



Tender-hearted and Deserving

As our own country reels from disaster and struggles to provide comfort in times of despair, our hearts go out to those who have suffered loss. Our prayers will continue as they try to recover from this crisis. Despite our struggles, if you can, please spare a thought for the children and families we serve in Eastern Europe.

For many of the institutionalised children, they have given up on dreams and many often say they don't want to grow up. How is this possible...?

Dana longs for family and a place to call home. Orphaned at the age of five, this eleven year old hates to be alone. She hides her feelings carefully behind her smile, but deep down inside, she fears for her future. Saddest of all, she has given up on life – in her own words, "I do not want to grow up."

Ghenandii is fourteen, and recalls his tortured past. "My mother was beaten many times by my father. Being a small boy there was nothing I could do to stop him. If I tried to, I too would suffer at the hands of my father. I was very afraid of him. The images of abuse are still fresh in my mind."

Both of Adriana's parents are alcoholics. Her suffering is also fresh in her mind, "Mum (often in a drunken stupor) would bring strange men home". She along with her siblings were forced to sleep outside on the steps of their home – cold and pressed against the closed door for warmth throughout the cold, dark and chilly nights. Their cold suffering ended the night they were allowed to sleep inside and their modest dwelling was deliberately set on fire... Intervention occurred, and the children were placed into protective custody where they remain to this day. The parents were imprisoned for a short period after the incident, and were later released.



Dana longs for a family

Despite this abuse, Adriana has longed for her parents to come for her, preferring a dysfunctional abusive family to living life in a large Children's Home. Adriana's hopes have been in vain. They have never come; have expended no energy to reach her. Eight years have now passed and not a word... It is no wonder she recalls her story with bitterness...

I know you would join me if we could, and wrap our arms around Ghenadii, call him

son and play a little football. What I wouldn't give to tell Adriana its okay, come home with us and we will be your family. I know from the many sponsors who contact us; you would do exactly the same. However, government regulations and a whole lot of obstacles mean this will never be possible. And, while we cannot go, take comfort, in our place there are others that represent you, to come along side, to counsel, to encourage and embrace. The ultimate Comfort, Counsellor and Friend is Jesus and He is ever present in their times of despair.

Additionally, your representatives, come in the form of the Mission Without Border's Coordinators and volunteers who love these children, take time to sit with them and show them someone cares. Physical help is a given, but emotional and spiritual help is what they crave. I have had the privilege to meet some of them, individuals whose very hearts are moved by the same things ours are... men and women, who are caring, compassionate, committed and doing for these kids what we cannot do.

Thank you for owning this ministry. There is no need to remind you that the efforts to minister to Ghenadii, Adriana and Dana are dependent on your prayers and generosity. A financial gift of any amount would be a blessing this month and if you can, we have many children who still require regular sponsorship (\$40/month)– to meet their needs and the needs of the Home they live in, as well as receive the encouragement your letters, cards and gifts always show.



Scars of abuse are still fresh for Adriana



Ghenadii remembers abuse but would love a family

The Seed is Sown

For families that struggle; it is easy to look at a large family, criticise and believe we know why they are in the position they are in, make judgements and perhaps consider not assisting them in their time of need. Mission Without Borders is committed to establishing and fulfilling the Spiritual, Emotional, Education and Material Goals of each family we enrol in our programs. Their transformation is often amazing to witness and it is great to see broken families, now united, with their eyes fixed firmly on their new Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Children, families and the elderly with poor health and disabilities struggle tremendously in Eastern Europe. Medical assistance is either hard to find or impossible to afford. What if you are a large family and most of your family members struggle with illness?



The entire Jalba family love music and devotions!

The Jalba family of Roscani, Moldova has eleven members; Dad, Mum and nine children aged 2-14 years. The six oldest children attend school, the younger ones kindergarten and the youngest stays at home with Mum. Elena looks after the home and cares for the children. Victor works wherever he can, picking up casual work. He previously left the family in search of work in Moscow, but returned empty-handed after he wasn't paid for the jobs he completed.

This is their story...



