

OVERCOMERS

2009



Mission Without Borders, Australia



MISSION
WITHOUT
BORDERS



Reaching People for Christ

OVERCOMERS 2009

Mission Without Borders

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MWB Australia

Michelle Dorey – National Director

Overcomers Editor

Michelle Dorey

MWB Affiliate Offices

Australia, Belgium, Canada,
Germany, Netherlands, New
Zealand, Norway, South Africa,
Switzerland, United Kingdom,
United States.

Our statement of Faith:

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose in-dwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Christ.

Mission Without Borders is independently audited annually.

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With Hopeful Anticipation...



In a faraway place, a group of senior citizens sit apathetically in an Institutional Home, with their eyes focused on the door... On a busy avenue in a nearby town, street children scurry about, looking for something to eat... With bags in their hands, a single mother and her child make their way to a place to receive warmth and sustenance... In an effort to ward off the biting cold and frost, long lines of people can be seen as they huddle together and wait for the necessities that will enable them to withstand the harsh winter months... In a little shed, far from the surrounding villages, desperate parents, with their many children, hope once more that a box or

two will arrive soon, providing them with the means in which to survive a few more days... From a dilapidated and rotten building, children's voices can be heard as they rush out to the front gate at the sounds of approaching wheels on gravel... As the weather warms up, we can see thousands of joyful children looking up with anticipation...

What is the common denominator in the scenes described above? It is the hopeful anticipation expressed by those in desperate situations... hoping to have their needs attended to...

For close to fifty years, Mission Without Borders has been giving hope and providing sustenance to thousands of poor and disadvantaged men, women and children in Eastern Europe who suffer from the effects of poverty or persecution. Together with local evangelical churches, we aim to meet the material, emotional, spiritual and educational needs of our beneficiaries through the many projects implemented. With more than 300 staff and thousands of volunteers around the world, we are passionate about ministering to those in need with the Good News of Jesus Christ, bringing hope in their everyday circumstances as we 'Reach People for Christ'.

At a time when the world is reeling from financial collapses few predicted, and assessing whether it was our greed or poor judgments that led to the worldwide financial crisis, the crises in Eastern Europe have never been greater. We continue to enjoy great freedom to share about the eternal hope we have

through Jesus, God's Son, but this is in the context of meeting escalating physical, emotional and educational need for thousands of children who do not enjoy the constant love and care of a healthy family, as well as meeting the complex needs of families who, try as they might, can't attain self-sufficiency. We need your help to bring help and hope to those crying out for answers and assistance.

Perhaps you would like to sponsor a child, family, Children's Home for disabled children, sponsor our Vocational Training or Scholarship programs...? Or perhaps you would like to use your time and resources to knit



Map of Eastern Europe

some warm blankets, jumpers, scarves and so on for the thousands of children, families and the elderly who struggle to survive the freezing temperatures that plague Eastern Europe for half the year.

Financial donations are vital in making our ministries possible and every dollar you give makes a difference. Never presume small donations are incapable of making a difference... A couple of dollars provides daily food for a hungry street kid; a few dollars will provide a warm meal to an elderly beneficiary of our Community Centre Soup Kitchens. Many have no food at all except that one meal a day they receive through our programs, so every dollar counts... Please do not forget that at every turn, your donations are joined with the donations of other Australians, to make a lasting difference to those we serve.

We are so thankful to God for the growth our ministry has experienced this last year! Our group of supporters is growing in a big way, thank you for joining the MWB family!

Our work in our six field countries: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine is tailored to each individual situation. The above map shows the locations, but each country has their own struggles. What is commonplace in all 6 countries is that as the worldwide financial crisis hit and continues to reverberate worldwide, the millions who left Eastern Europe, legally and illegally to find employment, to earn an income and send money home to support their families, were the first to lose their jobs. This is coupled with the collapse of local industries. The affects have been devastating. We have the blessing in this country of a huge national surplus that has now been ploughed into the local economy. In Eastern Europe, the economies were already shaky. The governments were not able to afford to care for the poorest of the poor and now the crisis has hit they are powerless to help. Each field country was already grappling

with extremely high inflation on the essentials needed for survival and now income has been slashed they are desperate. Please help where you can.

Furthermore, never underestimate the power of prayer. We are reliant on our Heavenly Father for the love, grace, strength and wisdom to help the poor of Eastern Europe. Our leadership needs continued prayer as they negotiate our ministry through these difficult economic times. Our field staff need strength, grace, love and wisdom to care for those crying out for help as well as make the tough decisions of who to help with finite resources. And finally, the beneficiaries of our projects need Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and the strength to endure all that life throws at them-often burdens we could never imagine surviving under.

Thank you for helping where you can! If you would like to share our ministry with your family, friends, church or groups, please contact us. We will help you do that with additional copies of literature, a DVD and a presentation if that is possible. Our website provides up to date news, events and we are always adding short videos of ministries taking place throughout our field countries (www.mwb.org.au). We hope to hold a number of events Australia-wide in this coming year- we will keep you updated through our monthly publication 'Focus News'.

We are so excited to have just moved into our new office/warehouse in Sydney, which will allow us the room we need to grow, meet with you, collect, pack and send our containers of aid – please drop in and visit if you are ever nearby (Office hours are Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm) and we will have some open days in the months to come. **It is centrally located in Sydney. We need more volunteers to make the most of the opportunity, so if you have free time, give us a call – there are lots of job to be done and great fellowship is guaranteed!**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW CONTACT DETAILS:

Mission Without Borders Australia

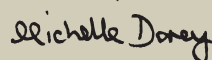
10 Stubbs Street PO Box 7533
Auburn NSW 2144 SILVERWATER NSW 1811

Phone: (02) 9647 2022 **Fax:** (02) 9647 1899

We also have a wonderful 'Workshop' open in Dandenong, Melbourne for those wanting to be involved in our 'Gift in Kind' ministry in Victoria.

I hope you enjoy our annual Overcomers Magazine, which will give you an oversight into the need, the ministry taking place and how we would love you to be involved. Thank you so much for your support, your generosity is never taken for granted and the poor we serve say thank you!

God bless,



Michelle Dorey
National Director - Mission Without Borders Australia

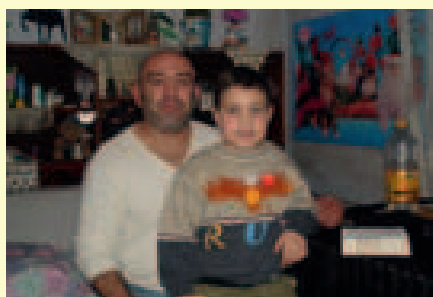
MWB'S FAMILY-TO-FAMILY MINISTRY

Step-by-Step Changing Families

How can you encapsulate Mission Without Border's ministry to families...?

Families, often in crisis, cry out for help. Help comes and the road to success and recovery begins; although it is very likely to be a bumpy ride...

The Tomescu Family of Romania was enrolled in the Family-to-Family (F2F) Program in November 2007. Marius, Rodica and Laurentiu (8) make up this struggling family. They were not legally married because they could not afford to pay the medical check-ups required before getting married. They lived in an apartment with two rooms, which they shared with Marius' mother, who is paralysed and needs constant care. Their living conditions are poor, the furniture is worn out and



Marius and Laurentiu

the apartment badly needs renovating.

When Laurentiu was born, his parents took him to a Children's Home because they couldn't afford to raise him. Marius had heart problems

and was unable to work and Rodica worked part time as a cleaner for minimal pay.

Their life has changed a lot since they enrolled in our Family-to-Family program. Before enrolment they could barely afford basic food, hygiene supplies, let alone the rest...

Our F2F Coordinator met Marius three years ago when he was in prison for stealing. The story of his life is sad but not hopeless. When he went to prison, he separated from his wife, and as a result of his wife's financial situation she was forced to take Laurentiu back to the Children's Home. In September 2007, he was released from prison and asked Rodica if she was willing to take him back. When she agreed, they were able to take Laurentiu back into their family.



Marius proud of his BCC Diploma

During one of our Coordinator's visits to Marius in prison, he confessed how important the visits were to him. "It was a very difficult period in my life, but through it I have discovered that without God everything is difficult. The fact that I became closer to God in the most difficult period of my life was real proof that He has a special plan of Salvation for every human being. I am very grateful to Him for the wonderful way he came into my life and also to all the brothers who visited and encouraged me during that difficult time", said Marius Tomescu.

