

Bridge of Prayer

Mission Without Borders Australia

September-October 2011

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear... He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress'." (Psalm 46: 1,2, 10 and 11 NIV)

DAY 1. MWB AUSTRALIA. We have so much to thank God for. Pray we always keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and seek Him for wisdom on how to spread the word about our ministry into the community. We are so thankful for every supporter the Lord leads to support our ministry. Pray God's blessing on each of their lives.

DAY 2. MWB supporters. We have met many supporters in recent months. They have visited us in our office/warehouse in Sydney, our workshop in Melbourne, attended our dinner in Sydney in mid-August, heard us speak to their churches and groups or chatted to us over the phone. Your generosity and willingness to support our ministry with your prayers, financial and practical support means so much! May the Lord bless each of you!

DAY 3. 'Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'. We have loved welcoming so many visitors to our office/warehouse in Sydney and Workshop in Melbourne as you have dropped off such large volumes of beautifully knitted items. We know our Collection Points have also been kept very busy. It is amazing to consider the wonderful tapestry of people around Australia dedicated to keeping the poor warm in Eastern Europe! Give thanks to God for this wonderful practical expression of God's love for the poor.

DAY 4. 'Gift in Kind'. Wrap with Love. Michelle was thrilled to recently express our thanks to 'Wrap with Love' for their wonderful donation of over 4,000 wraps we have already sent to the field this year. These opportunities, on ABC radio and at their Sydney 'Knit-In', were also great chances to share about comprehensive ministry. With 2,500 wraps waiting for our next container, the partnership will allow thousands more to stay warm this coming winter!

DAY 5. 'Gift in Kind and Operation Cover-Up. Melbourne. Give thanks the Workshop has not only become a productive workshop to sort, pack and send our containers from Melbourne, but is also a wonderful meeting place for our supporters and those hearing about us for the first time. Pray the interest will translate into opportunities to speak to a growing number of churches and groups keen to find out more.

DAY 6. Gift in Kind. Worldwide. Praise God for generous companies that donate their excess stock. This is needed more than ever in our ministries. We hope to include company stock in our Operation Christmas Love and Operation Winter Rescue deliveries. Pray for their continued generosity and wisdom for all involved in this large-scale operation.

DAY 7. Sydney dinner – August 13th. Give thanks for the wonderful opportunity we had to share about our work. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting many current and new supporters! If you couldn't make it or live far away from Sydney, we would love to organise events around Australia but need your help – contact us if you can help!

DAY 8. Field Countries. All field staff are returning after their well-deserved summer break. Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the ministry ahead. Harsh economic conditions in our field countries are putting huge pressure on families, Children's Homes and the elderly. We need wisdom in distributing finite resources. Some make their needs clear, but often those suffering the most do so in silence...

DAY 9. Seeds of Hope. Pray for a great harvest of vegetables from this great project. Give thanks for the warm weather and rain. Pray families are able to preserve as many vegetables as they can before the winter sets in.

DAY 10. Family-to-Family (F2F). What a blessing this ministry is! Pray for the coordinators who juggle big workloads, travel distances to visit their families and desire to not just make deliveries but see physical, emotional and spiritual transformation in the families in their care.

DAY 11. ALBANIA. F2F. Bega. Please pray for peace in Lumnie's heart and their home, as she raises her two young children alone. It is a very stressful, unstable home environment. Give thanks we found 4 sponsors for this family earlier this year and generous donors were also able to purchase a gas cooking stove and kitchen supplies. **Pray their urgent needs of a heating stove (\$225), a bed and a mattress (255) can be met.**

DAY 12. ALBANIA. F2F. Baftija. Please pray for this 7 member family. Despite moving from Northern Albania to Fllaka village, in hope of a better life- their live in deplorable conditions. Only one child remains in school, while his older siblings all abandoned school at the end of Grade 4 or 6. **They need 4 sponsors to meet their ongoing needs and their simple two room home is devoid of most furniture. A table, chairs, fridge, wood stove and firewood, couch beds and mattresses are all urgent needs and would be a blessing to this humble family.**

DAY 13. BOSNIA. Pray families can manage to afford the school supplies needed for the beginning of September (the start of the school year) and after this expense still be able to buy firewood to prepare for the cold winter ahead.

DAY 14. BOSNIA. F2F. Dzinalic. Samed and Voileta are raising their 3 young children in difficult conditions. Samed is always looking for work to earn money. Please pray Violeta is able to secure permanent residency soon (she is originally from Kosovo), as this is their biggest stress. **They need 4 sponsors to meet their ongoing needs.**

DAY 15. BOSNIA. F2F. Kukulj. Our visit to this young, loving family was a highlight of our sponsor tour. They are thrilled they are now finally in their own home and Elvir's excellent handiwork was evident. **Please pray their urgent needs of electricity connection, and a well** (materials to build the well will cost \$2,560 – Elvir and his friends will provide the labour) **can be met soon.**

DAY 16. Operation Christmas Love. Give thanks for the wonderful project that provides 30,000 parcels for families, the elderly and staff of the Children's Homes. Pray we can raise sufficient funds this year as we would love to bless the thousands that are struggling to make ends meet across our field countries.

