

It all started with a Bible

FOCUS news

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mission without borders. Australia

Dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,

With so much of Australia affected by natural disasters over the last few months, we would like to say to those affected; we are standing with you in prayer. Our international offices, supporting and field countries are constantly hearing of your struggles and want to let you know that they are also praying for you. These disasters have been a reminder that life is fleeting and that we should not focus on this lifetime as all that life entails, rather we need to be ready for eternity and trust in the Lord for each and every day.

With so many affected around Australia, we know their efforts over the coming months will be to support their families and rebuild their lives and they will not be able to support us to the extent they have up until now. If that is you, please do not feel burdened to support us if your circumstances have changed. If you have not been affected and can afford to increase your giving to

our ministry to make up this shortfall, we would really appreciate it, as Eastern Europe remains in critical need.

In remembering the priority of trusting in the Lord for today, tomorrow and eternity, we are one year on from the beginnings of our 50th anniversary Jubilee Bible Project. I would therefore like to encourage you with the fruit that has resulted from your generosity. We had a bold plan, to raise sufficient funds for 1,000,000 Bibles for our field countries in Eastern Europe. Your generosity in Australia has raised enough funds for 19,000 Bibles and this generosity has been joined with the generosity of others around the world to make a good dint in our target. However, our field countries are waiting on the additional Bibles promised and we don't want to let them down! The inspirational stories have flowed throughout the last year, but I thought I would give you a taste this month of what your generosity has meant to our field countries.

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It all started with a Bible, a gift from Mission without Borders

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“My name is Todorka Sabeva. The first time I ever set foot in a church was Christmas 2009, when I was invited by an acquaintance of mine. Back then, Lazarina was my daughter's speech therapist and she told me about the church and the Christmas service there. I went with my three children to the hall where the meeting was held. We all thoroughly enjoyed what took place. I was even offered a brand new Bible as a gift.

I've been attending the church regularly ever since. My children come with me and they go to the Sunday school. As I started reading the Bible, I had many questions.

I made friends at the church and they had answers to many of my questions.



Martin, with his mother's Bible

As I watched them, I noticed the special relationship they had with one another. Another thing was the way they related to me; they accepted me as I was and tried to help me. I joined the Women's Fellowship because there were some interesting family topics discussed there. I also joined the prayer meetings and gradually saw God working in my life and His timely answers to my prayers.

During one of the church meetings, the pastor asked for people willing to give their lives to Jesus and I realised I couldn't hold back any longer. From that day on, my

life has completely changed; I am being transformed!



Todorka, with her three children: Gergana, Miroslav and Martin

My older children, Gergana and Miroslav, are from my first marriage. I've been living with Martin's (my third child) father without being married to him. He did propose to me, but I was afraid, due to the break-up of my first marriage. Reading the Bible, listening to sermons at church and Bible lessons during meetings at the Mission Without Border's Community Centre/Soup kitchen I attend, I came to realise that I was living in sin, and not living in a way that pleased God. Kiril, my partner and Martin's father, was so surprised when I came home one day and



A MILLION BIBLES TO EASTERN EUROPE!



MWB Coordinator, Miroslav, Todorka and her father at the end of the OCL packing day at which they volunteered

said that I wanted to get married. Currently, we are both without jobs and it will be difficult to organise and pay for a simple wedding ceremony, but I believe God will provide, just as He provided a place for us to live.

One difficulty we encountered last year was when we had to vacate the place we were living. The whole church supported us in prayer. Eventually, my father (with whom we'd been on bad terms) called and said that he had discussed it with my sister and that they wouldn't mind us all moving in with him. He is now a beneficiary at the soup kitchen, run by Mission Without Borders and our new church and participates in the discussions during the Christian meetings. I am really happy



Todorka, with her mother, who she brought to church last Christmas (2010)

to hear him talking about the Lord with his youngest grandson, my son Martin.

Last summer, Martin and Gergana had the chance to go on summer camp with the rest of the children from the church. This had a tremendous impact on Martin in

particular. Prior to attending he had communication problems and refused to go to school, because the other kids bullied him. He suffered from dramatic anxiety attacks and the psychiatrist recommended that he went back into first grade. The time spent at summer camp helped him cope with his inner fear of abandonment and he is now looking forward to next year's camp. Gergana also made friends with the young people at the church by attending summer camp with them.

I thank the Lord that He found me and it all began with a Bible, a gift from my new friends at Mission without Borders. The Word of God changes me every single day, making me more humble and wise. I am now looking forward to completing the new believer's course so I can prepare for baptism."

Touched by the Word of God

The Turculescu family is made of six members. The father, Anton, is a widower, as his wife died in the beginning of 2010. He has three children aged between four and eight. The grandparents also live with the family, helping out with the children. Anton works in the mill industry and the grandparents are pensioners. Since their mother died, the family's financial condition deteriorated, and even more, the

spiritual condition of all family members plummeted. They grieved terribly when their wife and mother passed away and because they weren't believers, they didn't have faith or any spiritual support. As is the case with most Orthodox families in Romania, they didn't practice their religion and had no interest in attending a church.



In poverty they grieve the loss of their wife and mother

Both parents used to drink and there was constant fighting among family members.

One day, Anton got an invitation to attend a church service. Anton took up the invitation and was touched by the Word of God. Soon, all members of the family started to attend the church. After a few meetings, the pastor of the church gave them a Bible and encouraged them to read it in order to know God's will for their lives.