The Jalba children love the Bible Correspondence Course

Elena and Victor are constantly overwhelmed by the health concerns of their family. The illnesses they confront and suffer from exhaust them of their physical, material and emotional resources. The emotional, spiritual and material support from Mission Without

Borders is helping this family, one day at a time, to face their circumstances with the strength they need.

Almost every family member struggles with poor health. Elena (2) suffers from reoccurring bouts of pneumonia. Simple cases of tonsillitis, left untreated, have caused complications in the feet, heart and kidneys of Victor and Ilie. Following recent surgery, Victor is now experiencing relief. Ilie is waiting for his parents to have the funds to pay for his surgery. Victoria (10) suffers from polyps (which has affected her breathing). It also has caused pain in her legs and kidneys. Doctors have recommended surgery, but this is impossible until her parents manage to save up the necessary funds. Lilian (12) is classified as an invalid and

suffers from juvenile chronic arthritis. Finally, Mum Elena suffers from thrombophlebitis. Her feet and hands swell, and she has had on numerous occasions sudden seizures and without feeling any pain, the veins in her feet burst and she suffers serious blood loss. "I have nearly lost my life on a number of occasions, because of such large blood loss. But despite this, I see God's hand working in our family," confessed Elena. She has already had three operations on her left leg and another two on her right. Despite these operations, the doctors have made it clear this condition is incurable.

Regardless, there is so much joy in this family as some of the family members are now better and they no longer need to spend almost their entire income on their medical and surgical needs. Knowing the sum total of the family's medical needs, it is obvious where their small income goes. Health insurance is costly; as are the constant medication and operations they are prescribed. "The fact that we are beneficiaries and participants in Mission Without Border's Family-to-Family program has literally saved our lives! The Coordinator always



A cow now provides good nutrition for the family

encourages and supports us and through this, I see God is ever present, giving us the strength and courage we need to endure. We receive spiritual, emotional, educational and material support that is always offered just in time, which encourages us not to give up our problems that seem insurmountable. Despite life's difficulties, we keep on fighting and through our difficulties our faith is strengthened and continues to grow. Trusting only in God's blessings and believing in a change for the better is our daily hope. Since Mission Without Borders entered our home, we have invited God into our hearts and lives and we are so grateful to God for this!" expressed Victor.

The children of this family are all gifted musically. Some have beautiful voices, while others play musical instruments. Andrei is 7. He attends a musical school and is in the first year of learning to play the panpipe. "Andrei is a talented child. When he was only six he showed interest in playing a musical instrument. Awhile ago, we received a small piano from a neighbour. It was broken, but the children helped their father to repair it, and now they love playing. Andrei's dream was to play the panpipe. Affording music lessons seemed out of our reach, as was purchasing a panpipe for him. He was determined to attend a musical school and we did not want to crush his dream. We have scrimped and saved and are now close to buying one for him. Andrei took the initiative and prepared a song to help our family celebrate last Christmas. We are so proud of him. We love the fact that as we gather for devotions as a family, the boys prepare the musical part. I hope that soon we will be able to prepare and present a small program to sing in Church", confessed Elena. Although a number of Andrei's siblings are musical, affording music lessons for them has been out of the question.

Despite their daily struggles, it is so encouraging to see the Jalba family trusting God for everything and giving Him praise for all He provides. The six older children of the family participate in the Bible Correspondence Course. They were so excited about the diplomas and gifts they received for their participation! "It gives me so much joy to see my children getting together and studying the Bible through



the correspondence courses. My husband and I are currently working on the Bible study we received from MWB too. It is a very comprehensive study that is answering many of the questions we have had about the Bible and our Lord. Our whole family loved the Christmas party organised by MWB and we can't wait for the Easter celebration! We are so grateful to MWB for everything they have done for us!" shared Elena with tears in her eyes.

Last summer the older children Elisei, lie, Ieremia and Victoria went to MWB's Summer Camp. There they enjoyed participating in sport and Bible competitions, Bible studies and preparing songs and dramas for evening chapel. "They had an unforgettable time and were still telling us about the funny and interesting highlights of Summer Camp as they went off to school in November!" shared Elena.

