4 sponsors who will pray for and encourage them to make healthier life choices.**

DAY 5. Operation Christmas Love (OCL). Give thanks and praise for Operation Christmas Love! Pray we reach our international target of 30,000 parcels and for our field staff and volunteers to best ascertain those most in need.

DAY 6. ALBANIA. OCL. has been the perfect vehicle to remind people that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus, Saviour of the world! Pray the desperately poor we serve enjoy the parcels and see they are loved by our Heavenly Father.

DAY 7. ALBANIA. Give thanks for the wonderful support we have from the Prime Minister and his wife. This gives us great credibility in this predominantly Muslim country. Pray for continued good working relationships with the government. We are well known for our holistic ministry, including our Christian witness. Pray for Jesus to be glorified in all we do.

DAY 8. ROMANIA & MOLDOVA. As government policies change, more families now have children, previously housed in Children's Homes, returned to them. Many families are now under incredible pressure to provide for their children. Pray we have the resources to ensure these children can still go to school – warm clothing, boots and school supplies.

DAY 9. F2F. The recent changes in government policy regarding children and Children's Homes are having significant effects on our ministry. Pray for wisdom for our field staff- for them to be able to keep track of the children, once looked after through our child care programs in Children's Homes, now returned to families. There are some happy stories, but if you are returned to a family who does not want you, or cannot provide for your needs, life would be miserable...

DAY 10. FAMILY-TO-FAMILY (F2F). Give thanks and praise for the wonderful Christian ministry that underpins all we do. Our families need comprehensive help, but pray their hearts are touched by the Gospel, recognising they need a Saviour. Christmas presentations are the prime opportunity for families to hear the Gospel. For those Christian families, pray they are encouraged to trust the Lord in amidst their struggles.

DAY 11. BOSNIA. Pray for the Glamoc & Zenica Community Centre/Soup Kitchens. They are not only wonderful places for a hot meal and fellowship, but become crucial at this time of year for supplying winter necessities & medicines for the elderly.

DAY 12. BOSNIA. F2F. The Bosnian war left devastation everywhere, including the landscape. Many natural forests were destroyed or still have unexploded mines and shells. We have **6 families** who live in small houses or apartments, rely on wood for heating and are unable to finance this necessity. **A load of firewood to last the winter season costs \$465.**

DAY 13. BOSNIA. F2F. Medin. Ferid and Huma were emotionally scarred by the war and feel ashamed of their poverty. With a daughter and 3 sons, they kept to themselves, but with help from MWB and the local church, they have been introduced to other families and are showing tolerance to, and talking with people of different nationalities. **We need 2 more sponsors for this family and they also need firewood to heat their two-roomed house this winter (\$465).**

DAY 14. BOSNIA. F2F. Give thanks and praise for the Alpha Course we are currently running in partnership with the local church in Mostar. Pray for open hearts and a willingness to accept the Gospel and join a local congregation for families, often with parents not only struggling with extreme poverty, but also traumatised by the war.

DAY 15. BULGARIA. Pray for Sarkis Ovanasyan, our new Field Manager in Bulgaria. We have wonderful cooperation with local churches in the 10 community centres we jointly operate. Pray for wisdom as our ministry expands to meet the critical need that exists in the general community as prices continue to rise following Bulgaria entry into the European Union.

DAY 16. MOLDOVA. F2F. Joacabine. This Christian family has been enrolled in the F4F program for 4 years. Dumitru and Dima do whatever work they can to support their family of 3 sons. They share their faith with, and minister to, the people of their village and do volunteer work in the Christian Input ministry of MWB. **Their home needs external repairs (\$4,050) and internal renovations (\$1,975).**

DAY 17. MOLDOVA. F2F. Manoli. Mihail and Larissa and their daughter Virginia (2) live in the small agricultural village of Colibasi, which has an unemployment rate of 60%. Residents rely on growing crops to provide food for their families. This young family rely on food and hygiene parcels from MWB which provide basic food items. **They require 2 more sponsors.**

