

Summer Camp!

FOCUS news

June 2011



mission without borders, Australia

Orhei Children's Home in Moldova provides shelter for 228 children, including three young orphan brothers who arrived in September 2010. Daniel (8) is in second grade, Florin (7) is enjoying his studies in first grade and Cristian (5) has not started school yet. Orhei Home does not normally accept children as young as Cristian, but in this instance they wanted to keep the brothers together as they have already suffered enough.

The Procop brothers were born in the north of Moldova. They were unfortunate enough to be born into a very problematic, destitute, disorganised and socially-vulnerable family. Their mother had many partners and strange men visited their home on a regular basis. There are 6 brothers altogether, with each child having a different father. The last man their mother lived with was a very violent alcoholic. He came home drunk on a daily basis and would abuse the boys and their mother. Peace was rare and the children were often chased out of

the home during the night, even during the depths of winter when temperatures were below zero. The boys always stayed together to protect one another. The younger ones learnt not to cry as that would alert their father and he would take his anger out on them. The neighbours often found the children on their doorstep and would take pity on them. The children quickly learnt that doing jobs for their neighbours meant they would receive some much needed food.



Daniel and Florin

“ They told us that we are going to Summer Camp! I am going to run and play ball there. There will be lots of other children and we will make loads of friends. ”

The memories of their home life are extremely sad and have scarred them to this day. That is why their new home at Orhei Children's Home is a blessing for the three youngest siblings. They now enjoy a peaceful and calm atmosphere. Of course a loving family home would be the best environment for these young boys, but the staff of Orhei Children's Home do their best to provide the parental love all the children crave.



“We are going to Summer Camp Cristian!”

in their family. With tears in his eyes and a low, trembling voice, he shared, “I don't remember any happy days in our family. The only memory I have of those years is the feeling of fear, the yelling and the fights...”

Despite the years of abuse, neglect and the sad fact they have had no visitors since they arrived at the Children's Home (including their 3 older brothers), the love and care they show for one another is evident to everyone. Daniel takes care of his younger brothers, even though he is still a child. When the Mission Without Border's Coordinator visited their Home, Cristian, the youngest brother, was ill. When they found out about the chance to go to Mission Without Border's Summer Camp, they were eager to visit Cristian and share the great news. Their smiles spread from ear to ear and their joy was infectious! “Guess what, Cristian? They told us that we are going to Summer Camp! I am going to run and play ball there. There will be lots

of other children and we will make loads of friends. We will take you with us, for sure. Just get better!” said Daniel. Then, looking at Mrs. Ludmila Ceban, the vice director of Orhei Home, they said, “We are looking forward to going to Summer Camp soon! We really want to go!”

Would you help us provide a wonderful, caring, loving, fun environment for the Procop brothers and thousands of others this year? Our field countries are counting on our support as they prepare for the camps. Costs differ depending on the country, location and length of the camps, but \$15/child/day is the average cost. Most children spend 7-10 days at summer camp. Please also remember to pray for the camps. Traumatized children need special attention and care. The constant 24/7 care needed for all the children is exhausting, but it is a labour of love. We look forward to sharing the great stories of lives changed later in the year!



Mrs. Ludmila Ceban, vice director of Orhei Children's Home



Cristian

Even though their mother often failed to meet their needs, she was the only person who showed them any affection. Grief was added to the abuse and trauma a few years ago, when their mother died

of cancer. The loss of their Mum affected the boys deeply. Their only protector against this evil and cruel world left them orphans. “We miss our mother very much. She always protected us from our father. He was violent and often hit our mum. When we saw him come home drunk, we hid from him,” said Florin, sadly.

Daniel remembers how awful it was to live

If you have ever wondered whether investing in Summer Camp was worthwhile, the testimony of some first time attendees in Bulgaria should put your mind at ease!

After the Family-to-Family program was established in cooperation with the Krupnik Baptist Church, their Sunday school tripled in size. When news spread that those attending the Sunday school would get to go on the Mission Without Borders's Summer Camp, the children and their parents were amazed and incredibly excited! None of the children had ever experienced a summer camp before and the excitement was palpable! The Summer Camp more than exceeded their expectations! They not only had a fun time, they were introduced to a relationship with God and lives have been changed for eternity!



Counting down the days to camp

Toni (14) and his sister Denislava (8) were among the group chosen to go. Toni was keen to share his impressions: *"This camp was unforgettable. I learnt that if we don't ask God to be our Lord and Saviour, our lives will be without purpose, even if we go to church. My younger brother, Georgi, passed away on the 15th February, 2010. This great loss came as a real shock to our family. Since then, one question has persisted in my mind: 'Is my brother in heaven and where would I go if I died here and now?' I knew about the church and I started going to the Sunday school. During the camp at Lyaskovets, the things I learnt about God made me think even harder. At camp, we were taught that the Bible is a complete book; God's message to us. I realised that going to church would not save*



Tony and Denislava loved the campfire

me, nor would singing the songs unless I confessed all my sins. I decided to sincerely repent and aim to stop sinning, to stand together with God in the battle against sin and to be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. I thank all the people who made these ten days possible. Thank you for using your own resources to give us this gift. God bless you and your families and may He reward you for all you've done."

