

Bridge of Prayer

Mission Without Borders Australia

July-August 2011

"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength." (Isaiah 58:10-11 New Living Translation)

DAY 1. MWB AUSTRALIA. If one looked around the world at present, one could be unnerved by the tremendous instability and natural disasters pummeling our world. We can give thanks that our Lord who guides our every steps, is in control. He guides our ministry here in Australia, and we are thankful for every supporter who entrusts us to pass on their generosity to the poor we serve.

DAY 2. MWB supporters. It has taken many a long time to mop up from the natural disasters that afflicted many parts of Australia earlier this year. Pray for those still recovering, for the Lord's provision for their needs. Give thanks for those who continued to give to our ministry through this time - the poor we serve still desperately need our help.

DAY 3. Sponsor Tour. Give thanks for the recent sponsor tour to Bosnia and Ukraine. We enjoyed great weather and were blessed with meeting many on their way to self-sufficiency. For those still weighed down by incredible need, we meet amazing MWB staff who love them with God's Love and stand with them as they heal.

DAY 4. 'Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'. With 5 containers already on their way this year, this ministry is really humming! Give thanks for the knitters who we know are now working hard with the cooler weather. We saw your knitted items distributed throughout Bosnia and Ukraine - they are so much needed and appreciated!

DAY 5. 'Gift in Kind'. Sydney and Melbourne. Give thanks for all volunteers who give their time to collect, sort and pack the donations of hand-knitted, handmade items and company stock - we simply could not achieve what we do without them.

DAY 6. 'Gift in Kind and Operation Cover-Up'. Melbourne. Give thanks for Jenny Grainger and Morag Thorne who donate their time to organise the 'workshop' and sending of containers from Melbourne as well as speak about our ministry throughout Victoria.

Day 7. Sydney dinner - August 13th. Please pray many are able to come and join us for a night of hearing more about ministry and how they can be involved. **Contact us for more details if you would like to join us.**

DAY 8. Field Countries. Seeds of Hope. Give thanks for the warmer weather currently enjoyed by our field countries. We recently visited many thankful families who received great quality seeds through this new project. Pray for good weather so they can grow as much as they can before the cold weather arrives again.

DAY 9. Family-to-Family (F2F). Praise God that in the past 2 months, 7 families have been withdrawn from the program after becoming self-sufficient. Whilst one family had a long journey to self-sufficiency of 12 years, another was only enrolled for 1 year; long enough to give them the helping hand they needed. The role of the sponsors is critical, so give thanks for their dedication as they meet the ongoing needs of the families as well as encourage them.

DAY 10. ALBANIA. Recent elections in Albania were accompanied with demonstrations from desperate citizens of this struggling country. Now a result has finally eventuated, pray for peace and stability to reign. Corruption has permeated every sphere of society. Pray for the evangelical church to continue to have a strong voice as they model right relationships and what it means to have servant hearts.

DAY 11. ALBANIA. F2F. Halili. Give thanks we have now found all 4 sponsors to meet their ongoing needs. Also give thanks their urgent needs of 2 couch beds, a fridge, cooking stove, a dining table & chairs have now been met.

DAY 12. Himadhi. Praise God the Special Project (SP) of a keyboard for Francesko has now been met. **He now needs speakers and audio equipment to enable him to perform at large events (\$830). The family also has urgent needs of 2 single mattresses and a bunk bed (\$470).**

DAY 13. ALBANIA. F2F. Dule. Pray for Skender and Rita as they continue to struggle to meet the basic needs of their children. MWB is playing a critical role in providing for their needs and encouraging the children to stay in school. Collecting and selling scrap metal does not provide adequate income for the family. **They have urgent needs of a boiler and accessories (\$265), a water pump (\$112) and 2 couch/beds (\$380).**

DAY 14. BOSNIA. Our recent sponsor tour revealed a country still paralysed by the destruction of war and a double layer government, divided by ethnicity and an unwillingness for cooperation, despite the obvious suffering of its people. Pray the Serbs, Croats and Bosniacs can learn to forgive one another and once again live side by side.

DAY 15. BOSNIA. School taxes and supplies. Families in Bosnia face a crisis each year. If they cannot pay the school taxes and provide school supplies for each child (approximately \$250 for a primary student and up to \$400 for a high school student), when they start on September 1; they are not allowed to attend for the entire year. **Can you help us provide funds to meet these critical needs? Poverty will never be overcome without an education.**

DAY 16. BOSNIA. Firewood. Just after school supplies are needed, Bosnian families face another crisis. They must buy wood for heating their simple homes during winter. Delaying the purchase by two months doubles the price. \$400-\$700 is required to keep each home warm, depending on the size and location. **Can you help us keep Bosnian families warm this winter?**

DAY 17. BOSNIA. Sunjic family. It was a very emotional and yet inspirational meeting with the Sunjic family on our sponsor tour. (Their story was in the 2011 Overcomers Magazine) Drajan, the love of Mirijela's life, has now been sentenced to 16 years for war crimes (he was found guilty of not preventing a rape, even though no evidence was ever found). Mira the MWB Coordinator plays a critical role to supporting the family emotionally and spiritually. This young family now has a firm faith in Jesus. Pray they can remain strong and for provision of their basic needs.

