

Cold, Hungry Families need help...

February 2010

# FOCUS news



mission without borders, Australia

## Dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,

2010 heralds the 50th Anniversary of Mission Without Borders! We are so thankful for your support over this time. We very much look forward to sharing with you soon about some exciting Events and Projects planned for 2010. If you would like to assist in planning events throughout Australia in your church, group, town or city, please contact our office on (02) 9647 2022 or email: [australia@mwbi.org](mailto:australia@mwbi.org).

In Australia, we are constantly bombarded with images and tragic stories of the poor whose needs are not met and their rights violated. Do we serve a God who cares? More than 2,000 verses in the Bible speak of God's heart for the poor; what great news! But God implores us, who are comparatively so rich, to be generous to the downtrodden.

As the downtrodden are blessed with practical support, you can hear humble thanks echoing around poor villages...



What a challenge to us in our country of plenty where the 'I need's' are often more accurately classified as 'wants', because our neighbours down the street have the coveted items... Our heart needs to break as God's does. Jesus commands us to feed, clothe and provide for the poor. Many of us know the story of Matthew 25 well

and know Jesus' challenge "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35-36. The challenge to channel our wealth to those we may never meet; faces us in this new decade. The Micah Challenge Millennium Goals are challenging our world to take action and everyone has a role to play.

Gramoz is an invalid but manages to find sporadic work for minimal pay... However, with 4 children to care for, Gramoz and Florina can never provide the basics for their family... All the children have their needs, but Paulin (8) has cerebral palsy and encephalitis. He needs constant care, patience and love. With their youngest child not yet two years old, life is a handful for Florina.

As we swelter under the harsh summer sun, the Eastern European winter continues to blanket the children, families and elderly with extreme cold. Most do not have the luxury of constant

heat, well built dwellings that protect them from the cold and life becomes miserable and oftentimes desperate. When you are struggling to survive the cold, your need for food and hygiene items never wains. Many were able to grow vegetables during the short summer months, but the stocks are now low or non-existent and with snow and frost blanketing the ground, unless parents have a good steady income, their cold families are going to their icy beds hungry. Susceptible to illness because of poor nutrition, families dread winter and often succumb to illnesses they simply do not have the funds to provide medical care for.

How do you show the love of God in this situation? You can knock on doors and say "God loves you and has a plan of salvation for you", but when families are cold, hungry and sick this message is often hollow and falls on rocky ground. This is also not the way the Lord wants us to minister to the poor.



It is close to 20 years since the fall of Communism in Albania. The country continues to enjoy religious freedom and therefore our ministry continues to enjoy freedom to practically help while sharing the Message of God's love and His plan of salvation.

Many families continue to struggle, such as Budije who struggles to raise 6 children alone - never her choice. However, her thankfulness for providing what her family needs to survive is overflowing!

For the Koci family, newly enrolled in our Family-to-Family (F2F) Program, their needs during winter are large and the family's hunger cannot be ignored. The monthly parcels they receive are considered a blessing, a wonderful gift from God. Collecting scrap metal and aluminium cans earns a pittance for his family, but the dedicated husband and father is not shirking his responsibilities and will take any employment he can find. This family of six live in an apartment that consists of a kitchen and one other small room. The children are young and under Mum's feet all day in their tiny home, and their lack of food, hygiene items, clothing and shoes make for overwhelming poverty that leads to despair. Succumbing to alcohol to blot out their struggles is an all too common scenario for the father, but this only enflames the already critical situation...

Every item in the food and hygienic parcels is so useful and welcomed



“

***Lord, we thank you for Your blessings. Whether in plenty or with little, we want to be cheerful receivers because thanks to the generosity of Mission Without Borders and our sponsors, we can now survive...***

***Florina Sulko of Albania.***

”

by all families in our Family-to-Family Program. We are also trying to stretch our resources to feed many families through our Families in Crisis Program, such as those recently affected by widespread flooding in Albania and Bosnia. Every day we are meeting families that we honestly have no idea how they survive. Hygiene supplies that overflow in our Australian homes are never dreamt of in Albania; in fact many of the families we serve have no idea how to use many of the products. Our Pharmacy Projects overseen by doctors, provide preventative and prescription medication for those who cannot afford them.

Kostandin, one of our Family-to-Family Coordinators shares, "When we distribute the parcels, their eyes shine.

Their smiles return. Most of the families are showing interest in the Christian faith because they're feeling Christian care. Some of them are praying and thanking God for the support received; what a wonderful ministry to the poor of our country!"

Have you ever had to tell your children "The cupboards are bare and you must go to bed hungry, go to school

hungry, we cannot afford a warm winter coat and boots for the harsh winter and the medicine the doctor prescribed is simply out of the question...?" Most of us never have and never will. I hate to see my children go without, but this is a rarity. Our children's 'I needs' are usually better classified as 'I wants' and most of us are battling the temptation to give our children more than is healthy for them. Therefore, understanding the families in want becomes a concept hard to quantify and understand. But I know your heart beats with compassion for those we serve. Thank you for all you do.