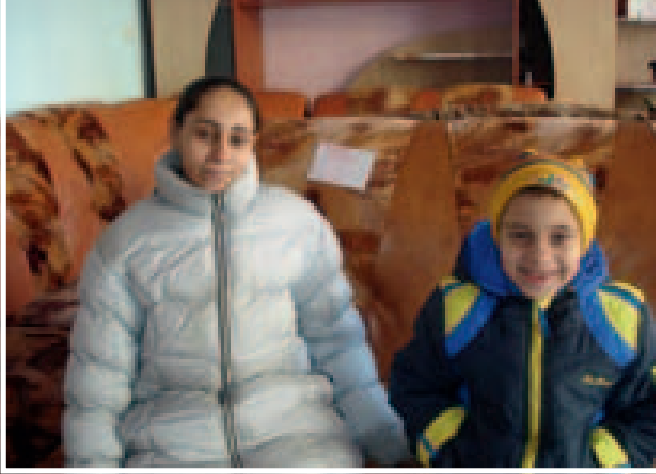
In prison, Marius received a Bible and learnt to pray. He studied the Gospels and was touched by all the things he discovered – the way in which God worked in the life of His people, His wonderful promises and Jesus' life on this earth. He participated in a Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) and was thrilled when he received a diploma showing his knowledge of the Bible.

Couselling for Marius and Rodica was central to our assistance once Marius was released from prison. Through the counselling sessions our Coordinator discovered they had great emotional needs because they were a family that lacked identity.



Rodica and Laurentiu are now struggling without Marius

Laurentiu is the one most affected by everything his family has gone through. Having been taken twice to a Children's Home and left there, knowing he had parents at home, had a devastating effect on this young boy. At the Children's Home he was shy, introverted and sad. Once reunited with his parents he came out of his shell, was full of life, talkative and happy.



Things were starting to look up for this struggling family, but good advice, based on God's Word is vital for them, and as the months unfolded it became clear that rough times were ahead...

As much as lives can be changed, poverty can make anyone desperate. Marius was caught stealing again (this time stealing second-hand iron) and was been sentenced to a further 2 years in prison. He left Rodica in tears and life is now very uncertain for her and their son. Rodica is still on good terms with Marius and they often talk on the phone. Whenever she has the money, she takes Laurentiu to visit Marius. Life is throwing so many challenges her way, but through everything, she seeks God's face.

Just recently Rodica and Laurentiu were thrilled to be recipients of a Special Project. They were able to buy some essentials for their home and themselves. Having previously been able to only afford food and taxes buying these essentials with the MWB Coordinator made them feel so special! She was so touched by the way God is taking care of their needs.

Life for Rodica is very difficult. With Marius in prison, her mother-in-law to care for, and her job as a cleaner no longer available, she has learnt more about God's love and how He is taking care of her and Laurentiu. On every visit, our Coordinator encourages her to open her heart to God and have faith. If you remember this family, please pray for them. Their needs are great, but they need the Lord more than ever and we know He will never fail them. This story also highlights the vital role of the F2F

Coordinators. They counsel, encourage, challenge and do far more than delivering the concrete help each family receives on a regular basis. Please pray for them as well.

We would love to be able to expand our help and ministry to many more families in Romania and throughout all our field countries, but need your support. Your gifts to our Family Care ministry will help fund assistance, and the ongoing sponsorship of families is a wonderful way for you to show families you care. The correspondence between families and their sponsors is greatly encouraging to everyone and has a profound effect on those who struggle the most, such as the Tomescu family.

Sponsorship of Families is \$35/month and we find 4 sponsors for each family, in order to meet their comprehensive needs. Each family receives regular food and hygiene parcels, clothing, shoes, as well as Christian and emotional support. The Bible Correspondence Course, Summer Camp, Christmas and Easter Parties for the children are also available, wherever possible.

If you would like to join the wonderful band of supporters of families through MWB's Family-to-Family program, please contact us or fill out the coupon on the back of the magazine. We have families waiting for sponsorship right now (check out our website for a sample www.mwb.org.au) and there are many other families on the doorsteps of our field country offices daily hoping that they too can enrol in the F2F program... they just need our help!

Contact us on:
Phone: (02) 9647 2022 or
Email: australia@mwbi.org



Beautiful blessings for Rodica



Simple things like new linen are just wonderful!



Working hard and dreaming big!

A MISSION WITHOUT BORDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

the hope for a better future!

We can respond to others through the eyes of charity or the eyes of justice. In Australia most children have adequate food, clothing, shelter and health services. However, the greatest opportunity comes in the form of access to high quality education. The basic right of children as espoused in the Millennium

Goals is access to education. For so many worldwide, the opportunity for education is taken for granted. For so many others, unfortunately, opportunity to experience quality education is considered a privilege for the few. This is where Missions without Borders provides a helping hand and hope in the form of scholarships.

For society to develop and for the future of future generations to be secured, students; skilful, intelligent, obedient and wise, support is required. This is one of the goals that MWB has and accomplishes through the Scholarship Fund. MWB is able to offer Scholarships to hundreds of students through all six field countries; graduates from Children's Homes, and children from poverty-ravaged families. They are students of Medicine, Law, Economics, Nursing, Engineering, Arts, and Construction, to name a few.

Can you imagine the desolation experienced by able, motivated and talented students who go through life with a lack of support and are unable to continue their studies?

In Moldova, many institutionalised children dream of continuing onto further studies in order to get a good job. Doina Melnic graduated from Rezina Children's Home and entered into the Technical and Microelectronics College. She is in her 4th year. It is evident to everyone that her MWB Scholarship has made a profound impact on her life. Once she graduates she intends to further her studies at university. Languages and informatics are her favourite subjects.

During the school year, Doina lives in the student hostel, along with three other roommates. She does not go home because life there is unbearable. "I do not want to go home because of my parents' drunkenness," she tearfully confessed. "The only support that helped me in all these years is Mission Without Border's. They are also supporting my brother, who is studying at the same college as me. If I was not a recipient of a MWB Scholarship, it would have been impossible for me to continue my studies beyond elementary high school. Our parents threw us into the Children's Home and any money they ever received for us was spent on alcohol. My parents forced my brother and me to work and buy alcohol with the money. Even though my parents are alive, my brother and I feel that we are orphans."

Despite this hard start at life, Doina has risen above the difficulties she has experienced. She is extremely grateful



Doina is a proud and dedicated student



The student hostel is basic, but safer than home.

for the support Mission Without Borders has given her. It is amazing to see how a small support makes such a big difference in one child's life!

We need your help to make the dreams come true for students like Doina. Mission Without Borders is committed to helping them reach their dreams of self-sufficiency. We have students in each of our 6 field countries – many graduating from Children's Homes, but also many from poverty ridden families who are unable to fund the further education of their children. Unlike Australia, the majority of Eastern European students actually start their tertiary studies at the age of 15-16 years at senior high school where they begin their specialisation. This specialisation is expensive and not paid by the state and therefore it is often here that our field countries consider enrolling them into MWB's Scholarship Program.

A MWB Scholarship covers the cost of their tuition, school supplies and includes a contribution toward their living expenses.

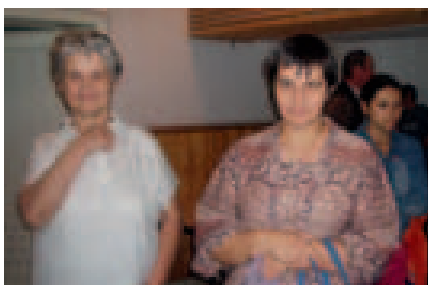
Rather than students anxiously waiting for sponsors from countries like Australia to fund their Scholarships each year, Mission Without Borders makes a commitment to the students for the duration of their studies, as long as they remain committed and pass their exams each year. This means that students at University, College and Senior High school throughout Eastern Europe can focus on their education, but we need your help to make this possible. You can help in the following two ways: A one-off gift to the Scholarship Fund will ensure we can reach our goal, or a regular contribution to the Scholarship Fund will give the students an assurance. We will also keep our regular contributors up to date with the students whose lives have changed thanks to your support.



Mission Without Borders Community Centres Communities of Grace

"God sets the solitary in families". Psalm 68:6

Community Centres run in each of our 6 field countries. They are run as joint projects with local churches. Local government authorities are great supporters of the ministry and are thankful we are helping the poorest of the poor. They are places of nurture, refuge and sustenance for the poorest, loneliest, elderly folk, desperately poor families and socially vulnerable children. They are places where those without a family network can find friendship and acceptance.



Community Centres are places of help and hope

Activities at the Centres are designed to offer a response to the dire needs of survival – warm food and clothing – as well as to show the beneficiaries that God is merciful and caring to all who are rejected, suffering or experiencing great poverty. As with all our projects, the Centres offer spiritual, emotional, educational and material support (through MWB's S.E.E.M. framework) appropriate to each person in our care.

Andrey Genov, an 88 year old gentleman from Burgas in Bulgaria, "tagged along" with a mission team to visit a Home for disabled people in the hope of finding a place to escape the abuse of his two sons. The disillusionment of this strong, healthy and intelligent man moved our Coordinator, Ruska Petrova, to invite him to join the program at the Community Centre.

