



## Dear Faithful supporters of Mission Without Borders,

*As worldwide economic crises wield their influence on Australia, their affects are being felt around the world. We are so grateful and humbled by your continued support. I know these hard times have had varying affects on the ability of our supporters to financially support our ministry. Thank you for giving what you can. May I just pass on this plea from our field countries?*

*“As the world plunges into economic crisis, our field countries are under an enormous amount of pressure. Inflation has affected every beneficiary of our program, with rates upwards of 10-30%/year, in our field countries. As hard times affect our countries, spare a thought for our field countries. The Managers know they are going to have to rely on reduced funds from the affiliate (fundraising) countries like Australia. This has lead to heart-breaking decisions... How do you tell a family the parcel you can afford to give them will not take away their hunger, or tell families on your doorstep that they cannot be enrolled into our Family-to-Family Program because the funds are not there..?”*

*I know your generosity has achieved so much and we can count on your support even during these difficult times. If times are too tight and you need to reduce your financial support of our vital ministries, please do not cease praying for our ministry, our co-workers and the beneficiaries of our programs. If you can continue, thank you so much. And finally if you can increase your giving to make up for those who are finding it tough at the moment, we would gratefully appreciate it!*

*Thank you for your partnership,*

*Michelle Dorey  
National Director*



This month we would like to highlight Operation Winter Rescue, a wonderful project bringing warmth, help and hope to those struggling with the intense cold in Eastern Europe. Every donation, whether large or small, helps us to meet our objective of bringing warmth and protection to children, families and the elderly this winter. As we swelter in the Australian summer this Christmas, this is when the need for support becomes critical in Eastern Europe – temperatures plummet below zero for many months and those burdened with poverty suffer in extraordinary ways... They need our help, and in fact can't survive without it...

Families struggle terribly during the harsh, long winters. If you are without employment and live in sub-standard housing, your family's survival is precarious. Illness is impossible to shake and oftentimes children forgo school as their parents do not have the money for adequate shoes and winter coats to protect the children as they travel to school – often by foot, in the snow and ice. It is a situation so foreign to our lives here in Australia, but picturesque snow draped landscapes that will adorn many of our Christmas cards this year, do not tell the story of those who cannot protect themselves from the cold, snow and ice.

Imagine the temperature not climbing above zero for months and now stuck around -20 degrees Celcius... Your gas supply, vital for heating your home, was suspended before winter began, because you could not pay your bill... Or perhaps gas and electricity are luxuries you cannot afford, and your measly income can't stretch to purchase wood for your fuel stove... Your children know there is no point begging you for designer winter clothes. They just hope that they will be fortunate enough to have sufficiently warm

clothes of any sort, so they can still attend school. You lay awake long into the night, wondering how you are going to be able to afford winter boots and coats for your children, otherwise they will not be able to bare the cold, snow and ice on their long journey to school, let alone play outside all winter long.... This is the plight of parents across Eastern Europe... Doesn't it turn what we see as an idyllic winter scene of snow, into an awful situation that is freezing and depressing, plunging already poor families and the elderly into despair...

In this situation the implementation of Operation Winter Rescue (OWR) brings warmth, hope and courage to many homes, churches, Community Centres and families! Last winter, the Popa family of Moldova, was encouraged to go on facing the challenges of daily life through the delivery of OWR winter items. Desperate poverty has plagued their lives, and yet the parents love their daughters dearly and detest seeing them going without what they need – food, clothing, and particularly their needs for school, as they

know an education is the best ticket out of poverty. Despite their poverty and the suffering it caused, the entire family loved attending church and the girls loved school, even when their lack of warm clothing made braving the weather difficult. Operation Winter Rescue was a dream come true! "We never dared to dream that we would be blessed with such wonderful warm clothing! I am so happy because I know God heard my prayers and offered us the chance to be more courageous in facing the winter time, and to even dare to enjoy its beauty", said Mrs. Maricica Popa.

Luminita, the eldest daughter, never asks for new things. She urges her mother to mend and mend her clothes until they wear thin, so that they can use their meager income to buy what she needs for school. When they received the Operation Winter Rescue items: winter shoes, jumpers, coats, clothing and hand-knitted blankets, Luminita and her sister encouraged their mother to see that this was proof that people with big hearts care for them. Veronica and Luminita loved trying on the clothes! With tears of happiness in her eyes, Maricica



*Lovely Warm Coats and Boots*



watched with pride as the girls picked out clothes for each member of the family. Maricica, like any devoted mother, watched on, but was also mulling over how they could best use the hand-knitted blankets, to ensure they could actually stay warm enough to sleep well at night, regardless of the freezing temperatures. Next to the amazement over the surprise Operation Winter Rescue deliveries, Maricica had tears of gratefulness in her eyes for those that sacrificed their resources for their own family, to allow her children to enjoy, rather than be burdened by, winter. "I am grateful to all those generous people who have added our problems to their burdens. We never dare dreamt that we would ever enjoy such beautiful warm clothing. I am so thankful to God the heavy burden of how to keep my children warm this winter has completely disappeared thanks to these wonderful Operation Winter Rescue deliveries!" expressed an astonished Maricica Popa.

Once again, the regular visits by the MWB Coordinator have encouraged families, like the Popa family, emotionally and spiritually, even when their burdens threatened to overwhelm them...



*The Popa family in their yard*



***Operation Winter Rescue supplies many families and Children's Homes with firewood for the harsh winter. In Bosnia, families and the elderly used to visit the forests to collect firewood for the harsh winters. The forests are still riddled with landmines and unexploded bombs, meaning they are out of bounds for families desperate for firewood***

Year after year the same precarious situation of intense cold and the lack of adequate heating, clothing and shoes are repeated in the Children's Homes we work with in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The staff use their entire strength to safe guard the survival of the thousands of children in their care. The children freeze, the fuel for heating does not suffice for the entire winter, the buildings are often in critical need of repair, leaving the freezing drafts of winter to chill the children indoors. As winter takes hold and snow and ice cover the ground, the Homes cannot provide the children with enough nutritious food, leaving them weak and at risk of illness.

