



mission without borders, Australia

Dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,

As the year draws to a close may I honestly share, on behalf of our staff and volunteers in Australia as well as the staff and volunteers in our field countries how moved we are by your compassion and commitment to the poor we serve and our vital ministry in Eastern Europe. 2009 has seen us weather a Global Financial Crisis and come out the other side. AH1N1/Swine Flu swept through Australia earlier in the year and is now battering Europe in a big way as their weather grows colder by the day. Despite these tremendous challenges, we are so thankful for how the message of our ministry is spreading around Australia and more and more are getting involved and supporting us prayerfully, financially and practically! Thank you for your support!

I have loved getting to know more of you and let me say that often I meet people, pearls in God's Crown, humble servants who have a passion for the Lord, have humility, but sense they do not have many more years to live on this earth and feel they are past it in terms of contributing to the Lord's work. Never feel this way! Our field countries are so humbled by the commitment of our faithful supporters in our affiliate countries, whether that is in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom or the United States. They need our prayer support, love the beautiful practical contributions of knitted and created items, and rely on the financial contributions, be that small or larger for the functioning of our ministry.



As we prepare to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2010 we are so thankful for God's protection of our ministry from our humble beginnings as 'Underground Evangelism' to now, 20 years since the fall of communism, the governments of our 6 field countries of Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine rely our support and give our spiritual ministry – the core of our comprehensive ministry- complete freedom! We have so much to thank God for!

And yet for the final time this year I am making a plea on behalf of our field countries... As summer in Australia gallops on, we contemplate some beach or pool time and brave the shops for Christmas gifts and food, spare a thought for...

Raisa... the look on her face screams stress, exhaustion and brokenness...

Ten year old David has a significant intellectual disability and is incontinent. He is often aggressive and violent. His bruised forehead marks the injury he sustained when he broke the door with his head. Raisa struggles to raise David, and their four other sons, including one year old Andrew. The four oldest sons sleep in one room with no door. Baby Andrew sleeps with his parents in the other room that also serves as a kitchen, dining, laundry and boiler room.

Arsen works extremely hard to support his wife and five sons. His work and salary as a security guard have been sporadic at best during the financial crisis. 'When' he receives the salary for his efforts, it is only ever enough to pay the gas

and electricity bills. "We are terrified they will turn our electricity and gas off during the harsh winter as they did to our neighbours..."

In addition to Arsen's income of \$75/month they also receive a small amount of social assistance from the Ukrainian government. One big praise point is that one year ago they spent most of this money on incontinence products for 10 year old David. But now thanks to the 'Gift In Kind' containers of aid from Australia – which included thousands of incontinence pads and pants from a wonderful company 'Paul Hartmanns', the Kazaryans received a good supply for David, in turn blessing the whole family!

According to Raisa, they now have 2 big needs:

- They desperately want to change their old and rotten windows. If you stand beside the window, you can feel the wind whistle through... making it impossible to keep in the heat they are paying for.
- They desperately need warm clothes and footwear. "If David can do without warm clothing and shoes because I care for him at home, then my other 4 sons need them badly," shared Mrs Kazaryan.



Partnerships blessing the downtrodden...

It is easy for the poor of Eastern Europe to be pessimistic about the year ahead due to uncertainty about the future, the economic crisis and moral corruption. In these circumstances, the doors of Mission Without Borders and our partnering churches in all six field countries continue to be open to anyone affected by these difficulties. The emotionally wounded, depressed, marginalised, burdened, fallen or bewildered can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, freedom, support, encouragement and guidance.

Our partnership with local churches gives them the resources to fulfil the Great Commission in their communities as well as the respect of the wider community, a vital element for all partnership churches and even more so for those evangelical churches who are still striving to break the mindset that evangelical churches are cults and not to be trusted.

The Baptist Church of Pelinei village organised an outreach last winter. A few church members visited their

neighbours and invited them to church. Some of them, being moved by the Holy Spirit, accepted the invitation and came to church. They quietly took delight in listening to the preacher and the worship. They prayed together with some of the church members and were encouraged to entrust their burdened lives into God's hands. The sermon was wonderful and slowly the frowns of the downtrodden softened as the Gospel Message touched their hearts...

The humble church did not have any material support to offer the poor who attended the service that evening. However, Mission Without Borders made a great impact on their lives by offering 'Operation Winter Rescue' items. After hearing the Good News, they were amazed to receive a sack of warm clothing, blankets and batteries. Although the service took place in the depths of the Moldovan winter, they were dressed in thin, inadequate clothing. A total of 50 people received Operation Winter Rescue items that evening. All the beneficiaries were surprised and speechless when the church's pastor shook hands with them and gave them the friendly greeting, "May God bless you, brother", as he handed them the sacks of Operation Winter Rescue clothing and blankets. All those present were dumbstruck, had tears in eyes and expressed words of gratitude to all those who had offered them this support.

Tatiana Bogdan (25) is a young mother of four children. They live in Tatiana's grandparent's old, dilapidated house.

"I am happy that I heard that I am important in God's eyes this evening at church. I felt that He spoke to my dark and desolate heart. I understood that He wants me to trust Him. I recognise that when we had problems, I often blamed God for the situations we faced, but I realised today that He cannot stand our sinful nature. He wants us to be close to Him and have a loving relationship with Him. At home we have many needs. We often lose hope and become distressed. For example, we had some sheep until this autumn and these provided us with hope. However this summer due to the drought we could not gather any food to feed them during the winter. With sadness in our hearts, we had to sell some of them. We also faced a lack of warm clothing. I repaired our old clothes and we have been wearing these thread-bare clothes again this winter. I am very grateful to God for sending Mission Without Borders to our village. Your support will help us hold our heads up high," expressed Tatiana.