Raised by his mother, Andrey grew into a well mannered, intelligent young man who embraced communist ideals and lived by them his whole life. Andrey's attendance at the Centre was sporadic. It was found that he was too embarrassed to come because of the bruises sustained in the beatings he received at the hands of his sons. Ruska shared with him her own testimony of the power of God in such situations and despite Andrey's scepticism, Ruska's prayers for him began to be answered. He found friendship, acceptance and the beatings abated. Andrey said "I sincerely wish I could believe the way you do but I cannot force myself to. I need to be convinced. I've seen it is real and good in your lives but I do not have faith." Ruska shared with him Hebrews 11:1 'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God'. "I will listen and you can pray for me. I want to believe!" Andrey said.

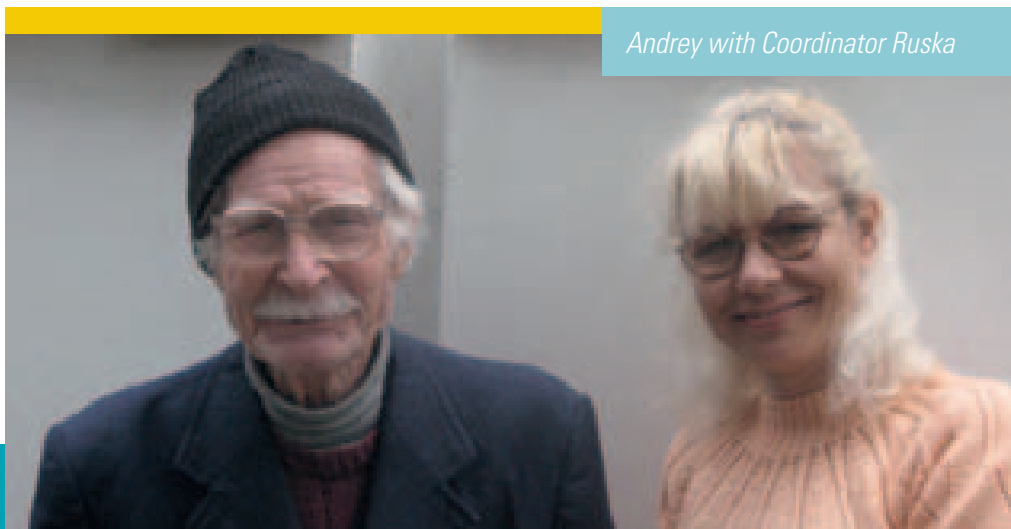
The Community Centres serve over 200,000 meals each year, and provide counselling, education and support for hundreds of the poorest and loneliest people, but there are many more in need of our help. At our Community Centre in Deva, Romania, run in conjunction with the Baptist church, Ion, the spiritual director shared that his large, but poor church could only afford to care for 20 of the poorest members



Andrey finishing his lunch with his new friends

of their community. In partnership with Mission Without Borders, they are now able to serve a daily hot meal for 65 families and individuals. Still there is a waiting list. With your support, we can continue to grow this valuable ministry where the love of Christ is shared with the poor and lonely on a daily basis.

For those who read last year's Overcomer's magazine, you may remember Jelyazko, another elderly beneficiary of our Community Centre project who struggled to understand and accept God. Jelyazko is now a passionate follow of Jesus, praise the Lord! Please pray that Andrey and all the other beneficiaries of our Community Centre ministry, who pray before the start of each meal and daily hear God's Word, will surrender their lives to Christ, giving that peace that transcends all understanding and the promise of an eternity with our Heavenly Father.



Andrey with Coordinator Ruska



SUMMER CAMP — ‘Going Bananas for God!’

WHAT do you remember about summer holidays as a child? I hope your memories are great. Let me tell you about fifty seven kids from Bosnia and Herzegovina who went to “Banana Island”, a delightful place nestled near Boracko Lake where games were played, challenges overcome, new skills learned and the children went “bananas” for God.

The kids were placed into six groups: Banana Artists, Banana Adventurers, Banana Reporters, Banana Sportsmen, Banana Warriors, and finally, Banana Drama and Dance. The last night of Summer Camp, each group shared what they had learnt during the week. The Banana Artists had an exhibition of their pictures and plaster masks they had created. The Banana Drama and Dance group performed a drama called, “Ashton” and danced to the song, “Our God is an Awesome God.” The Banana sports group showed some field hockey manoeuvres they had practiced. The Banana Adventurers demonstrated rope knots they had learned. The Banana Warriors helped out during worship and made the armour of God (Ephesians 6) out of aluminium foil and paper plates. Banana Reporters made a daily video report viewed on the 7 Day Banana TV station, as well as, their newspaper “Banana Page,” using photos they had taken.

Throughout the week there were many activities. Each day they went to the lake, where seven kids learnt to swim. Other camp activities included a Caveman/woman beauty contest, a missionary story around the campfire, a night game, and a quiz show mixed with a talent show. With the aid of a ‘time machine’ the children were visited by Biblical characters such as Noah, Gideon, Elijah, Zacchaeus and Mary Magdalene. They shared their experiences of how God changed their lives and how they went “bananas” for Him.

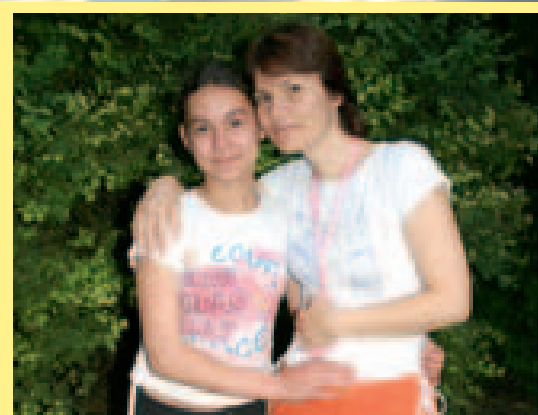
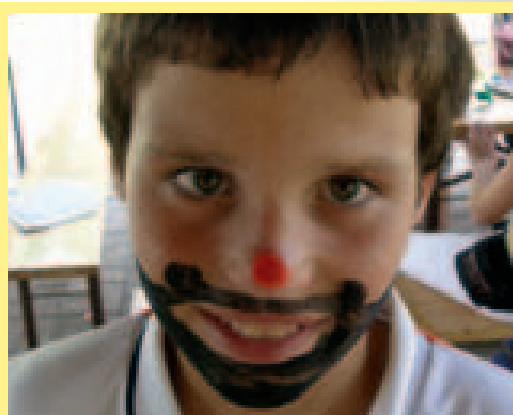
Amid all that fun and activity God was at work, especially within a 7 year old Muslim boy who told his parents that before Camp he thought that there was no God because of all the bad things happening in the world. Now he says he knows God exists and he is trying to convince his much older brother to come to the youth camp this year, telling him what a wonderful experience it will be for him.

For children who feel lost, alone and have no one to share their thoughts, hopes and dreams with, Summer Camp becomes a wonderful haven full of caring volunteers ready to listen and give out endless hugs! Oftentimes this care continues after they go home, with Christian Input in the Children’s Homes, Christian outreach to the families and all children are encouraged to enrol in our Bible Correspondence Course, a chance to hear more about Jesus and continue that dialogue with Christians that care.

We are planning to bring approximately 3,000 children in six countries to Summer Camps this year.

Besides providing the camp experience, we endeavour to meet some of their physical needs: endless food, a dream come true for hungry kids from Children’s Homes or poor families, as well as new shoes, clothing, and personal hygiene care. Would you help provide a camp experience for a child?

Your contribution today will help us provide children with an opportunity to know God, experience His love and gain happy and meaningful memories of going “bananas” for God.





“Mission Without Borders brings God’s love in the form of spiritual, emotional, educational and material support...”

VOLUNTEERING IN EASTERN EUROPE

Senior citizens in an institution, street children, a mother and child needing food, lines of cold and hungry people huddled together in the biting cold, a family eking out an existence in an isolated shed, dilapidated buildings, children excited at attending their first camp – these are the contexts into which Mission Without Borders brings God’s love in the form of spiritual, emotional, educational and material support.

Perhaps you would like to spend a few days of your holidays, helping local people to serve hot soup, deliver food and hygiene parcels or warm winter clothing and blankets. Perhaps you would like to help repair a dilapidated building, teach a craft, skill or share the Gospel with teenagers in Bulgaria. Perhaps teaching sports or Bible lessons at a camp is something you would enjoy doing.

We have a number of short term volunteering options available in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. It is a wonderful way to meet the people of Eastern Europe. You will be inspired by the local workers. You will learn so much about how it is possible to encourage and support those in desperate need and come away with a passion to care about these wonderful but vulnerable people.

