

As we embark on 2011, we can take a look at the year just gone and honestly say, "Thank you Lord for your sustenance and thank you for the privilege of serving you with our resources". I hope you can say Amen to this as well! You have each played a part. Your prayers, financial and practical support have improved the lives of those we serve.

Young, old, rich and poor, everyone needs the Lord. When physical hunger is overwhelming, the Message of the Gospel often falls on deaf ears and understandably so. However, oftentimes as stomachs fill, the questions come... "Why do you care? Tell me more about Jesus." This is exactly what has happened in our Community Centres in both Bulgaria and Ukraine.

For 85 year old Stefka of Bulgaria, her advice rings out loud and clear to all she comes across, "My advice to all young people would be to seek the Lord while there is time. Then you will have the benefit of living your life with God's peace and unspeakable joy in your heart. Don't wait till you are 85 to get to know God and make the right decision for eternity!"

This is her story...

"I was 32 when I first met a protestant believer. Back then, I was married, had two children, wanted to go to the meetings out of curiosity, but I never did because my husband forbid me. I am 85 now and my husband passed away years ago. I live at my son's house, but I have to cope on my own, minimal pension. Seeing my desperate plight, a neighbour told me about the soup kitchen at the local church. I am grateful to benefit from the meals I receive at this Community Centre, operated in partnership with Mission Without Borders. The food has been vital for my survival, but most importantly I have received spiritual nurturing and salvation for my soul. It first started with our daily meetings before our meal each day and from there I was encouraged to attend church. I was challenged to not only learn about Jesus but to be ready to face eternity. I began to pray regularly and then one night, I had a most exciting experience with the Lord. I felt His presence and conviction in my heart. With tears in my eyes, I confessed Christ."



Stefka worshipping the Lord

What an exciting day it was last August when Stefka and 6 other new believers (all beneficiaries of the Community Centre ministry) were baptised. "I am grateful to the Lord and to you for showing me the right and true way. The moment I entered the water, I felt God's presence and words cannot describe that feeling." One of the signs of the change taking place in Stefka's life has been the restoration God has brought to her relationship with her daughter-in-law. Although they lived in the same house, they could not stand one another's presence and refused to speak to each other. Stefka saw how God began to work on her behalf by giving her the opportunity to make things right with her son's wife. Now her attitude has changed and the relationship has been restored, she has peace in her heart.



Stefka is a thankful beneficiary

For Larissa, she found herself financially trapped in 2009 with no way out.

She too found herself enjoying the life-saving meals at the Sliven Community Centre. "At my lowest point, I was enrolled in the soup kitchen program. During the meetings before lunch, I was able to hear from the Word of God as the pastor and volunteers shared short messages. They also thanked God before meals, which I found quite interesting. This interesting occurrence was soon brought to life when I experienced God's immediate provision in my circumstances. He became very real in my life. I soon made the decision to repent and confess Christ as my Saviour. Since my baptism, my life has completely changed. I committed my life to Christ because without Him, this would be a wretched and miserable life. I thank the Lord from my heart and soul for His mercy to me - a sinner, and for all He has in store for my future."



Larissa



Baptism

For the children of the Berdychiv Community Centre in Ukraine, most of society has neglected them, but we have (thanks to your support) the privilege of caring for their practical needs whilst reaching out to them with the saving Gospel of the Lord.

During communist times, the government thought the best way to shepherd neglected children, into living upright lives and being reasonable citizens, was by simply forbidding activities and subjecting offenders to severe punishment. Not only was this practice a miserable disaster, but we have a far better formula. Children the world over need to know, and be shown, that someone loves them. The neglected children of Eastern Europe are no different.



Coordinator Olexandr Korniychuk

Children who lack parental care are the most vulnerable in society. They so badly want to be respected by anyone; they seek respect and acceptance of their school mates. They do everything possible to be 'cool' in the eyes of others. They often start with bad behaviour, swearing and then progress to smoking, alcohol, drugs and being promiscuous.



Thinking about the Bible story

For the wayward street children who find their way to our two community centres in Ukraine, they discover, often for the first time, that someone actually cares and hope is a possibility.

The Novovolynsk Community Centre has been open for ten years now and the Berdychiv Centre opened its doors in 2010. Three times per week the children come for food, fun, some tender loving care, but highest on the list of the organisers is ensuring the children get their fill of 'Soul Food'. Of course the food and fun are much appreciated but the children and teenagers are hungry for the time we spend together learning about God.