Soon after first meeting the family, the pastor visited them in their humble home and was able to see the family's spiritual, financial and social needs. During this meeting, he offered the children an illustrated Bible, which they were so thrilled about! They were fascinated by the pictures in the Children's Bible and couldn't wait to read it! The impact of God's Word in the lives of all family members was evident within days. They realised their only



The children pour over the great new Children's grandmother



Visits from their pastor have been vital

determined steps to change their hearts, minds and habits. The first decision was to attend the church's meetings and to integrate into the community. Secondly, they made reading God's Word daily together as a family, a habit and priority. Thirdly, they made the decision to testify to their new faith and the way God was transforming their family. The entire family is now convinced the Word of God is the only source that can save them and bring balance into their lives. It is the only solution for their spiritual survival, especially through these times of crisis.

chance to change their lives was to accept the Gospel in their hearts and to integrate into a Christian community. It was exciting to see the family transformed and sincerely preoccupied in surrendering every area of their lives to God. It is not possible to become a dedicated believer overnight, so Anton constantly shared with the pastor about their struggles, and their

If you can afford to give to this wonderful project, it costs \$8 to put a Bible into the hands of someone who needs to hear that God exists, cares, loves them and has a plan of salvation for all who put their trust in Him. Our field countries were excited about this Jubilee Bible Project at its outset and are now so passionate about it as they see the fruit of God's Word being distributed, with communities being transformed.

We have included a sticker with this appeal. If you are able to give to the Project, please write your name on the sticker and return it to us. This will be placed in a Bible we deliver in our field countries on your behalf. It will serve as a wonderful encouragement that someone in far away Australia cared enough to donate this precious copy of God's Word.

Please also if you can make the time, pray for this great project. God's Word is being distributed in its thousands. Pray for receptive hearts, ready to accept the message of



Is it really for me?



Transforming lives



Enabling pastors to transform communities



Bibles with their father and

We are so thankful for the power of God's Word to save and revolutionise lives. It is our privilege to work with Bible-believing, passionate churches and fellowships in all six field countries in ensuring their church members each have copies of God's Word and also have ample copies to hand out to their communities. We have stories from all field countries, but I hope these stories of transformation in Bulgaria and Romania encourage you that your generous donations to our Jubilee Bible Project are literally changing lives!



A Bible of our very own

salvation they are discovering for the first time and for children, families, the elderly and disabled to change their lives to one of worshipping the Lord, trusting Him with each day and for eternity.

'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover Up' Update

With volunteers processing your donated items quickly, these 'well oiled machines' of volunteers in both Sydney and Melbourne are ensuring your items are sorted, counted, packed and shipped quickly. As the weather begins to cool, we will all sigh a collective 'Thank you Lord!' for the relief from the heat of summer. We know it also enables many more to spring into action, knitting for the poor we serve in Eastern Europe. Be inspired we still want and need your knitted items as the need remains critical. Be encouraged to make your contributions, however large or small!

As the year progresses, 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. We have already sent one container from Melbourne and one from Sydney this year, but we are well on the way to filling the next ones!
- 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. This is always a relevant request, however with so much of Australia affected by natural disasters over the last few months, many of our collection points may have been affected, so patience and understanding is paramount.
- 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!

As companies are providing large quantities of excess stock, for individuals we are restricting donations to:

Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items:

- **Blankets** – large and small.
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need.
- **Scarves, beanies, and bed socks**
- **Knitted Teddy Bears**

- **Patchwork quilts**
- **All items for sewing, embroidery, knitting and craft activities** - material, wool, needles etc.

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

***Please note, we are not able to accept the tiny sleeveless jumpers known as 'Aids Baby Jumpers'.

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

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

God bless,

Michelle Dorey

David Turner is the Australia-wide Coordinator

Sydney Office:
10 Stubbs St, AUBURN NSW 2144
PO Box 7533 SILVERWATER NSW 1811
Phone: (02) 9647 2022
Email: dturner@mwbi.org

Geelong, VICTORIA

John & Hermina Thierry:
24 Coulter Street NEWCOMB VIC 3219
Phone: (03) 5248 7437 or 0407 502 733

TASMANIA

Carlene Irwin:
114 Sheffield Rd SPREYTON TAS 7310
Phone: 03 6427 3113
(Note Carlene's new number)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Debbi Wilson:
Unit 4/110 Matheson Rd
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or
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Jenny Grainger is our Victorian Coordinator:

3 Exner Drive DANDENONG VIC 3175
Phone: (03) 9795 6141
Email: jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net
Workshop: 8 Birch Avenue,
DANDENONG VIC 3175
(Open Fridays 9am-3:30pm and 1st Tuesday of the month 1pm-4pm)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Leila Lydeamore:
33 Ina Close CRAIGMORE SA 5114
Phone: (08) 8255 0092
Email: leila@chariot.net.au

Brisbane, QUEENSLAND **Yasmin Scott:**

***Please note Yasmin's new address for drop-offs.
45 Randall Rd, WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178
Ph: 0402 232 259
(Yasmin requests that items be delivered in boxes wherever possible)

Please Note: You are no longer able to just drop off your donations to Debbi's home!! Please contact her to arrange a time for drop off (now only possible weekends or weekday evenings).



Street Address: 10 Stubbs Street AUBURN NSW 2144
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Postal Address: PO BOX 7533 SILVERWATER NSW 1811
www.mwb.org.au

Michelle Dorey
National Director

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