For more information visit our website www.mwb.org.au or contact our office, phone (02) 9647 2022 or email: australia@mwbi.org

SPONSOR TOURS AND VISITS



Having the chance to meet your sponsored child, sponsored family, and seeing the projects you support so faithfully is a dream come true for many. As I write each month, I try my best to share what I have seen, what I have learnt and hope many of you may one day get to see if for yourself. In these hard economic times I know this will be impossible for most.

For those that can, we are now offering Annual Sponsor/Supporter Tours.

- 2009’s Tour will be to Moldova and Ukraine in September/October and is already full.
- We will be visiting Romania and one other field country (hopefully Albania) in March/April 2010. Please contact us if you are interested.
- We will be then conducting our annual Sponsor/Supporters Tours in March/April every year.

We will spend approximately one week in each field country and our field staff ensure you get to meet your sponsored child and families as well as show you a great overview of the ministry highlights – the Community Centres, our ministry to families, Vocational Training, Children’s Homes, Child Recovery Homes, Scholarship recipients as well as some tourist sites, to name a few!

If you ever find yourself in Europe and you would like to visit your sponsored children and/or families, we can also organise a visit for you.

Please contact me if you are interested. I look forward to sharing this great experience with you!

God bless,

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey
National Director

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Taking Care of their Tomorrow

Unemployment is rife in Eastern Europe. It has always been a chronic problem, but with the current economic crisis, unemployment is at unprecedented levels. In Moldova, one out of every two workers is unemployed, with other field countries not far behind. With such a scarcity of work, unskilled workers have no chance of finding ongoing employment.

In the recent past, many breadwinners left Eastern Europe to work in other countries; sending home a proportion of their income. The current economic crisis has meant that these, usually unskilled, people have been among the first to lose their jobs. Their return home puts further pressure on the job market and in addition, the lack of income coming into these countries means that these poor countries are further impoverished. One of the best ways to help an orphan, young person from a poor family or family breadwinner is to give them a skill which will enable them to compete in the job market or to start their own business.

Thousands of children who reside in large Children's Homes across Eastern Europe face a lifetime of poverty. Terrified of graduation, when they must leave the comparative security of the Home, more than half of these young people will fall prey to homelessness, crime, prostitution or human trafficking

– unless they can leave with skills that will assist them in securing employment or provide the foundation for further studies.

In addition, thousands of poor families fear for the future of their children. Education is only available for those who can pay upfront for it. Ergys is a young man, who together with his mother, Mereme, and brother, Alfred was enrolled in Mission Without Border's Family to Family program in

Over and over again, I am aware of what a great and wonderful chance I was given by MWB. Thank you, Mission Without Borders, for taking care of our tomorrow!

Albania, which helped Mereme in the task of feeding, clothing and housing herself and her two sons. Her sons are now young men and she says, "The thing that encourages me is that my sons are grown up now, they are students and mature enough to find the path towards a better life." Alfred is a student graduating from Jurisprudence and Ergys is studying



Mereme and her sons when they first enrolled in our F2F program

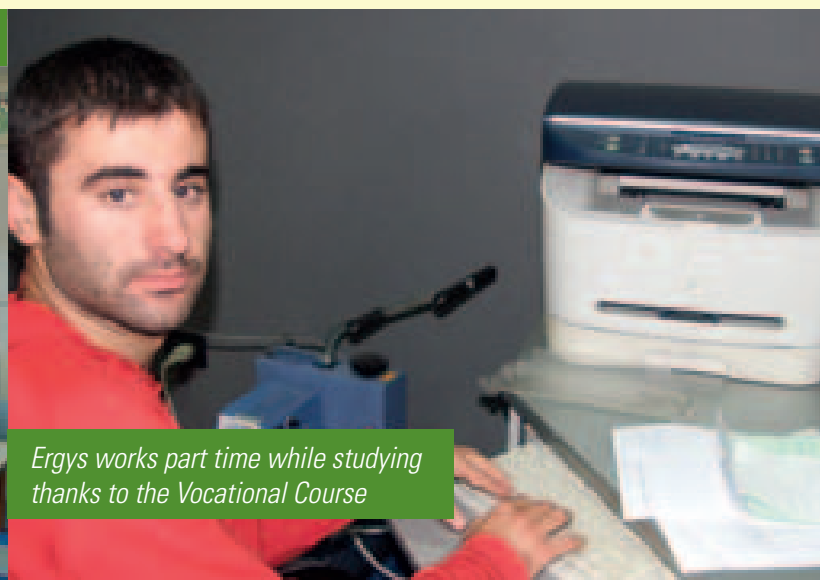
Economics. Through continued, regular help from Mission Without Borders and the Mission Without Borders Computer Training Course in which the boys were able to participate, this family has been able to seize the chance for a brighter, better future.

Ergys is studying at the University of Durres and has been able to use his computer training

in a summer vacation job. He said, "Almost all the job descriptions demand computer literacy and many employers demand educated and skilled workers. I felt fortunate to have gained such a skill, thanks to the Computer Course, sponsored by MWB, which gave me a chance I thought I would never be given." Ergys continued, "I thank God that the Computer Course has been a



Carpentry Course in Romania



Ergys works part time while studying thanks to the Vocational Course



Mereme's two grown-up sons are now university students thanks to MWB

blessing for me. I am in the advanced group and am the best student in Informatics. Some of my mates are beginners and I often help them, feeling very proud indeed. Over and over again, I am aware of what a great and wonderful chance I was given by MWB. Thank you, Mission Without Borders, for taking care of our tomorrow!"

Ergys is one of many young people and family breadwinners who have benefitted from participating in a Vocational Training program. Some have been able to gain employment and others have been able to start their own small business. Other, like Ergys, has been able to continue their studies. There are hundreds more who could benefit from this worthwhile program, which is welcomed by the governments of Eastern Europe.

Vocational Training is one of the best ways to help young people escape the poverty cycle. Staff at Mission Without Borders, in partnership with the staff of the Children's Homes and local churches are highly dedicated and passionate about Vocational Training. United with the same goal, they want to send young people into adulthood with the skills to be independent and self sufficient. To this end the vocational skills training is intertwined with other necessary skills. These include training in social aptness, applying for a job, relationship skills, manners, hygiene and cooking as



Beekeeping

well as a reassurance that they are not alone but can rely on a loving Heavenly Father and a church family to be there for them.

In Romania, the boys who are enrolled in one carpentry class, live-in with a loving and caring couple for the duration of their course. They not only receive instruction in the theory and practice of carpentry, but they are well fed and nurtured during their eight month stay. At the end of their course each lad is given his certificate and the tools of his trade – a full carpentry kit - so that he leaves ready and able to start work doing household repairs and building furniture.

Directors of the Homes are unable to adequately feed, clothe and care for the young people in their care without our help. They worry about the future of the young people in their care. Already, we have Vocational Training programs running in all six field countries: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. We offer courses in agriculture, beekeeping, boot making, car mechanics, carpentry, computing, cooking, English, hairdressing and sewing.

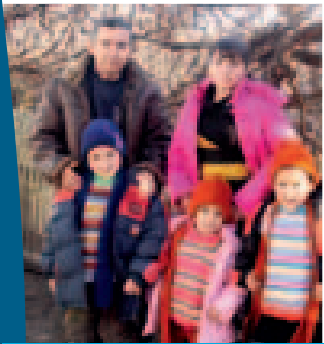
Such skills as boot making and beekeeping may sound quaint to us in our industrialised world but all our courses are chosen because of their potential to provide young people, men

and women, with marketable skills in their own community. All courses offer nationally recognised certificates and qualifications.

The Vocational Training program has great potential to change many more lives. There is much scope for expansion. Together we can make their dreams of a future free of poverty come true. Helping us to "take care of their tomorrow" is a truly worthwhile and rewarding investment. Your gift today will ensure these projects continue with the resources they need and if you would like to join our Vocational Pledge Program and contribute on an ongoing basis, we will keep you up to date with courses that have changed lives.

Hairdressing courses are popular





Ready to brave the weather



GIFT IN KIND

including 'Operation Cover-Up'

2008 was a wonderful year for the 'Gift in Kind' - 'Operation Cover-Up' area of our ministry!

We had thousands creating an amazing array of beautifully knitted and crocheted blankets, jumpers, scarves, beanies, bed socks and knitted teddy bears (under the banner of 'Operation Cover-Up' – covering up the poor with beautiful hand knitted/crocheted items)! This was combined with a huge quantity of great quality material for the Vocational Training Sewing Classes in the Children's Homes as well as for the poor families and elderly who want to be able to create items for themselves and their families but never have the money for the materials. We also sent reconditioned sewing machines, great new clothing, shoes and hygiene items in huge quantities from companies.