Olexandr Korniychuk is responsible for Berdychiv Community Centre. The church's passion was to start the day centre for children from dysfunctional families. They were thrilled when we expressed the willingness to undertake this project as a joint partnership.

The children love the cooked meals, are enthralled by the Bible studies and thoroughly enjoy the craft activities. It is great to see that these children, oftentimes described as wayward no hopers, meander around after the structured programs cease, to help, tidy up, wash up; do anything to be involved in this positive atmosphere a little longer. The children who come each week come from varied home situations. Some come from poor, large families who are completely incapable of meeting their basic needs. Some are surviving without any parents, as their parents have joined the large number of adults who have gone abroad to earn an income. Oftentimes, the children are showered and clothed as



Galya making a thanksgiving card



these needs are incapable of being met elsewhere.

It is wonderful to see a good proportion of the children attending church and Sunday school. We are slowly seeing lasting change - it is exciting! Two sisters enrolled in 2010 are beginning that transformation. Galya (10) and Oksana (13) have seven siblings and live in crippling poverty. They love the Bible studies, craft, fun, food and special attention they receive at the Centre. This care is leading to a distinct improvement in their behaviour and attitude.

Although society might classify these children as lost causes blighted by poverty and neglect, thank you for providing the resources that are allowing this ministry to change them for eternity!



Boys love craft too!

Dates for your diary:

- **Sydney Office/Warehouse reopens *Tuesday January 11***
- **Dandenong 'Workshop' reopens *Friday January 28***

Direct Debit Option now available:

We are now able to offer the option of Direct Debit for your regular sponsorships and for those who regularly support our ministry.

A number have already organised this with their banks, but we can finally offer this option as something we are now authorised to establish for you, removing the high monthly fees a number of banks are charging their customers.

If you are interested please contact our office for details

Wonderful Feedback from our Field Countries:

The feedback we receive from the field is always encouraging. Like from the Bereznia Children's Home in Ukraine: ***"The management are sincerely thankful for the beautiful blankets for the children. Thank you for the merciful well of your souls that never dries"***

"I want to thank the sponsors of Mission Without Borders for the new knitted clothes we have received. These are very welcomed in our family. These beautiful items will keep us warm. May God reward you for the care and attention you have provided for our family." Rusu family, Moldova.

"Dear Sponsor, We thank you a lot for the fabric you have sent us. I am so happy I will now be able to sew clothes for my own family!" Golub family, Moldova.



'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover Up'

As 2011 gets underway, it is exciting to see the numbers who have joined us in the last year. Some would have abandoned their knitting needles during the hottest months of summer and some never let the hot weather slow them down. Be encouraged that you have joined a large army of knitters making a difference to thousands of children, families and the elderly. Give thanks for the added arrangements we have now organised for South East Queensland. Please contact our office or Yasmin in Seven Hills QLD for details.

As the year gets underway, we love your contributions but there are some important things to keep in mind:

- Our containers go all year round and therefore there is no urgency to get your knitted items to us. If they just miss one shipment, another will go within a few months.
- Many of our Collection Points will take a well-deserved break over Christmas/January.
- Our 'Workshop' in Dandenong does not reopen until January 28.

With these points in mind, I would like to ask the following:

- Please hold onto your knitted items until the beginning of February if at all possible.
- We must remember not to burden our Collection Points. They are busy people who are passionate about our ministry and give freely of their time and resources. Please arrange to get your knitted items to them or make arrangements that are beneficial for everyone.
- If you can help us out by being a Collection Point and are especially able to help collect items from the less mobile, we would love to hear from you!



With companies providing excess stock we are accepting the following items from individuals:

Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items:

- **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'.**

- **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 who would love to sew or knit, but cannot afford the materials).

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

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

Please contact our office, or the nearest collection point listed here, to organise getting your donated goods to us in Sydney or Melbourne.

God bless,

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey

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

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Please note: You are no longer able to just drop off your donations to Debbi's home!! Please call her mobile or Home phone and speak to Debbi or George to arrangement a time for drop off (now only possible on weekends or weekday evenings), as their new home has a security gate at the entrance to the complex. If they do not answer, leave a message and they will return your call.



Street Address: 10 Stubbs Street AUBURN NSW 2144
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Michelle Dorey
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