Mrs. Ana Turcenco is 57 and has to take care of her three grandchildren. Her daughter, who is the mother of these children, is divorced from her first husband, who mistreated her. She has gone to Israel to work and support her children, her sick mother and paralysed father. Ana is unemployed. Although she worked hard for many years, she is not able to receive a pension despite suffering poor health. "I did not think I would live through such hard times. I have no land, no job and receive no benefits, although both my husband and I are ill. I always hide my bitter tears and sadness from my grandchildren. I cry because I feel pity for them. I want to thank Mission Without Borders for the amazing support we received from this campaign. I want to thank God for allowing us to come to church and soothing our hearts



and souls with His promises," Ana said while weeping and experiencing difficulties breathing.

Your support in previous years has helped cheer up and keep thousands of children in Children's Homes as well as thousands of families and the elderly warm – thank you so much! We want to help families like the Kazaryans this year, but need your help! In January 2010 we want to deliver warm clothing, blankets, shoes and fuel for heating in all 6 field countries. There is no doubt that there is going to be a huge need this year with the Global Financial Crisis affecting so many. We know that this project will not only keep thousands warm but it will also be an opportunity to give the encouragement, emotional and spiritual support they crave. We look forward to delivering your wonderful knitted items, but we also need the finances to purchase good winter clothing, boots and fuel for heating homes, please help where you can this year!



AH1N1/Swine Flu Virus Update

As Australia begins to swelter in our long summer months, talk about Swine Flu barely rates a mention in the media. And yet as we speak right across Europe it is gaining momentum and our field countries are currently experiencing varying rates of infection – from mild to full scale epidemics... When the poor do not have adequate housing, heating, sanitation, hygienic living conditions, clothing, shoes and nutrition viruses such as AH1N1/swine flu virus race through institutions and the communities in which the poor dwell. The following gives a brief update. We would appreciate your prayers at this time. So much of our ministry in Eastern Europe takes place in December/January and may have to be restricted if the epidemics continue...

As at mid-November (as we went to print) we have received the following updates. Please go to our website for current updates (www.mwb.org.au):

UKRAINE: The A/H1N1 Swine Flu epidemic in Ukraine continues to deepen and broaden right across the country. After 4 days of quarantine across the country, the death toll continued to increase. Quarantine has been declared for 3 weeks in all the educational establishments of Ukraine. It is forbidden to move from one region to another region of Western Ukraine. This presents tremendous difficulties to our activities in the Children Homes.

MOLDOVA: As the rate of infection of the A/H1N1 Swine Flu continues to climb, all educational institutions have been closed for one week in the hope of stemming the spread of the disease.

BULGARIA: 2% of the population has swine flu and consequently an epidemic has been declared. All students in schools, universities and Children's Homes have been ordered to take one week vacation to try and stem the rate of infection. Hospitals and prisons are in lock down and all visits are forbidden.

ROMANIA: People wearing masks are a common sight in Romania, and although they have a growing number of cases, they are able to cope with all Flu cases in hospitals and are working hard at producing a vaccine for all children. Please pray particularly for the rural areas and Children's Homes where poverty and a lack of resources leave many with substandard housing and hygiene.

ALBANIA and BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Thankfully Swine Flu has not had a big impact on Bosnia and Albania so far. But with infected countries not far away, it will not take much for the virus to spread.

Please pray for protection for all staff and volunteers of Mission Without Borders. Our ministry and support of Children's Homes, families and the elderly is vital in the harsh winter months but we will be forced to pare down this ministry if quarantines and restrictions remain in place. Thanks for praying!

FOR YOUR DIARY

SYDNEY:

Take note our office in Sydney will be closed from December 24 and reopen on January 13 – thanks so much for your support!

MELBOURNE:

The last open day of our 'Workshop' in Dandenong, Melbourne will be Friday December 11 and the first day back will be Friday 5th February.

SPONSOR TOUR

Albania and Romania leaving Sydney April 11 and returning April 27.

If you are interested in joining us for a time of great fellowship, learning about our ministry and visiting your sponsored children and families, please contact us! **We need firm bookings by February 15.** The Tour's final cost will be worked out once the group's number is confirmed, but will be between \$5000-7,000 per person.



'Gift in Kind - Operation Cover-Up' Update

As the year draws to a close, we have so much to thank God for – our Operation Cover-Up Ministry of collecting, packing and sending knitted and created items from individuals and excess stock from companies has gone from strength to strength! 8 containers will leave our shores before year's end and our warehouse in Sydney and our Workshop in Melbourne have become hubs of action and blessing – thank you for all your contributions! Packing will cease by mid-December in Sydney and December 11 in Melbourne and not get under way again until early February.



If you have some spare time and would love to assist us in our warehouse in Sydney or with some administrative tasks in our Sydney office from February, please contact us, we have a constant need of volunteers.

What is needed:

With companies 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.**
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need.
- **Scarves, beanies, and 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)

- **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)

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

This huge country of ours presents some challenges of how to get your wonderful hand-knitted items to us in Sydney or our 'Workshop' in Melbourne. Please contact our office for the latest comprehensive list, or contact the nearest collection point listed here.

In His Service,

Michelle Dorey - National Director

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

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