We were recipients of great blessing from CMI Aid who donated two whole containers for our GIK ministry (the majority was beautifully hand-knitted items) and as the year drew to a close, Matthew Hiller from CMI Aid decided to close down the aid side of their ministry. **We have therefore welcomed a large number of supporters from CMI who are still keen to contribute practically to ease the suffering of the poor in Eastern Europe. Welcome everyone!**

Sheryl Rumball, who was one of the pioneers and driving forces of this area of our ministry, as it has grown substantially over the last few years, has decided to scale down her involvement in this area of our ministry. She will still come on a weekly basis to pack for us, but is handing over the baton to David to coordinate it Australia-wide. We are so thankful for all her efforts –thank you Sheryl!

David Turner who began as MWB's Bookkeeper in April 2008, has now taken over the role of Mission Without Border's Australia-wide GIK Coordinator. He is excited about our new warehouse and the way this area of our ministry is developing. He is more than happy to answer your questions about this area of our ministry and looks forward to you popping in if you are able to visit us and volunteer. David is also studying at University, so is working part-time (as a mature-age student), but comes with a lifetime's great business experience and is proving to be a great blessing.

The support of our ministry continued to grow in Victoria – see Jenny Grainger's report on the next page for the wonderful update!

Many have asked whether we will ever reach the end of the need – could we ever receive too many knitted items – the answer is, the need is massive and in some ways we are just scratching the surface! We have thousands who still go to bed VERY cold and also do not have sufficiently warm clothing and bedding to protect themselves from the freezing temperatures that grip Eastern Europe more than half a year. Australia is getting a wonderful reputation for producing such beautiful knitwear and blankets, our field countries love what they are able to distribute! They keep the children, families and elderly warm, but also show the poorest of the poor that someone somewhere on the other side of the world (a boggling thought to the poor who have often never ventured outside their local village) has taken the time, resources, love and care to create something beautiful – a tremendous blessing!

So keep them coming! With more than 200 Children's Homes and thousands of families and elderly in constant need, if you are willing and able, keep it up – it will always be useful and appreciated!

What we need in our new Office/ Warehouse in Sydney (Auburn)

We have had a wonderful group of volunteers come and pack for us, and they will come when they can, but this area of our ministry has experienced such growth, we need your help. If you are able to come to Auburn in Central Sydney and help, be that regularly, occasionally or even just as a once off, we can always use your help. We have the following jobs that need volunteer involvement:

10 Stubbs St Auburn

- During school terms the donations of knitted items, material and company donations are packed.
- We need help in our new warehouse. We need a volunteer/ volunteers who would like to help us organise our new warehouse. We will have pallet racking, a forklift and require great organisation of all our company and individual donations to ensure it can be sent promptly and with accurate documentation for customs – these volunteers will be given direction and require muscle.
- If you are handy with a needle and thread, we often have squares sent in that need sewing into blankets. We would love to have you come, enjoy the fellowship and sew them together while others are packing and sorting the donated items.
- Once we are organised, we hope to organise some knitting days for ladies (and men) who would like some fellowship as they knit for our ministry. We will keep you posted.

Birch Ave Dandenong North



OPERATION COVER-UP Victoria

For a number of months I was collecting all the beautiful knitwear which our many supporters were producing and storing it at my home. The spare room was full and the boxes spilled out into the hall way and into every other spare space we could find.

You can imagine our relief when we obtained a special space where we could store, pack, chat with friends and supporters and share our excitement about being involved with this wonderful work. We moved into 8 Birch Avenue, Dandenong North on 12th September 2008. Since then we have had many visitors. Some have just come for a chat, some have delivered goods and some have helped with sorting, packing and other tasks.

Morag or I are there on Fridays (in school terms) and we are always happy to have you visit; either to give us a hand, drop off goods or just to share a cuppa. If you are interested in coming to see what we do with a group of friends we would love to hear from you. Please call ahead if you would like to make an alternate time to Fridays.

Keep knitting blankets, scarves, beanies and jumpers.

We have issued a challenge for 2009: To knit 1000 jumpers for teenage boys.

We know that this is not possible for everyone but perhaps you know someone else who could knit a bigger size jumper. If so please pass the message on. It would be so good to show 1000 teenage boys that we care.

- We welcome volunteers to join our team at our workshop at 8 Birch Avenue, Dandenong North to help with sorting and packing all the wonderful knitwear which is generously donated for Operation Cover Up. We are usually open on Fridays. (Contact Jenny – details below)
- We would love to hear from people in various areas around Victoria who would be willing to act as a collection point for our knitwear.
- If anyone would be willing to collect goods from people who have no means of transporting them we would love to hear from you.
- We also welcome people to help with sewing squares together to make up blankets.

Call me on 03 9795 6141 or
email: jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net for details of any of the above opportunities.

God bless,
Jenny Grainger



Operation Cover-Up

WHAT IS NEEDED:

With companies in Australia, and internationally, generously providing large quantities of their excess stock, we will be restricting donations to the following list:

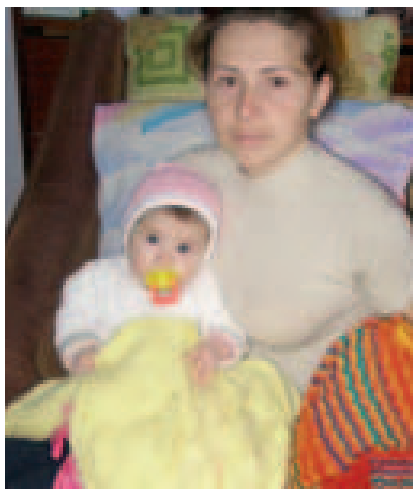
Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items are needed:

- **Blankets – large and small** (large blankets can be knitted by: Size 8 needles, 8-ply yarn, 40 stitch x 80 rows to make 56 squares, for a blanket 1.6m x 1.4m)
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need. Patterns with a crew neck are most appropriate for the climate.
- **Scarves.**
- **Beanies.**
- **Bed socks.**
- **Knitted teddy bears.**
- **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) if you would like some guidance and ideas.
- **Patchwork quilts.**

All items for sewing, embroidery, knitting and craft activities - material, wool, needles etc. (for the Vocational Training courses as well as for the poor families and elderly who would love to sew or knit for themselves, but cannot afford the materials).

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW PLEASE – (CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WE MUST ADHERE TO)

Our website and office (www.mwb.org.au) (02) 9647 2022 or email: australia@mwb.org), can always assist you with information about collection points, deadlines, and what is needed.



COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS



This huge country of ours presents some big challenges of how to get your wonderful hand-knitted items to us in Sydney or our 'Workshop' in Melbourne. We have the most up to date list of collection points in our office (it changes daily) so please contact us and we will try our best to offer you a great solution. Otherwise contact the nearest Coordinator/Collection Point below. If you are able to act as a Collection Point, please contact us – we would love your help!

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

10 Stubbs St, AUBURN NSW
PO BOX 7533
SILVERWATER NSW 1811

Phone: (02) 9647 2022
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:

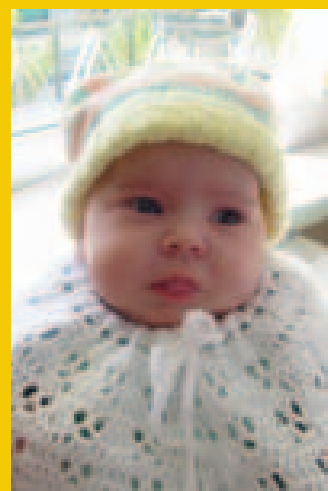
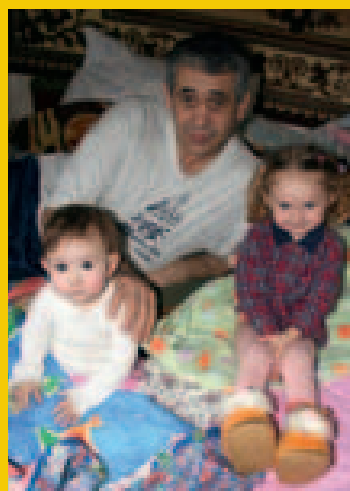
33 Ina Close
CRAIGMORE SA 5114

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

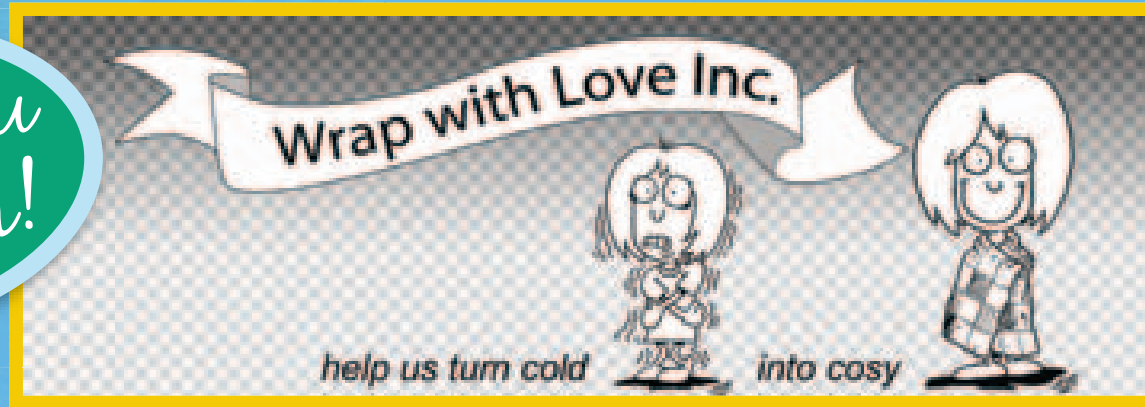


THANK YOU

We are thankful for the groups, right around Australia, who have taken the time, love and care to knit for us!