I would like to appeal on behalf of the children, the families, and the elderly who cannot survive without our help. Our Gift in Kind donations of warm blankets and knitted items are making wonderful additions to the winter deliveries through Operation Winter Rescue, but when you are working with 220 Children's Homes and thousands of families and elderly, the need is enormous! We need to supply not only blankets and jumpers for everyone; we need to supply fuel for heating, such as firewood, coal, as well as good winter boots, warm clothing, food and medicine. Many of the beneficiaries of our programs rely on growing produce for survival and an income. When snow and ice cover the ground, this is impossible- hence the need to supply quality nutritional food also becomes vital!

**Thanks to your support, we have in past years changed these situations of despair into ones of warmth and hope – can we rely on your support this year?**

## Many thanks for your support

As 2008 draws to a close, I would like to say, on behalf of the staff and volunteers of the Mission Without Border's family, "Thank You! Thank you for all the love and care you have shown and expressed in your support of our ministry. Your prayers, financial gifts, knitted and general items for our 'Gift In Kind' containers of aid, have all achieved so much. You may never have the chance to meet the beneficiaries of our programs in Eastern Europe, but the staff and volunteers who minister to them every day, have hearts of gold. They laugh with them, cry with them, always share Jesus and the message of the Gospel with them, and walk with them through the trials, as well as celebrate every success with them!"

The ministry of Mission Without Borders is personal. Personal by you, with the love and care you have shown in your letters, cards and gifts you

have sent. Personal in the wonderful love and care you have put into all of the knitted items we have sent to our field countries. Personal in the care and generosity you have shown as you desire to aid the families and children to self-sufficiency and meet their critical needs, through Special Projects and Scholarships. And personal in that you have given the financial resources to enable the hands and feet of our ministry in Eastern Europe to care and provide for those in need. And finally, we have loved the personal contact with you – thank you for all of your support and encouragement!!

As we enjoy the blessing of this wonderful country of ours, thank you for thinking of, and sharing your blessings, with those who are in want... This means more than they will ever be able to convey in words...

### FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Our office in Sydney will be closed from December 24, 2008 until January 10, 2009. May you and your family enjoy the season of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and have special rest and relaxation with family and friends.**

## Thanks again to CMI Aid

**Many thanks to CMI Aid for their incredible generosity once again – 2 entire 20-foot containers were packed recently, and on their way to Europe! Your generosity is humbling and we are so grateful for the wonderful array of warm knitted items, school supplies and clothing that will be a blessing, throughout our field countries! They will be delivered right in the middle of winter, so will be an incredible blessing – thank you so much!**

# Gift in Kind - 'Operation Cover-Up' Update

In total, we have sent 6 containers of aid to Eastern Europe this year!

Please pray for the safe travel and arrival of the three containers on their way this December. Your contributions, large and small, have been so amazing, thank you for the part you have played!

The following needs and collection points have not changed, but take note of the break the packers and collection points will enjoy once school breaks up for the year.

**Take note: Our 'Gift in Kind' collectors and packers will take a break over the school holidays. Therefore, hold onto your wonderful hand-knitted creations, material and donations of all items for sewing and knitting. We will begin collecting from the beginning of February!**



*Hand-knitted blankets are warm and treasured*



*Isabella was freezing in her summer sandals. Mission Without Borders made it possible for her to have warm boots for winter!*

## The items we are now able to accept are the following:

### All knitted items:

- **Blankets – large and small.** The ideal blanket is made with Size 8 needles, 8-ply yarn, and 40 stitch x 80 rows to make 56 squares, for a blanket 1.6m x 1.4m.
- **Jumpers** – Crew neck patterns are best for the harsh climate. All sizes are great, but teenagers & adults are most in need.
- **Please note we cannot accept the small sleeveless vests, known as 'AIDS baby jumpers'.**
- **Scarves, beanies, bed socks**
- If you would like some guidance, knitting patterns are now available on request - contact Jenny Grainger (details below), our office or visit our Website: ([www.mwb.org.au](http://www.mwb.org.au)) for patterns now!

**All items for knitting, sewing and embroidery: material, wool, needles etc.**

## COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

**For details on collection points, you are welcome to contact our office.** Alternatively, listed below are coordinators and collection points we have organised (we are always looking for more volunteers!).

### **Sheryl Rumball is the Australia-wide Coordinator of our 'Gift in Kind':**

71 Hastings Road  
WARRAWEE NSW 2074  
Phone: 0432 952 762  
Email: [sherylrumball@hotmail.com](mailto:sherylrumball@hotmail.com)

### **Jenny Grainger is our Victorian Coordinator based in Melbourne:**

3 Exner Drive  
DANDENONG VIC 3175  
Phone: (03) 9795 6141  
Email: [jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net](mailto:jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net)

### **Leila Lydeamore in South Australia:**

33 Ina Close  
CRAIGMORE South Australia 5114  
Phone: (08) 8255 0092  
Email: [leila@chariot.net.au](mailto:leila@chariot.net.au)

### **Debbi Wilson in Western Australia**

5 Collier Street APPLECROSS WA 6153  
Phone: 0417 926 695 - to arrange drop off at warehouse in Claremont.  
Email: [wilsond@westnet.com.au](mailto:wilsond@westnet.com.au)

Thanks for your partnership,

*Michelle Dorey*

**Michelle Dorey  
National Director**