

Bridge of Prayer

Mission Without Borders Australia

November-December 2009

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

DAY 1. AUSTRALIA. Give thanks and praise for every person who has a heart for our ministry! We are continually amazed and thankful for the passion and commitment to our ministry. Knowing you share our heart for the lost and those suffering the effects of poverty and persecution is tremendously encouraging for MWB Australia, but also in our field countries.

DAY 2. Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'. Our Sydney warehouse is full to overflowing – praise the Lord! Pray we have adequate volunteers to organise and pack one more container before the end of the year so the wonderfully warm knitted items reach those that need it most this winter. Give thanks for a wonderful commitment of our Collection Points around Australia. We couldn't do it without them!

DAY 3. Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'. Our workshop in Melbourne's Dandenong is a wonderful hub of activity. Give thanks for Jenny Grainger and Morag Thorne who are overseeing this growing ministry.

DAY 4. 'Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'. Wrap with Love Inc. has been incredibly generous and donated 3,800 wraps so far this year and we hope more are coming! Give thanks for this generosity and for the message of our ministry to touch the hearts and lives of these generous knitters.

DAY 5. SPONSOR TOUR. Give thanks and praise for the wonderful opportunity 12 Australians had to tour our ministries in Moldova and Ukraine. We know their eyes' have been opened, but our field staff have also been tremendously encouraged by their passion and commitment to the Lord and our ministry. Pray as we prepare the Tour to Romania & Albania in April 2010.

DAY 6. OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE (OCL). As we prepare for Christmas, Operation Christmas Love boxes are being packed – 30,000 in all and will be distributed just before Christmas. Pray we can help those most in need.

DAY 7. Family-to-Family (F2F). Give thanks for the wonderful growth we have experienced in the Family-to-Family ministry in Australia! There are unfortunately still many, many families who desperately need our help, support and encouragement. Meeting their comprehensive spiritual, emotional, educational and material needs are a challenge.

DAY 8. OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE. As we deliver the OCL boxes, we clearly present the gospel message. This project is also a wonderful opportunity for us to partner with local churches in their outreach ministry. Pray the Gospel Message is received by many and for safety as they travel icy roads to deliver the boxes.

DAY 9. SUMMER CAMP. The summer camps might seem like distant memories to the children as the weather turns cold, but many came to faith and need continued nurturing. Pray for the coordinators and volunteers from local churches who work with these children- for wisdom, insight and the words to say to these young new believers.

DAY 10. ALBANIA Family-to-Family (F2F). TOCKA. Emirjeta divorced her violent husband 3 years ago and is now thankfully living with her sister's family. The conditions for everyone are miserable – no running water, kitchen or bathroom. Her factory job helps her earn minimum income. Pray she is encouraged and her self-esteem improves. **They need 4 sponsors to meet their needs.**

DAY 11. ALBANIA. Pray for the government to stabilise in Albania, for corruption to lose its grip on their struggling economy and continued good favour for Mission Without Borders.

DAY 12. BOSNIA. F2F. Medin. This poor family's humble home was badly damaged by fire in September. No one was hurt, but the house has sustained significant damage and they have lost many of their possessions. Pray for peace and comfort as they come to terms with this loss and for God's provision to restore their home and replace their possessions.

DAY 13. BOSNIA. OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE. Christmas time is very cold and bleak in Bosnia. For many elderly they have lost all they hold dear – homes and possessions because of the war and their families have long left to find employment elsewhere. We want to bless these elderly this Christmas.

DAY 14. BOSNIA. Bosnia is at the point of economic collapse. As Australia manages to avoid much of the heartache of the financial crisis, Bosnia has borne much of the brunt. Already mortgaged to the max, they cannot repay their debts and have almost no resources for the country to function, let alone meet the growing need of families who have lost jobs and income in the crisis. Pray for our wonderful small team to Bosnia. For wisdom, unity and strength as they meet this need head-on.

DAY 15. F2F. BOSNIA. Lojpur. Tomislav would dearly love to be able to earn a steady income for his family, but must be content with irregular cash jobs when they can be found. Their simple 2 room house is heated by wood. This orthodox family is loving and caring and do not see their poverty as an obstacle in creating a loving home. Pray they will come to a saving faith. **They need 4 sponsors to meet their needs and encourage them.**

DAY 16. BULGARIA. Community Centres. Our 10 Centres in partnership with local churches in Bulgaria are a tremendous witness to the community, where many still see evangelical Christianity as a cult. Pray for protection for all pastors, congregations and volunteers in these centres. They serve a vital practical need, but are often persecuted for their faith.

