



## Dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,

This month I wanted to bring you some heartwarming stories, lovely proof your heartfelt prayers and financial support, (when and only if you are able), have made a difference. Often we hear of need and perhaps not so much of the good news stories. Although the following stories show each child has a way to go before they are healthy, emotionally whole and self-sufficient young adults, they are on a wonderful journey that is taking them in the right direction.

Our field staff are just returning from their well-earned summer break, their once per year holiday that is so well deserved. For the children who live in Children's Homes they are also returning. Some have had a good summer attending our wonderful summer camps, but most will have had a tough summer, working hard in the gardens with extended family that are desperately growing all they can before the cold weather sets in again.

Many children will return very dirty, very hungry, full of lice and eager to be reunited with friends, MWB staff and church volunteers. Although Children's Homes are not ideal environments for a growing child, often the alternative – living with some form of family who often still does not want them or cannot provide the basics for their wellbeing- is not attractive or positive. This is when a large Children's Home and our ministry become so attractive and welcoming to a child.



Ulizana and MWB's volunteer Veronica

Such is the case for Ulizana of Moldova. Ulizana (15) is living and studying at Ungheni Children's Home. Ulizana's mother Irina is Moldovan and her father is from Kyrgyzstan. They met each other when they were young and studying at Moscow University together. After

getting married, the young family moved to live in Kyrgyzstan. Three of their children; Angela (20), Elmira (18) and Jargur (16), were born in Kyrgyzstan. Ulizana was born in Moldova.

Irina's life was full of problems and difficulties when they lived in Kyrgyzstan. She was a foreigner, had nobody to talk to other than her husband and was living in a country that had such different traditions and religious practices. The marriage soon deteriorated as her husband began to drink. Fights and quarrels soon became commonplace. Irina became more and more emotionally and mentally unstable due to the physical beatings and constant stress of the relationship. With the abuse of her and their young daughters stretching over several years, she eventually decided to return to Moldova, when she was pregnant with her fourth child (Ulizana). Her husband and the daughters' father Dokurbek was not interested in the fate or future of his wife and daughters. He soon remarried and forgot about his family in Moldova. To this day they have never heard from him or received any assistance from him.

Once back in Moldova, Irina began to suffer from outbursts of aggression. She had no job, no money, but four daughters to take care of. Without money for treatment, her mental state further deteriorated. The daughters lived in constant fear. The state intervened and removed the daughters to Ungheni Children's Home. They continued to grieve for their mother and wish they were able to visit her more often. "Our mother is a kind woman, but she is often very violent.

Nobody can calm her down. When she is in a rage, she has no idea what she is doing. It is very difficult for us to visit her on weekends or during the holidays. The most painful thing for my sisters and I is to know our mother is suffering so much. I try not to ponder my past, as I do not have any good family memories. It is so sad my sisters, Mum and I cannot be together during the holidays. My greatest wish is to have my mother healthy and together with us," said Ulizana, with a trembling voice.



Ulizana and her classmates loved Summer Camp

Unfortunately, Irina's living conditions are atrocious. She lives on the generosity of her neighbours, and her daughters save some money from their scholarships in order to help her. Ulizana's three older sisters have now graduated from Ungheni Children's Home and have continued their studies at colleges in Chisinau, Moldova's capital. Angela and Elmira study at Teacher's college and Jargur studies at the Polytechnic College. Ulizana dreams about studying at the College of Medicine in Chisinau, as she would like to become a dentist. Like her sisters, Ulizana is one of the best pupils in her class. She loves to read and play tennis, chess, and drafts. She took part in a chess competition that was organised for the children in Moldovan Children's Home and came first!

Even though the Orozov sisters do not have the support of parents, they have the courage to deal with their daily problems, overcome the obstacles and find success in their lives. Their involvement in MWB's programs has facilitated their success. Mission Without Borders, through different programs and projects, continues to support children from Children's Homes, like Ulizana, emotionally, materially, educationally and spiritually. Ulizana and her sisters heard about God for the first time at Mission Without Border's Summer Camp. "The power to fight through all the problems and difficulties in my life comes from my faith in God. After hearing about God in the Summer Camp, I began to attend the Christian Input lessons MWB held in our Children's Home. I really enjoyed writing and receiving letters through the Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) and waited anxiously for more lessons and replies to my letters. I have learnt so many new, interesting and useful things from the BCC. By reading the Bible and participating in different Christian events, I gain the energy I need to go forward and overcome my difficulties. Although my sisters now live and study far away in Chisinau, I have Ms. Veronica from MWB here. When I have problems or difficulties, I ask her for help. We regularly pray together and I know she keeps me in her prayers," shared Ulizana.

Ulizana tries wherever possible to spend her holidays with her sisters in Chisinau. During these holidays, they visit different hospitals to share their faith with others. Her faith is constantly growing and it is our privilege to walk with her as she heals and grows into a fine young woman. We know her passion for living and strong faith will sustain her regardless of what challenges come her way.

***Just as we aim to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the children who reside in Children's Homes or the community, our health and nutritional support is vital.***

For the population of Ukraine, their health has been compromised ever since the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster 25 years ago. The catastrophe significantly affected the ecological situation throughout the entire country. Each year, newborns grow weaker and the birth of a completely healthy baby is becoming more and more infrequent. The doctors have become all too used to diagnosing birth defects that were rare thirty years ago. The incidence of cancer rates amongst children continues to increase.

The health of adults is determined by the quality of nutrition they received during childhood, when rapid growth takes place and their metabolism is at its height. A deficient diet inhibits normal physical development and affects the body's natural resistance to chronic diseases. Research carried out by the World Health Organisation showed that 15% of a child's health depends on medical help, 25% on genetic characteristics and 60% on balanced nutrition.