The words of Toni's mother also testify to the change in her son's heart, *"When they came home, he was so happy and told me again and again about the great time they had; his new friends from the orphanages, the lessons, the games and the films they watched. I can also see a change in him. Every morning and evening, Toni prays. He even thanks God for meals. He reads the Bible and his behaviour is different. Every evening, the children who were at the camp get together in the street in front of our house and instead of chatting and giggling, I hear them singing the songs they learnt about God. I am so thankful that you took my two children to camp, because our financial situation*



Avgustina (14) and her sister

wouldn't have allowed me to provide anything like that for them. I especially thank Mission Without Borders and all the camp staff for taking care of my kids."

Avgustina (14) and her sister Ivanka, also came to the camp: *"For me, every day at camp was really exciting, but the night of the campfire was very special. We were standing in a circle, singing to God and sharing our thoughts and feelings to Him in prayer. I felt God's presence amongst us. At the camp, I found myself in a totally different environment, where God was at the centre. I had the chance to get to know Him better. I understood God's patience and mercy towards me and I grew more self-controlled. I thank the Lord and you for taking us on this wonderful camp. What I learnt and experienced of God was only possible because you showed Him to me."*

Bosnia and Ukraine Sponsor Tour Reflections

This is part one of our reflections, with more to come in the following months. Thanks for praying for our safety, the Lord protected our steps and gave us unforgettable experiences!

Beryl Drinkwater, was an excited participant who has shared since her return:

"Our two-week journey on the road with MWB field workers was truly inspiring, thought-provoking, humbling and unforgettable. At 73, I have had the opportunity to do a lot of interesting travel in the past twelve years but I realise now that it was merely 'sight-seeing' - not 'heart-seeing'. With the MWB tour we got to know how people live – their struggles, their pain, their courage, their perseverance, their indomitable spirit.

Bosnia-Herzegovina and Ukraine were two very different countries and it was so interesting to observe the contrasts. For a start, Bosnia does not have a large number of Children's Homes, whereas this seemed to be Ukraine's greatest need.

Although the Balkan War has been over for fifteen years, people in Bosnia are still hurting because of it. The physical reminder of it can be seen everywhere – with bullet-riddled, roofless buildings throughout. The psychological scars run much deeper. Healing of memories, learning to forgive and trust will take a long time. We know that Christ is the answer but, as outsiders, we cannot glibly preach the Good News to people who have suffered so much. However, through supporting the work of MWB in practical ways to relieve their poverty, we can let them know that somebody cares – Somebody is looking after them. It is a privilege that we can 'pray and provide' the backing for the field workers who have lived through the horrors of war and who gently, lovingly bring aid in the name of Jesus. Mira especially deserves a mention. Her compassion and love for people just shines out of her, no matter how weary and drained she must feel at times.

Ukraine was quite different. For me, the two Children's Homes were the highlight. It was so reassuring to see clean, happy, well-fed and clothed children there and to meet the caring



Beryl Drinkwater, Mira (MWB Bosnia F2F Coordinator) and the Sunjic family

staff. I was pleased also to observe the Christian input they receive on a regular basis. A team of young puppeteers from MWB presented the story of the Prodigal Son in a modern setting (living it up and wasting all his money at MacDonalds)! The MWB Sarny Training Centre was an eye-opener. There, young people from poor families are given the opportunity to be properly trained and qualified in Dressmaking, Hospitality or Computing. Nearby, we were taken on a tour of the warehouse, office, library, Radio Broadcast Room for weekly Christian Broadcasts, and Mothercare Clinic, where pregnant women can receive ante-natal care and advice from a trained nurse, plus a parcel of essential items they need for the safe delivery of their babies. (They even have to supply their own umbilical cord clamps.)

Everything was organised for us on the Tour, with the cost including all travel, accommodation and meals. We were well looked after and were even treated to a night at the opera on our last night in Kiev.

For those who may be considering joining a Sponsors Tour in future, I encourage you to do so. You will never be quite the same again.

Upcoming Event!

Sydney dinner

Saturday August 13, 2011 6pm

Carlingford Baptist Church

(corner of Pennant Hills Road and Alamein Avenue, Carlingford).

Please keep the date free, more details to follow soon!

facebook

We are on Facebook "Mission Without Borders Australia"

Join up, share it with your friends and family to spread the word!



'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover Up' Update

We are excited by the year's progress so far. Both Sydney and Melbourne are organised and processing your donated items quickly, so keep them coming!

On our recent Sponsor Tour we saw your beautiful knitted items everywhere! A few comments by our wonderful staff in both Bosnia and Ukraine to keep in mind: For children, wonderfully colourful knitted items are great and most appreciated. For men, one solid colour is most requested, with black, brown and blue the most appropriate. For blankets, the larger ones are most needed, so they can cover as much of their beds as possible. Therefore, blankets at least a single bed size are required, if at all possible. And the warmer the better too, so for the sewers out there, if you are able to sew a warm backing onto the knitted or crocheted blankets, our field countries would be thrilled! This was a request by our field staff as well as the families and Children's Homes as they are struggling to pay power bills, or simply cannot afford to heat their homes, which means they are simply going to bed cold.

The need is still great and seeing your knitted items everywhere was a thrill! So please be inspired to keep knitting and spread the word to those able to join our large band of faithful knitters!



Big blankets are best!

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

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Debbi Wilson:
Unit 4/110 Matheson Rd
APPLECROSS WA 6153
Phone: 08 9316 2466
or
0417 926 695
Email: deb7543@gmail.com

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
Opening Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday
Postal Address: PO BOX 7533 SILVERWATER NSW 1811
www.mwb.org.au **Phone:** (02) 9647 2022

Michelle Dorey
National Director

email: australia@mwbi.org