Special thanks goes to 'Wrapped with Love Inc' - they have donated thousands of wraps (blankets) for the children and families in need.

thank you
so much!



'GIFT IN KIND' COMPANIES



'Gift in Kind' donations form an important part of how we meet the tremendous need in Eastern Europe. With Mission Without Borders

internationally shipping 240+ truckloads of aid into our six field countries in 2008, 'Gift in Kind' has become a strategic area of our ministry blessing thousands of children, families and the elderly in Eastern Europe. We want to provide high quality products that will last. Cheap imports do not survive the harsh conditions of Eastern Europe, and that is why we need your help! Our field countries have a designated list of items most needed and therefore if your company has excess stock they would like to donate, please contact us. **David Turner, our GIK Coordinator (02 9647 2022 or email: dturner@mwbi.org) will be happy to discuss any offers with you.**

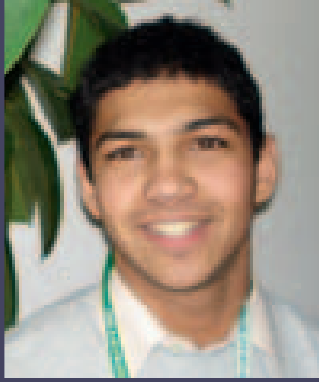
Last year companies generously donated: Material for dressmaking and sewing— which will supply the Vocational Training projects in the Children's Homes as well as the families and elderly who can never afford the materials, reconditioned sewing machines, shoes and hygiene items in huge quantities.

Paul Hartmann P/L produces superior quality hygiene and medical items, so when they decided to donate more than one whole 40-foot container of incontinence pads and pants, this extraordinary blessing left our field countries over the moon! With thousands of children in Children's Homes with disabilities, and thousands more family members and the elderly with incontinence problems, a container load of pads normally costing \$1.50 each goes a long way towards helping the disadvantaged world-wide.

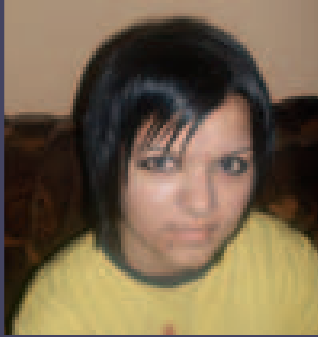


We would be grateful to have your company's support. We can promise the following:

- At no time will your goods be sold in Australia or Eastern Europe.
- Our containers are packed with volunteers.
- All our aid reaches the children and families who rely on our support.
- We have dedicated workers in Eastern Europe and Internationally with 'Mission Without Borders' who watch our aid every step of the way.
- If you are interested, we can promise to report back to you with pictures of where and to whom your goods benefited.
- We will endeavour to clear your excess stock quickly.
- Finally, we would be more than happy to publicly promote your organisation as being generous to a good cause.



Alexandru has changed



Oana has a positive outlook on life & Jesus as her guide

OPTIMISM AND TRUST IN GOD

the Main ingredients for a Successful Future

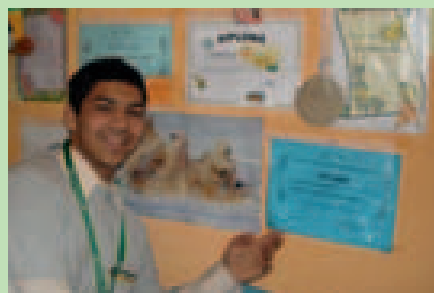
The children of Eastern Europe need hope and a future. Whether they reside in the close to 200 Children's Homes we work with in Moldova, Romania or Ukraine in our Child Rescue International Child Sponsorship Program or reside in a Child Recovery Home for children with special needs, they crave love, emotional support and a Heavenly Father. Changes are afoot and many Homes in Romania and now also Moldova will be closed. Children will be moved around, some to smaller Familial-type homes for 20-30 children, while others will be sent home to relatives who often do not have the resources or desire to care for them. For those that stay in Children's Homes, large or small, we are committed to meeting all their needs, through our S.E.E.M. model – annually setting and meeting their Spiritual, Emotional, Educational and Material needs.

Spiritual and Emotional support activities are vital elements of our support. With a little bit of courage and a helping hand, the children from Children's Homes can overcome their frustrations and develop positive relationships with members of society, milestones many would consider impossible. The Emotional Support activities developed by MWB represent not only the children's favorite activities, but have proven very successful. For children deprived of parental love and affection, it is very important to find an adult in whom they can place their trust and who is always ready to offer advice or encouragement every time they are in trouble.

School (Economics focused) in Craiova, one of the most prestigious educational institutions. Oana is a model of courage and perseverance to all her classmates. She is a girl who prefers to smile and not to be sad because she considers that happiness is the sum of our actions and beliefs. Every week, Oana and her colleagues receive visits from MWB staff. She enjoys these meetings a lot because she understands that without God she is unable to succeed by herself. She was very happy when she received a Bible and starting reading it with great interest. Oana now attends the Baptist Church where she is a member of the choir, the perfect avenue for her to explore her new passion, Christian music!

way for him to succeed in life. Alexandru is enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) and is so excited, as he learns more about his Heavenly Father. He loves being able to correspond with a friend through the BCC and is always open to their counsel and advice. Now, he is a member of the local church and relishes being part of his new church family.

Oana and Alexandru are only two of the youths (among many thousands) enrolled in MWB's programs that have experienced how beneficial the Emotional Support classes are. They both know that their lives depend on the choices they make at this age and they can't afford to be wrong. With their new found strong relationships with the Lord and MWB staff and local church volunteers committed to their care and Christian guidance, their futures are looking so much brighter!



Alexandru with his BCC diplomas

Sixteen year old Oana is a young girl who lives in a Familial Type Home in Romania. Her mother died when she was two, and her father took her to the Children's Home in Craiova because he realised he could not care for her alone. Oana is a strong motivated young girl who has understood that a good education is her only chance for a good future. She is in 9th grade High

Sixteen year old Alexandru Covaciu is another youth who has succeeded in life despite all the obstacles life has thrown at him. He grew up in a Children's Home because his mother died when he was little and even though his father lives locally, he has never visited or shown any interest in his son. The Emotional Support lessons presented by our ES Coordinator Emilia are very much appreciated by Alexandru. He actively participates in all meetings, tries to put into practice all he has learnt and shows great compassion toward those struggling with behavioural problems. Alexandru understands that the presence of God in his life represents a very precious thing. He knows that trusting in His Word and talking with Him on a daily basis through prayer, is the best

Please would you consider supporting this wonderful ministry? Children in Children's Homes still require sponsorship and aside from this our ongoing spiritual and emotional support ministry will continue for many years to come and requires your financial support. Working in close partnership with local churches, the children soon find spiritual homes and we want to support these local congregations as they reach the local children for Christ.



Children who need someone to believe in them

CRI IN COMMUNITIES

Our Child Rescue International (CRI) – Child Sponsorship Program has, through the past 15 years, proven to be an efficient way of extending mercy, compassion and the Good News to the abandoned children of Eastern Europe. The program so far had its focus on children residing in state-run Children’s Homes. Currently we have 11,700 children sponsored through the CRI program in the three (3) CRI countries of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, as well as 3,000 sponsored with our Child Recovery Homes (predominantly for children with special needs).

However, changes are happening and Mission Without Borders wants to adapt to these changes and ensure we are reaching as many children as we can with the Good News of Jesus, as well as meet their critical emotional, physical and educational needs. Mission Without Borders Romania is currently exiting the CRI program in State-run Children’s Homes as the government changes policy, closing down many Children’s Homes, and Moldova is beginning to tread the same path. Ukraine unfortunately continues to have a growing number of children in Children’s Homes, with more than 100,000 country-wide.

With policy changes, does this mean children are no longer in need? On the contrary, children continue to be in great need.

A new challenge has appeared with respect to children: **abandoned children living in communities**, with one or both parents abandoning their children to work elsewhere, often abroad. Hence, we are now introducing a new dimension to our CRI program: **CRI in Communities**.