DAY 17. BULGARIA. Kordevi. This four member family struggles with poor health and lives in deplorable conditions. They share a 3-room ramshackle home with the grandfather and uncle. They lack most material items. **They need one more sponsor to meet their ongoing needs and urgent needs including beds, wardrobe, general house renovation, extra shoes, clothing and food would make a great difference to their simple existence.**

DAY 18. CHILDREN'S HOMES. Pray as children return for the new school year. Most will be excited to return to friends, reliable food and shelter. Pray those who connected with MWB staff and church volunteers during Summer Camp will be keen to develop those relationships further through our regular Christian ministry in the Homes.

DAY 19. MOLDOVA. F2F. Vulpe. Praise God this young family of 5 is now fully sponsored! Their home is near collapse and cooking and heating are on the wood stove. **Kitchen items (\$170) and a semi-automatic washing machine** (\$220 -there is a lack of running water in their home and community), would make a great difference.

DAY 20. MOLDOVA. Mesina. Praise God this hardworking family with 4 children is healthy. Valeriu and Maria are loving parents supporting the education of their children. **Good hutches and breeding rabbits (\$3,335) will provide a great opportunity for this family to move towards self-sufficiency.**

DAY 21. MOLDOVA. CRI COM. Elena (11) comes from a poor, large family. Her father is deceased and her mother is unemployed and unable to meet the needs of her 7 children. Elena has a hearing problem and has difficulty with speech. She needs a hearing aid. **Please pray we can find a sponsor to meet her needs and encourage her.**

DAY 22. MOLDOVA. CRI COM. Vlad (8) is an only child. His father earns minimal income from regular work and his mother is an alcoholic. Glasses are helping his short-sightedness. When he grows up he would "like to build a big house for all the children that have no place to live". **Could you prayerfully consider sponsoring Vlad?**

DAY 23. ROMANIA. F2F. Buta. This young family has two children and live in a simple two room house made of wood, adobe and must collect water from their neighbours. **They need 2 sponsors to meet their ongoing needs and have urgent needs of a new wood stove and construction materials to repair their damaged ceiling.**

DAY 24. ROMANIA. CRI and CRI COM. Considerable changes continue in Romania. Our plan to exit all Children's Homes by the end of 2011 is progressing well. But these are challenging and emotional changes. Pray we can maintain relationships and also identify those children who can best be helped through our rapidly expanding CRI in Community Project in Romania.

DAY 25. ROMANIA. CRI COM. Catalin (12) lives with his two parents who are unable to offer the basic needs for their children. He is in Grade 5 and loves sport! He is healthy, energetic and needs a sponsor to provide for his needs and encourage him. **Could you prayerfully consider sponsoring Catalin?**

DAY 26. ROMANIA. F2F. Pavel. This young family of 4 live in one annex room of their grandmother's house. **Please pray for provision of construction materials as these would allow them to build an additional room. A gas range and non-automatic washing machine would also make a great difference.**

DAY 27. UKRAINE. F2F. Mykharevych. This 7 member family lives in a simple home with their elderly grandmother. Sergiuy works in the forest and struggles with alcohol. Maryna cares for the children and the elderly grandmother. **Their simple home needs renovation and a fridge would be a great blessing.**

DAY 28. UKRAINE. Odarchuk. Olena is raising her 6 children alone after her husband abandoned the family. She is unable to find work, despite her constant efforts. The family is living on \$50/month (government social assistance). **One more sponsor is needed to meet their ongoing needs. Urgent needs of pillows, bed linen and clothes would make a great difference.** Pray for the family, that the father will repent and return to live with his family.

DAY 29. UKRAINE. CRI. Sergiy (22) has Downs Syndrome and is receiving special education in Zaturksy Children's Home. He is in grade 9, enjoys reading and spending time in the library. **Please pray for a sponsor for Sergiy.**

DAY 30. MWBI. Field Country staff. Give thanks all staff have a passionate faith in the Lord and take every opportunity to point people to Jesus as the Giver and Sustainer of life. Pray for their families and ministry in their local churches. Many juggle MWB responsibilities and significant involvement in their local churches.

DAY 31. MWB. International. With much of Europe struggling with the continuing financial crisis, a number of our fundraising countries are struggling and our field countries are under extraordinary pressure. Pray for wisdom as decisions are made and for God to bless the worldwide family of supporters of our ministry.

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