DAY 18. CHILDREN'S HOMES. With most Children's Homes closing down over the summer months, the welfare of many children hangs in the balance. Pray for provision for those Christian families who welcome orphaned children into their homes over the summer. Pray also for protection for those children who are sent home to work in the fields in the short summer months, as families struggle to grow sufficient food for the long winters.

DAY 19. MOLDOVA. F2F. Gramada. Nicolai and Svetlana are struggling to raise their 7 children, aged 5-21 in an old house, that is clean, but poorly equipped and needing renovations. Both parents are unemployed but work hard with the animals and land they have. They are dedicated to providing for their children's needs and education. **They need 3 more sponsors (\$35/month) to meet their ongoing needs and encourage them.**

DAY 20. MOLDOVA. CRI COM. Aliona's (9) parents are divorced and her Mum has left Moldova in search of work elsewhere, leaving her in the care of her aunt. Aliona is musical, in grade 2, and misses her mum and having the love and care of her family. **Can you sponsor Aliona - meeting her ongoing needs through our CRI Com Program?**

DAY 21. ROMANIA. CRI COM. Leonard (13) lives with his sister and father in one room of his grandmother's home. Leonard misses his mother who now lives in Spain in a defacto relationship. Leonard is shy, reserved and in grade 6. **Can you sponsor Leonard - meeting his ongoing needs through our CRI Com Program?**

DAY 22. ROMANIA. F2F. Beza. Nicolae and Maria are struggling to raise their 5 children in primitive conditions. They share a well with other villagers as their well's water is contaminated and only fit for laundry. Deaf and dumb since birth, Maria has recently undergone chemotherapy for cervical cancer. **They need 3 sponsors to meet their needs.**

DAY 23. UKRAINE. F2F. Yevpat. Six orphans now live alone after their parents' deaths. They currently live in one room but are hopeful to complete a new home the community and church are assisting with. **They urgently need roof materials (\$1,400) as well as windows, doors, floors and plaster.**

DAY 24. UKRAINE. CRI. Ukraine. Ol'ga (7) comes from a poor dysfunctional family. Her parents are divorced and although her Mum has a job, it does not provide sufficient funds to meet the needs of Ol'ga and her sister who lives in the same Children's Home. Ol'ga is an open, cheerful and active child. **Are you able to sponsor Ol'ga?**

DAY 25. UKRAINE. CRI. Ukraine. Sergiy's (9) father is deceased and his mother lives with another man. Sergiy has 5 siblings. He has some mild special needs and requires special education. Sergiy is an open, cheerful child, who is in grade 2 and likes to draw. **Would you be able to sponsor Sergiy, to meet his needs and encourage him?**

DAY 26. UKRAINE. Mychko. Praise the Lord Oksana's hip surgery was a success and she is getting stronger by the day! The generosity of many Australians funded her surgery and major barn and house repairs. We enjoyed great fellowship with Oksana and her young family during the recent Sponsor Tour. **The family has two remaining urgent needs of a gas stove and two more double-glazed windows (\$1,400).**

DAY 27. UKRAINE. F2F. Pokrovets. Nataliya is struggling to raise her 7 children, aged 4-16, alone after the death of her husband a few years ago. They live in a two-room, wood heated apartment, with an outside toilet and no bathroom. **They need 3 more sponsors to meet their ongoing needs and have urgent needs of new mattresses, a gas boiler, a bed and a washing machine.**

DAY 28. SUMMER CAMP. Praise the Lord summer camps are proceeding well and living up to the expectation of endless food, fun and sun for children who desperately need sustenance and encouragement. Pray bonds developed between children, MWB staff and local church volunteers can continue to strengthen after the summer is over.

DAY 29. Field countries. Politics. Every field country is currently facing instability politically, as they all face massive economic problems. They simply cannot provide a well resourced country and standard of living for their citizens. Pray the leaders govern with integrity and a servant heart for the communities they serve.

DAY 30. MWBI. Field Country staff. Please pray for strength and endurance for all staff as Summer Camps continue in July. Pray for good rest and refreshment when their annual holidays commence in August.

DAY 31. MWB. International. Give thanks for the leadership of Billy Temlett, who recently stepped down as our International President. Pray for Harry Graham, who now leads our ministry of 6 field countries and 11 supporting countries. Pray for wisdom and godliness as he leads and make decisions of where and how to help.

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