

FOCUS news



mission without borders, Australia

Families in Crisis - Families in Need

Greetings dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,



Valeriu is determined to use their land to grow fruit to provide for his family

When you are among the poorest of the poor, it is a challenge to believe that God sees you and is ready to help. Such were the circumstances of Valeriu and Maria Mesina, who along with their four children, live in two rooms of their great grandmother's house in a small village in Southern Moldova.

Valeriu, a day labourer, ordinarily works in the spring, summer and autumn seasons. For a hard day's hoeing land he earns \$9. This income is unreliable and impossible in their long harsh winters. His desire is

to set up a business that uses his garden. "Seeing how difficult it is for my wife and me to support our family, I plan to transform our garden into an orchard and grow various kinds of fruit trees in order to assure us a minimal income. Because we live on a hill I cannot have a greenhouse. Fruit

trees are expensive, yet I have managed to buy and plant a few, but I need to plant more." confessed Valeriu.

Maria goes to Cahul where she works all week in a sewing factory. She leaves home at 5am every morning and does not arrive home until late in the evening.

Valeriu prepares the food and keeps the house warm. It is completely impossible for them to survive on her income of \$105/month, but oftentimes she is told to not bother coming in to work as there isn't sufficient work. With the worldwide economic crisis, this scenario is becoming more and more common....



Having discovered God, Valeriu now leads his family in regular devotions



The humble, hardworking Mesina Family

"We have had a lot of challenges in our fight to support our children, but we now understand that God is the only one who can offer comfort and bring peace to our home and souls. Often, when our family was burdened with hardship, it was a challenge to believe God saw us and was ready to offer help. Even when I am worn out, when I get home from work, I

am happy to see how my husband encourages us to read the Bible together. Our Lord is the true and living God who cares for His children," said Maria. What a remarkable change this family has enjoyed! Before enrolment in our Family-to-Family program in 2008, they did not know God existed and certainly weren't living lives dependent on him. Their humble lives are still ones of struggle; but with their eyes firmly fixed on God, and the support of the F2F program, they are making strides toward wholeness and self-sufficiency.

There are many more families who need to know that God exists, sees them and cares. The worldwide economic crisis has wreaked havoc on the fledgling economies of Eastern Europe. Frail job markets have been hard hit and there is little or no government support for those without employment. Your contribution today will assist us in being practical expressions of His love as we try to meet their needs. If you are able to sponsor a family desperate for some help today and hopeful for self-sufficiency tomorrow, please contact us, we have many families waiting.



Families in need, need our help



More food than they had seen in a very long time



Joy experienced with this feast



A big Christmas lunch



Glamoc Community Centre Christmas Meal – Thanks to generosity of an Australian Donor.

Imagined being burdened not only by poverty, but scarred by war. Now, a decade after the war ended, war is still fresh in your mind. Loved ones were lost and the legacy of the war is a country destroyed, fractured, hurting and incapable of caring for you. Your decades of service are not rewarded, even with a tiny old age pension. You struggle with little or no electricity, and when they cut off the water supply, frequently and with no warning, you are forced to trudge through the cold and snow to a well a few kilometres from your home. Your illnesses burden you and affording the medicine you have been prescribed is totally out of the question. Your children and grandchildren left the region long ago as employment is scarce and so you are left alone -You feel forgotten, unloved and terribly alone.

However, 'Praise the Lord', who for decades you were told did not exist; He has provided a haven where you can go for comfort, food, fellowship and care! You are also supplied with deliveries of clothing, blankets and winter shoes where possible and they even try and supply your prescription medications if they can. Your lives of sorrow are changing slowly thanks to this haven. Mission Without Borders is not only feeding your old body, and keeping you warm; you now get to celebrate Christmas. To be told a kind supporter all the way from Australia wanted to bless you with a big, big wonderful Christmas meal is a blessing you cannot begin to express your joy and thanks for...

The minds of the beneficiaries of the Glamoc Community Centre and Soup Kitchen in war-ravaged Bosnia boggled at this wonderful Christmas Feast..! The women schemed at how they could stretch and stretch this feast to last longer than this huge Christmas meal. A whole chicken for each person was so extraordinary and they were determined to make it last as long as possible.

They are always made to feel worthy of blessing each time they arrive in our Community Centre and with this meal they felt extra special!

*"Dear Sponsor,
By your kind act of providing us with a Christmas lunch you really touched our hearts. We had the best Christmas lunch ever! We enjoyed delicious food and fellowship! May God's blessings be always with you!"*

Blazenko Soldat
On behalf of the Soup Kitchen Beneficiaries

Glamoc Soup Kitchen Beneficiaries hear the Christmas message



"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"
Matthew 25:40 NIV



WE ARE MOVING!

We are finalising the details on our new office/warehouse for Mission Without Borders Australia and hope to be settled in by the end of April. It is centrally located in Sydney (Auburn) and will offer a great hub for our ministry.



- If you are planning on paying us a visit in April, please call our office first, to ensure you come to the correct address!
- Our old office phone numbers and mailing address will be forwarded on for some time, so we will never miss your phone call or mail once we move.

From the start of Term 2 (end of April) we will require a whole new band of volunteers to come and assist us. Our faithful volunteers who have packed on a weekly basis will come to our new location when possible, but as we are enjoying considerable growth we would also love your assistance. We need volunteers to come, sort and pack our 'Gift in Kind' on a regular basis (generally during school terms).

- We also have a wonderful group of helpers who come and pack our literature each month – you are welcome to join them.
- Fellowship and fun go hand in hand with this vital volunteer help – please join us if you can!
- Once we've settled in, we would love to have to visit! We are excited about this growth and potential to bless the poor we serve. Watch this space for details about Open Days!

Now we have a great new warehouse we need a volunteer/s to assist us in our warehouse. We will have pallet racking and a forklift and need some assistance in the organisation of the donations of 'Gift in Kind' from individuals and companies. Please contact David Turner, our 'Gift in Kind' coordinator if you can help out, whether that is regularly, casually or even once-off – there is so much to do!



SOMETHING MISSING THIS MONTH..?

For those expecting our annual magazine *Overcomers* this month, due to our impending office move, we are delaying its release until next month. You will have it, as well as our Bi-monthly *Bridge of Prayer*, hot off the

press and delivered to you by the beginning of May, with all the information of our new office address, postal address and phone number details.

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

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 details, please contact our office. We will be able to let you know the most up to date arrangements (they are changing daily!).

It is so exciting to see the development and growth of this area of our ministry. If you are new to us, thank you for joining us as we endeavour to relieve the suffering of the poorest of the poor in Eastern Europe! If you would like additional information or literature that explains the need as well as how we could use your help, please contact our office. We are happy to supply our latest literature to you and your groups.



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, we have a comprehensive list available in 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.

David Turner is the Australia-wide Coordinator of our Gift in Kind

Unit 2/14 French Avenue
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
Phone: (02) 9793 8100
Email: dturner@mwbi.org

Jenny Grainger is our Victorian Coordinator:

3 Exner Drive
DANDENONG VIC 3175
Phone: (03) 9795 6141
Email: 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

Debbi Wilson in Western Australia

5 Collier Street
APPLECROSS WA 6153
Phone: 0417 926 695
Email: wilson.debbi@gmail.com

Thanks so much for your partnership and God bless,

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey
National Director