The family is so thankful for the presents they have received from their sponsors and their lives have profoundly changed thanks to the Special Projects they have received. A cow is providing milk and cheese for the family, and they were able to purchase crockery and cutlery so their large family can now eat together. "We are so grateful for everything! Even this Christmas, we received gifts of towels, bowls, a frying pan and school supplies for the children. I am ashamed to say without these generous gifts we would not have been able to supply them for our family. I cannot express enough our gratitude for everything we have received... thank you so much," expressed Victor, humbly.

Please be encouraged, the success of this family is thanks to the support of people like you! Our staff and volunteers in our field countries are our representatives. They dearly love and care for these families, but could not care for them without your support. Please join with us as we give thanks to God for the wholehearted change in the Jalba Family! Now the Jalba family is stronger, they are following the lead of those who have come before them, and considering how they can now help those in their community who are struggling.

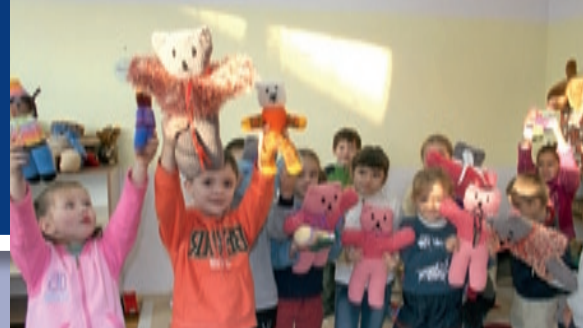
Your gifts this month will enable us to care for more families appealing to us for help. As the worldwide financial crisis continues to bite, we have many more families who previously were making ends meet, now out of work and desperate for any assistance we can offer. If you are in a position to help a family on an ongoing basis through our Family-to-Family Sponsorship program, where we find 4 sponsors for each family at \$35/month, we have many families waiting.



Andrei and His panpipe

Joy despite hardship in the Alba family

'Gift in Kind' - including 'Operation Cover-Up'



Children love the knitted teddy bears

As we enter a new and exciting era of this wonderful ministry, one of the passionate founders of this area of our ministry is scaling down her involvement with us. Many of you would have met or spoken to Sheryl Rumball. It was her passion to help the Straseni Children's Home in Moldova (home to her two sponsored children) that grew this ministry in an amazing way! Sheryl will still come and pack for us each week, but will no longer act as a coordinator and collection Point for MWB. We are so thankful to God for Sheryl! Her passion and enthusiasm has been infectious! Her love for the Lord and desire to share His gift of salvation is her motivation to move on and she would like to use her gifts and time to share the Gospel. Thank you for all you have given to us Sheryl, we could not have achieved anywhere near as much without you!

David Turner joined MWB last year as our Bookkeeper and has now taken

over responsibility for MWB's 'Gift in Kind'. He will be overseeing this exciting ministry as it continues to develop and grow and will be more than happy to answer your questions.

We are continuing to develop a network of Collection Points around the country and hope to be able to offer you some great solutions soon! For the moment if you are in Victoria, please contact Jenny Grainger and she will explain the arrangements we have for collection and drop-off. For all others, please contact our office. We will be able to let you know the most up to date arrangements (they are changing daily!) for collection and transport.

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

All knitted and crocheted items:

- **Blankets – large and small.**
- **Jumpers – Crew neck patterns are best for the harsh climate.**
- **Scarves, beanies, bed socks and gloves.**
- **Knitted Teddy Bears**
- **Please note** we are not able to accept the tiny sleeveless jumpers known as '**Aids Baby Jumpers**'.
- **Knitting patterns are now available** - contact Jenny Grainger, our office or visit our Website (www.mwb.org.au).

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 the coordinators, and collection points we have organised. We have a more comprehensive list of collection points available in our office. Areas in great need of a collection point include: Sydney – North Shore, Castle Hill/North West, Liverpool, as well as Newcastle and Wollongong.

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Thanks so much for your partnership and God bless,

Michelle Dorey

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