DAY 18. MOLDOVA. Bahmacenco. Both parents are unemployed and they have 3 children. They live in a four-roomed house, where the floor covering is just clean concrete, the toilet is outside and there is no bathroom. **Iurie is skilled in construction and needs tools so he can earn money with his trade. Aliona has skills in tailoring and needs a sewing machine to earn an income for her family (\$985).**

DAY 19. Operation Christmas Love. The packing and delivering of the 30,000 boxes makes for a very busy time for our field countries. They use the opportunity to present the Gospel in Christmas plays and concerts. Pray for energy and safety as they deliver the boxes across the country in cold and icy weather.

DAY 20. SCHOLARSHIPS. Pray for those students, now well into the new academic year: for continued dedication to their studies and to make the most of the support our staff can offer – often the only emotional and spiritual support and encouragement these students receive.

DAY 21. OPERATION WINTER RESCUE (OWR). F2F and Community Centres. As the harsh Eastern European winter takes hold pray for adequate resources to keep the families, children and elderly in our programs warm. Most rely on our comprehensive support for blankets, warm clothing, winter boots as well as fuel to heat their humble dwellings.

DAY 22. OWR – Child Care. The 215 Children's Home we work with, as well as a number of other Homes at this cold time of year, in Eastern Europe, often do not have sufficient resources to heat the Homes, and their budgets never stretch far enough to buy good coats and winter boots for the children. Pray for adequate resources so we can help those most in need.

DAY 23. CHILD CARE & CHILD RECOVERY HOMES. In Romania and Moldova there are many Homes solely for children with Special Needs. Give thanks we are now able to fully sponsor the Cluj Children's Home in Romania. Pray for the caring staff and MWB Coordinator of this Home. The children have significant needs and struggle emotionally.

DAY 24. MOLDOVA. CRI. Nicolai (15) is deaf and mute. He comes from a poor family with both parents, a brother and two sisters. He lives in Hirbovet Home for Deaf Children. Nicolai is in Grade 6, loves school, his friends and drawing. **He believes in God and needs a sponsor to encourage him in his faith.**

DAY 25. ROMANIA. F2F. Jurj. Cornel and Garofita have 3 children Marian (9), Marius and Mariana (6). Garofita's aunt lives with the family in their two-roomed house. The family is healthy, but the parents are unemployed. Cooking and heating are by a wood stove. **They require two more sponsors.**

DAY 26. ROMANIA. Daniel (5) lives in Stremt Children's Home & comes from a poor family with an alcoholic father, a Mum and 3 siblings. **Daniel wants to be a fireman when he grows up and needs a sponsor to provide for his needs and to show him that people care.**

DAY 27. UKRAINE. Give thanks for the Sarny Training Centre. The Vocational Training programs are very popular and great opportunities for acquiring skills. In this Chernobyl-affected area, pray those completing courses secure employment.

DAY 28. UKRAINE. CRI. Oxana (9) is deaf and an only child. Her parents are poor and cannot provide the special care she needs. She lives in a Children's Home and receives special education and speech therapy. **Oxana needs a sponsor to meet her needs & encourage her.**

DAY 29. UKRAINE. F2F. Kashets'ky. Please pray for Valeriy, Zhanna and their 4 children as they receive counselling from MWB staff, following the sad passing away of their young son Victor (18 months) from cancer. **They need 1 more sponsor.**

DAY 30. MWB. International. Law changes in our Field countries often restrict or complicate our ministry. Pray for continued good relationships with the relevant government departments and wisdom for our field and international leaders.

DAY 31. MWB. Supporters. Praise God for the growing number supporting our work prayerfully, financially and through our growing ministry of 'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover-Up. Our field countries are particularly touched by the generosity and person nature of your giving – be that through sponsorships, Special Projects or lovingly knitted items!

**Michelle Dorey, National Director Email: australia@mwbi.org
Mission Without Borders Australia - (02) 9793-8100 PO Box 265 Bankstown, NSW, 1885.
This prayer letter is available online at www.mwb.org.au**