We will begin this program in Moldova, where the problem is at epidemic levels. There are currently 12,000 children in State-run Children’s Homes. However, there are estimated to be 40,000 children where one parent has left to work elsewhere and most tragically 30,000 are currently living without both parents. There are no government structures to support these children; they are simply abandoned, left to fend for themselves...

The **CRI in Communities program** will have the same key elements as the CRI in Institutions:

- **Health and Nutrition:** Dental check-ups, medical check-ups, hygiene items, optometrist check-ups and glasses, as well as new clothing and shoes will be provided.
- **Christian Ministry:** In close cooperation with local churches and their volunteers, a clear plan for sharing the Gospel will be implemented. This will be done through songs, Bible stories and discussions. Each child will be given a suitable Bible and Christian literature.

- **Emotional Support:** Counselling will be central, a monthly celebration party for all children having their birthdays, Christmas and Easter parties will express the core Truths relating to Christmas and Easter, as well as provide a great chance for fun and celebration!
- **Bible Correspondence Course (BCC):** A suitable Bible Correspondence Course will be offered, according to their needs and interest.
- **Urgent Needs:** A child may have a specific, individual need of urgency. We will do our best to meet those needs with the resources available. A concrete need, like school supplies, is vital for every child. Without them, they are not allowed to attend school.

CRI in Communities will be implemented by the local church and overseen by a MWB Coordinator.



Abandoned children need families

How can you be involved? You will be able to sponsor a child in the same way you have been able to sponsor a child in a Children's Home. We will provide for the needs of your child and those enrolled in their Community Centre. You will be able to correspond with them, encouraging them as they grow and will also be able to send gifts if you wish.

Where are the children located, and what are their living conditions?

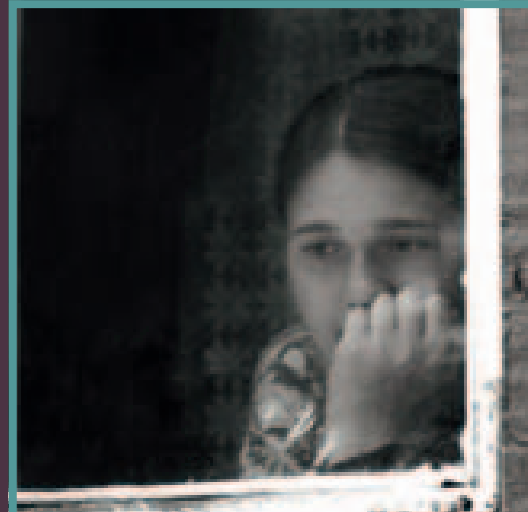
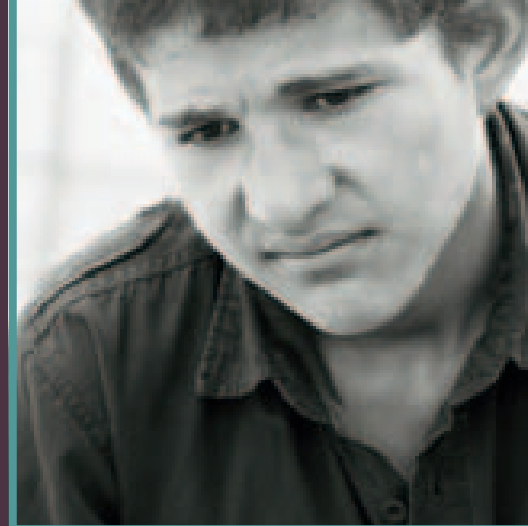
Colibasi is one of seven locations where CRI in Communities has begun. It is located in Southern Moldova, in a small village located close to Cahul. There is no water supply or sewerage system; water comes from local wells. 50% lack water suitable for drinking, 75% of families do not have a bathroom, but use primitive methods for their personal hygiene. There is a gas supply to the village but most cannot afford to connect to it. They rely on wood for heating and cooking and some manage to afford gas bottles for cooking. The majority of people earn their living by working in agriculture (lots of them have greenhouses), breeding animals, beekeeping, or working at the factory in Cahul town. 50% of the habitants attend the Baptist Church, 35% are affiliated to Orthodox Church and 20% go to Adventist Church. As you can imagine, abandoned children living in these communities are even worse off as many are trying to survive with next to no income.

The Baptist Church works in partnership with MWB. A Community Centre currently operates in the Baptist church building.

37 poor and socially vulnerable families are already enrolled in the MWB F2F Program, and we have 50 vulnerable children identified as most in need in this community, we just need to find sponsors...

Please would you consider supporting this new endeavour? The children need our help! How soul destroying to be abandoned, left to fend for yourself, in a remote village. Without the basics for survival, life would be miserable. It is wonderful to see the great working relationship with local churches in each of these communities. As you partner with us to meet the Spiritual, Emotional, Educational and Material (MWB's S.E.E.M. framework of assistance) needs of these vulnerable children, they will be immediately grafted into the local church – their new family. How wonderful for them to finally have a place to belong!

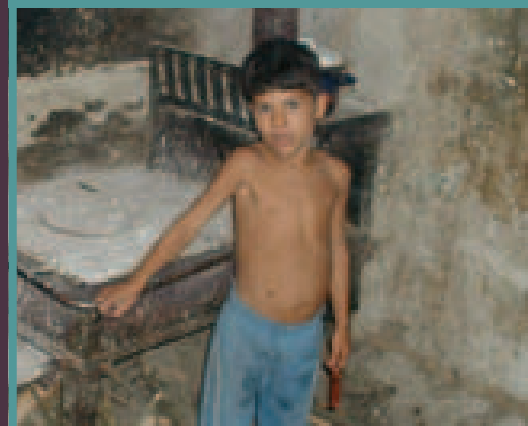
If you would like to sponsor one of these children please contact us, visit our website or fill out the coupon on the back page of this magazine.



Help us show them God cares



Please give them hope



OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE

the Love of God in a Box

"This Operation Christmas Parcel means more than you will ever know"

Ermira Ibra of Albania has three children. Recently enrolled in Mission Without Border's Family-to-Family program, they have just benefited from Operation Christmas Love for the first time. We visited this family on Christmas Eve to learn a little more about the family.

Greetings Ermira! Christmas and New Year are approaching. What do you expect from the coming year?

Ermina: "Food for my kids and a better house. (She spoke lost in thoughts). Just today, Arben, my husband and I tried to decorate our tiny house with a few balloons to try and bring the atmosphere of Christmas to our kids. Arben is out because he is looking for any kind of work to bring home some money for our family. If he doesn't find some soon, he may escape abroad to Greece. We are living under very poor conditions and in incredible need, with limited income that runs out before the end of the month. I pray to God that nothing bad happens to him in this severe winter. I am afraid because many Albanians, who tried to escape to Greece through the mountains in winter, have not survived, but have died from cold. What can we do? We have to struggle to survive".

Tell us something about your family.

Ermina: "There are five in our family: my husband, me and our three children. We are both unemployed. I stay at home, minding my three little kids as they need to be shown so much care and attention, while Arben keeps searching for a job, but always in vain. There are many able-bodied adults like him who spend their days roaming the streets, looking for some form of work, even though the financial reward is shrinking by the day. A casual day's work earns him \$8, which is not enough for us to make ends meet. I send my oldest son Armand to a State-owned kindergarten because it is impossible for me to keep the three at home. My twin girls are sick and when Armand comes home in the afternoon, he at 4, wants to play with them, but often does more harm than good. Our sole income is a pension offered by the state for the sick twins but this runs out so quickly. We receive \$150/month which mostly goes on buying food for the entire family, not simply for the girls. Our home badly needs repairing. The roof leaks, which means we are greeted by both the rain and snow, and we don't have sufficient furniture in our humble home".



OCL arrives for the first time in the Ibra family

What do the twin girls suffer from?

Ermina: "Suada and Sueda are two years old and can't walk yet. They are affected by a hereditary disease, 'Osteogenesis Imperfecta'. According to the doctors, it is an incurable disease. The form of the disease that has affected the twins will lead to multiple fractures, especially of their legs and arms, in the coming years. Another symptom of the disease is a severe weakness of all muscles and ligaments. We have been prescribed a treatment from the doctors, which should reduce the risk of fractures. Despite this promise, fractures are a part of their lives. Their poor health has me so worried, I often suffer from migraines. We have even made an

The OCL parcel brings joy to this Mum and her children



Two year old twin girls Suada and Suada





The Ibra Family



A sample OCL parcel



OCL parcel brings joy

appeal for help to the Prime Minister of Albania because we are overwhelmed by poverty, our lives are a daily struggle and it is impossible to provide the basic care our children need.

In such a cold winter, with no income and my husband still unable to find any type of work, we are at the end of our rope and truly didn't even think of celebrating Christmas because it is one more day of struggle. But God blessed us through you, especially at this year's end by offering us comfort and Christmas cheer with your unexpected gift of love, which truly made an impact on our lives this winter. That means more to us than you will ever know.