DAY 17. Child Rescue International (CRI) and Operation Christmas Love. The staff of Children's Homes receive a pittance for caring for these children. Many give up what little they earn to supplement the food for the children. Pray as we deliver OCL Boxes to them this year, their hearts will also be open to the Gospel.

DAY 18. MOLDOVA. F2F. Racu. Igor and Vera are struggling to raise their 3 young children while sharing a small home with Igor's parents – that uses wood for heating, has no bathroom and an outside toilet. **They would like to start a mini- pig farm to supply food for their family and their village and require 4 sponsors to meet their comprehensive needs.**

DAY 19. ROMANIA. The Romanian government collapsed at the beginning of October. A severe economic recession has plunged the country into chaos and as always the poor will suffer the most. Pray we have the resources to meet the growing need, for political stability and good and fair elections.

DAY 20. ROMANIA. F2F. Surdu. Vasile is battling secondary cancer and Adriana is working hard as a cleaner to support the family. The older children are out working, but this family is struggling with extreme poverty. Regardless of their struggles, give thanks that their faith in God is solid. **They need 4 sponsors to meet their needs and encourage them. -**

DAY 27. UKRAINE. F2F. Koldun. This Christian family continue to endure crippling poverty and ill health. The Sarny region they live in has struggled greatly with the financial crisis. **The family have an urgent need of a refridgerator (\$435 is outstanding).**

DAY 22. UKRAINE CRI. Vadym (7) is cheerful, intelligent and wants to be a policeman when he grows up- because they are strong and drive great cars! Vadym studies in the Children's Home because his parents are extremely poor. **Vadym needs a sponsor to meet his needs and encourage him to reach for his dreams.**

DAY 23. UKRAINE. Vitaliy (6) has poor hearing and is in preschool where he is receiving special education. He wants to be a fireman when he grows up. **Would you be able to meet his needs and encourage him?**

DAY 24. CHILD RESCUE INTERNATIONAL and CHILD RECOVERY HOMES in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. Lives for the children in the 200 Children's Homes we work with are particularly harsh as the cold weather takes hold. Please help us to make wise decisions in distributing our finite resources as temperatures plummet. With Eastern European economies in dire straits because of the financial crisis, the children are likely to miss out on vital resources this winter, unless we help.

DAY 25. UKRAINE. CRI. Nastya (9) has poor eyesight and scoliosis. Her family is very poor and she is educated and cared for in the Children's Home during the day. **She requires a sponsor to meet her practical needs, but would love to be encouraged. Contact us if you think you could be this encourager!**

DAY 26. UKRAINE. CRI. Iryna (7) lives with her family at night but studies and is cared for during the day by the Children's Home because her family is extremely poor. She loves maths, wants to become an artist and would love to be encouraged by a sponsor. **Do you think you could meet Iryna's needs and encourager her?**

DAY 27. UKRAINE. F2F. Il'ina. Give thanks and praise for the unswerving faith of Svitlana (story in November Focus News). Pray for God's provision of their needs and encouragement as she battles on to support her young family. Give thanks for the 'light on the hill' she is to her neighbours.

DAY 28. F2F. UKRAINE. KOVAL'CHUK. Olena is struggling to raise her 3 young children alone after the death of her husband a year ago. Tragically, she lost her one year old son just one month later. Please pray for her in her grief and for our Coordinator as he ministers to her. **They need 4 sponsors to meet their comprehensive needs and encourage them.**

DAY 29. MWB International. Give thanks and praise for God's protection of our ministry as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2010. Humble beginnings as Underground Evangelism has now expanded to comprehensively supporting 200 Children's Homes, thousands of families and the elderly spiritually, emotionally, educationally and materially –praise God!

DAY 30. MWB. International leadership. We continue to face challenging times internationally. Pray for wisdom as our leadership manages our ministries in times of unprecedented need, with reduced financial and practical resources.

DAY 31. MWB. Field Countries. As winter closes in on our field countries, please pray for wisdom as our field staff make decisions about the distribution of our finite resources of food, clothing, footwear, firewood, coal and medicines to the thousands who will not survive the winter without it.

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This prayer letter is available online at www.mwb.org.au