If you can afford to give this month, your one off gift will enable us to provide practical help to a wide range of families in our six field countries of Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. Practical support is needed all year round, with the Global Financial Crisis having a devastating effect on the poor of our field countries. Donations of excess stock from companies have dipped in a number of our supporting countries and this has limited our ability to help many desperate families. If you can afford to help in an ongoing way, we have many families waiting for support in our Family-to-Family sponsorship program. We find 4 sponsors for each family at \$35/month. Many are blessed by this program, with encouragement from both sides. Contact our office (on (02) 9647 2022 or via email: [australia@mwbi.org](mailto:australia@mwbi.org)) for information on families waiting for Sponsorship now!



## ***Praise the Lord Emilia in Bulgaria is preparing for Heart Surgery!***

Your response to our January appeal for support for Emilia's heart surgery has been overwhelming! We have well and truly received sufficient funds for her heart surgery and all the care she needs to make a good recovery! Emilia and our staff in Bulgaria are overwhelmed with thankfulness! Thanks for responding so quickly to Emilia's plight. We look forward to sharing about her recovery in the coming months! Emilia attends our Community Centre in Dupnitsa each day for fellowship and a hot meal. This ministry and fellowship mean so much more to Emilia than simply receiving food. Her thanks reveal her heart:



*Dear friends,*

*I write to you, with a grateful heart, to share how much I appreciate what you are doing. You offer yourselves in order to help us. The soup kitchen helps me, along with 14 others in similar circumstances, through our hard lives. When I come here for lunch and to spend time with the others, I can forget my daily worries and depressing thoughts. The care and attention shown by the Mission Without Border's Coordinator are precious gifts to me. I have learnt so much about God and about true faith in Him here. I have even begun sharing what I have learnt with my friends and neighbours. Thank you, you kind people! God bless you and your families!*

It was through this ministry that we discovered her plight and desperate need for heart surgery. Once again your response to our ministry and those in critical need has shown us your heart, compassion and commitment to God's ministry – thank you so much!



## ***Upcoming Event in Melbourne***

**Jenny Grainger and Morag Thorne, who coordinate our fantastic workshop in Dandenong, invite Victorian supporters of Mission Without Borders to join them on Saturday 27th March, 2-4 pm at Churches of Christ Theological College, 44-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave to hear reports on the work of MWB in Melbourne and Eastern Europe, followed by afternoon tea. Contact Jenny Grainger for more information (03) 9795 6141.**

## ***Sponsor Tour April 11-28 – Albania & Romania***

**This Tour is now full and making plans to visit a great range of our ministries! Please pray for safe travel and wonderful fellowship!**

# 'Gift in Kind - Operation Cover-Up' Update



**PACKING is now under way once again in Melbourne and Sydney.**

As 2010 gets under way, if you live in Sydney and have some spare time, we have an urgent need for volunteers; to sort and pack the knitted items, as well as help in the warehouse itself. We finished 2009 with a big backlog of knitted items we simply did not have the man power to get ready to send and we would love to get them sent early in the year. Any help you can give, weekly or when you have some spare time, would be a great blessing! Please contact us if you are interested and we can fill you in on the opportunities available.

**With companies providing large quantities of excess stock, we are restricting donations to:**

**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.
- **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](http://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**

10 Stubbs St, AUBURN NSW  
PO Box 7533  
SILVERWATER NSW 1811  
Phone: (02) 9647 2022  
Email: [dturner@mwb.org](mailto:dturner@mwb.org)

**Leila Lydeamore  
in South Australia:**

33 Ina Close  
CRAIGMORE South Australia 5114  
Phone: (08) 8255 0092  
Email: [leila@chariot.net.au](mailto:leila@chariot.net.au)

**John and Hermina Thierry  
in Victoria - Geelong area**

24 Coulter Street  
NEWCOMB VIC 3219  
Phone: (03) 5248 7437  
or  
Mobile: 0407 502 733

**Jenny Grainger  
is our Victorian Coordinator:**

3 Exner Drive  
DANDENONG VIC 3175  
Phone: (03) 9795 6141  
Email: [jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net](mailto:jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net)

**Debbi Wilson  
in Western Australia**

5 Collier Street  
APPLECROSS WA 6153  
Phone: 0417 926 695  
Email: [wilson.debbi@gmail.com](mailto:wilson.debbi@gmail.com)

**Yasmin Scott  
in Queensland - Brisbane:**

SEVEN HILLS QLD 4170  
Phone: 0402 232 259

**Carlene Irwin in Tasmania**

114 Sheffield Rd  
SPREYTON TAS 7310  
Phone: 03 6427 2531