It is wonderful to receive a gift -food for Christmas and New Year- (she spoke in a voice shaking with emotion.) Thanks to you, we have Christmas in our home in spite of our difficult circumstances. Now we can actually enjoy Christmas. Thank you so much for your kindness. You made us celebrate this blessed holiday, which without your love and support, would not be so special. You are a real blessing for me and my family.

I received this Operation Christmas Love parcel as a blessing from God. Having received good food, I can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that there is proper food to eat and knowing that there are people out there that really care about us. With all my heart I thank these kind people who have contributed to this beautiful and much-needed gift. Thank you wholeheartedly for making this Christmas special for us. Now that we have food on the table we will celebrate Christmas! We offer thousands of thanks to you, like these red hearts on the parcel. Merry Christmas!"

This precious family is just one example of what Operation Christmas Love can achieve- it brought not only good basic food items, but peace, comfort, joy, emotional and spiritual support at Christmas time. Most importantly, this family no longer feels like they are abandoned with no one to care for them in their time of great need.


Please would you help us reach to the poor of Eastern Europe at Christmas time through Operation Christmas Love? Parcels of basic food items, plus Christmas goodies and a Bible and Christmas literature are delivered to thousands of families, the elderly and staff of Children's Homes.



OPERATION WINTER RESCUE

“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.”

- Matthew 5:16



Look Mummy now I am warm

In Ukraine, families were delighted to receive warm shoes, blankets, knitted items, blocks of fuel and other assistance from the Operation Winter Rescue (OWR) campaign.

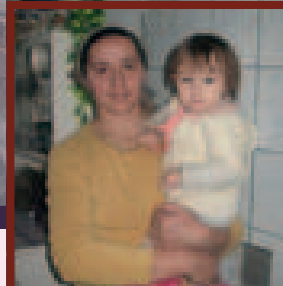
Reading Scripture, we see that our light has to shine forth and when it does, it exposes our good deeds which men see and give praise to our Heavenly Father. We are all created to bring glory to God in all we do. These days, when most people concentrate on themselves and are not interested in taking care of others, God is calling us to perform good deeds towards those who are in need. The smallest act of kindness and every contribution to a good cause can make others happy.

In Australia, this is happening all over the country. People are busy knitting wonderfully warm blankets, jumpers, scarves, beanies, socks and gloves to bless the poor in Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, with wonderful results!

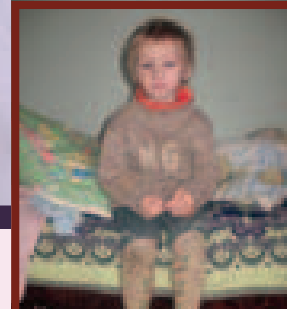
The Operation Winter Rescue (OWR) campaign has been a blessing for many Ukrainian families. The campaign consisted of the distribution of coal, wood for burning, warm jumpers, jackets, blankets, peat blocks and warm shoes. The people were delighted to receive these necessary items!

The Parchomchuk family lives 15km from Sarny, in Nemovychi village (in the area still affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster of 1986). If you enter their house, you will be shocked by the smell. The living conditions are terrible. The family lives in an old house with two rooms that are heated by wood. The outside toilet and lack of a bathroom make the greatest impressions... The father is unemployed, but he occasionally manages to earn a little income for odd-jobs. Nataliya stays home to care for their 6 children. The family benefit they receive goes on food.

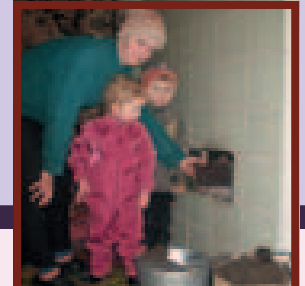
The OWR campaign provided the Parchomchuk family with peat blocks, as these were vital in keeping their humble home warm.



Now Karina will be warm



Little Vitaliy



Now our home will be warm

“We’re very thankful to the people who helped us, says Nataliya, “you can’t even imagine what it means to us. Our family has almost no money to live on. We can’t even buy wood to warm the house, because it’s too expensive. My husband wanted to gather some wood for the winter, but there are no forests near here. Now I’m not as anxious as to how to keep the house warm during this cold period of the year. May God bless you richly for performing such good deeds!” Sergiy the family’s MWB Coordinator always tries to encourage the family, give them advice and help where he can. Most importantly he encourages them in their new faith and exhorts them to read God’s Word.

The OWR campaign also provided many families with warm shoes for their children. The Mychka family received three pairs of shoes for their beautiful children. This poor family with 5 children live in an old, two-room house near Sarny. There is an outside toilet, no bathroom and the house is heated by wood. The whole family sleeps in one bedroom. Even so, Oxana is a caring mother and keeps the house clean. “Winter came and I started to worry about my children. I often pray and ask God to take care of my family. I knew that God would listen and answer my prayers. One day, the answer came through the Operation Winter Rescue campaign. I received three pairs of brand-new warm shoes for my children. However, one pair was too big for the children and I used those shoes myself”, continued Oxana, “I praise God for His help and especially for the people who think about poor families. Now our children have warm feet and I am also able to wear comfortable shoes. I thank God for Mission Without Borders and want to bless people for their kindness. May God bless you richly! I wish you health and wealth. Peace be with you”.

The elderly citizens of Eastern Europe are often forgotten, and in dire need of support. This is never more evident than during the freezing winter...



The elderly need our help



Concrete kindness

The dire need for material, emotional and spiritual support for this category of people is overwhelming. Although Albania is making some roads toward development, the elderly are being completely ignored. Operation Winter Rescue (OWR) is a project that helps restore smiles on their faces that are burdened with the harshness of their long lives. This project made them feel worthwhile. Knowing they are loved and cared for brought such joy to them, as well as gave them one more reason to live.

The elderly feel abandoned by the State, by society and in many cases, by their children who merely throw them away and forget about their existence. They are society's most vulnerable group, most adversely affected by the challenges of a bewildering new world. Too often, elderly people are merely accepted as part of the scenery. Rarely do people and their children remember that they also have emotional, physical and spiritual needs. The high levels of emigration as well as poverty-stricken new families, have forced many elderly to live alone in complete destitution.

The old age pension that the State gives them is so low that it is impossible

Knitted items bring joy and warmth



Inexpressible joy!

for the elderly to survive on their own. They can't afford to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and medications. They often feel cold, desperate and hopeless.

The Operation Winter Rescue project is committed to offering material support to these elderly, such as warm clothing to face the harsh winter, as well as offer them spiritual support through the visits from MWB staff and volunteers. These visits warm their fragile spirits.

Can we count on your support for Operation Winter Rescue this year? Your hand-knitted items are always needed. They keep the poor warm and also show them someone has taken the time to create something with such love and care. Your financial support of Operation Winter Rescue will enable us to purchase fuel for heating as well as good winter boots and clothing. Thanks for helping where you can!

Bless the poor with warmth



Sharing God's love with the poorest of the poor in Eastern Europe!

Can you find it in your heart to sponsor:

■ One of the children in our 'Child Rescue International' Child Sponsorship Program?

- In a State run Children's Home?
- Or in a Community where they are struggling without the support of a family?

■ Sponsor a Children's Home for Children with Special Needs through our Child Recovery Program?

■ Or Sponsor a Family through our Family-to-Family Program?

If you can, please contact us, or fill out the coupon below.

Alternatively, if you visit our website (www.mwb.org.au) you can see children and families waiting now!

Or perhaps you have been inspired and would like to regularly support

■ Vocational Training – through our Vocational Training Pledge Program

■ Or Scholarships through our regular Scholarship Fund Pledge Program

If so, please fill out the coupon below or Contact us for details (02) 9647 2022, australia@mwb.org or www.mwb.org.au

Yes! I would like to support Mission Without Border's Ministry by joining one of the pledge programs:

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A FAMILY THROUGH YOUR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY PROGRAM (\$35/MONTH)

From Albania Bosnia Moldova Romania Ukraine

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD THROUGH YOUR CHILD RESCUE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM (\$40/MONTH)

From Ukraine Moldova Romania Boy Girl
 I am interested in a Child in a Children's Home **or** I am interested in a child living in a CRI Community

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTAKE IN SPONSORING A CHILD RECOVERY HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (\$40/MONTH).

I WOULD LIKE TO REGULARLY SUPPORT YOUR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PLEDGE PROGRAM

for \$ _____ /month **or** contact me with details

I WOULD LIKE TO REGULARLY SUPPORT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND PLEDGE PROGRAM

for \$ _____ /month **or** contact me with details

I ENCLOSE MY FIRST SPONSORSHIP PLEDGE OF \$ _____ /MONTH



CREDIT CARD

Please charge my: Amex Visa MasterCard

Card Number:

Name on Card (Print): _____ Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____