Unfortunately, Ukrainian children, especially those who reside in Children's Homes, receive a nutritionally deficient diet. Despite high inflation of 20% per year for the last few years, Children's Homes are only supplied with \$2/child/day for all food. The Home administrations have to be very thrifty in order to provide the children with a balanced diet, but fall short of being able to provide a diet rich in nutrition, with meat, fresh fruit

and vegetables often omitted. The Home budgets always ensured children were provided with buckwheat, rice and pasta, but now the situation has changed. First, the price of rice went up, and then the price of buckwheat quadrupled. This makes it almost impossible to provide the children with these carbohydrates, let alone the nutrition of meat, fruit and vegetables.

The Mission Without Border's Coordinators to the Homes have shared that the administrations of the Homes now ask for any food items as affording the basics of buckwheat, rice and pasta is now often out of their reach. The Homes are therefore thrilled to receive supplies purchased by MWB as well as provided through our 'Gift in Kind' stock donated by companies within Europe.

Practical needs for medication are also critical. The number one item requested by the Children's Homes is lice-prevention



and treatments. When the children go home for the school holidays, they often pick up lice. Thanks to the lice medication, the staff can allow the girls to keep their hair long. It is great to see fewer girls with boy-like hair-cuts these days. Next on the list is antibiotics, Paracetamol and flu prevention medicines. Thanks to this provision, there were less instances of flu amongst the children last winter. Living together in a Children's Home puts children at a greater health risk. One child with the flu or another contagious illness can spread rapidly amongst the other children, especially when the first child has not been treated properly. Providing eye tests and supplying glasses is another element of our support. The Homes have no funding for this need and therefore it is an element of our support the Homes love!

Last, but not least, hygiene supplies are very much appreciated and welcomed by the CRI children and staff. The chlorine, detergents, washing-up liquid, toothbrushes, antibacterial solutions, antiperspirants, sanitary pads and incontinence products contribute to the children's wellbeing, physical and mental health. Wearing neat clothing, eating clean and healthy food, having a good level of personal hygiene and taking vitamins when needed are priorities.

Each time we make deliveries to the Homes, we receive precious thank-you letters in return. Children and the Directors of the Homes show their appreciation and deep gratitude for all support they receive. Here is just one example, "Thank you very much for the beautiful gift you sent us. You've given us such great joy. The food supplies and hygienic items came just in time! Thank you for the food supplies, including items such as flour, sugar, rice, vegetable oil; items that we were in great need of. Thank you also



for the margarine, butter, cheese, ham and tins of fish, which are very helpful for making our children's sandwiches. The hygienic articles, washing powder, shampoo, antiperspirants and washing-up liquid arrived just when we had run out of them. We can't thank you enough for your help!"

The improvements are not only making children healthier, today, but they are setting these children up for healthier futures.

All of this help is thanks to our Child Rescue International sponsorship program of children in Homes. \$40/month sponsors one child and the sponsorship ensures your sponsored child and all of the children in the Home receive the physical, emotional and spiritual support they need. If you would like to begin that journey of sponsoring a child, either in a Children's Home (we have children waiting for sponsorship in Ukraine now) or living

in the community (through our CRI in Community Projects in Moldova or Romania), please contact us, we have many children waiting. Please feel free to also check our website ([www.mwb.org.au](http://www.mwb.org.au)) for a short list of children waiting or watch out for a list in our bi-monthly Bridge of Prayer.



If regular sponsorship of a child is not possible and you are able to make a financial contribution this month, we would love your support. Our ministries to children are wide and varied but all vital.

Last but certainly not least, please pray. These stories are a reminder that children the world over hurt, crave love and acceptance and many in Eastern Europe have to deal with trauma and neglect we would not wish on anyone. But take heart, change does happen and the Mission Without Border's staff members and volunteers from the local churches are passionate believers who are dedicated to these children, sharing their faith and helping the children come to terms with all they have experienced. Furthermore, their physical needs continue to be acute but changes are taking place thanks to your support.

***Thank you for all you do.  
We couldn't do it without you!***

## ***Sydney dinner***

A great night was had by all at the MWB Dinner on August 13! We hope those who attended were inspired. For those not able to come, we will be holding Open Days in Sydney in November. If you live further afield and would like to assist us with planning events in your area, please contact us, we would love your help and input!



## ***Gift In Kind***

There are a few new instructions over the page for those who practically support our ministry. Please take note of them and thanks for your support!

# 'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover Up' Update

Thank you for keeping busy over the colder months. Your knitted items are still flooding into our collection points, Sydney warehouse and Dandenong Workshop, so thank you! What a pleasure it is to receive and send good quality, age appropriate garments which say, "You are special!" as well as provide warmth. We are receiving some beautiful items! For those after any extra hints, classic patterns are best, children like items as colourful as possible and teenage boys and men like simply solid colours, such as blue, browns and blanks.



## After discussions with our field staff we are making the following changes:

### Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items:

- **Blankets – the minimum size of blankets requested is 1.6m x 1.4m**
  - These can be knitted by: Size 8 needles, 8-ply yarn, 40 stitch x 80 rows to make 56 squares.
  - If you can only contribute a few squares, please send in the squares or talk with a friend about sewing together enough squares for a large blanket.
  - If your blankets are smaller than this new size, do not finish them off with an edging, they may be able to be joined with other small blankets or knitted squares.
  - When I visited Eastern Europe earlier this year, the size of blanket is actually the minimum of what they would like to receive, so the bigger the better.
  - If a backing can be sewn onto the backs of a blanket that will provide extra warmth. Do not attempt this unless you are confident to do so. It is not obligatory, but is helpful for those able.

- **We do not send the 'AIDS jumpers'.**  
These are not suitable for Eastern Europe.
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need and crew neck patterns are most suitable. Make sure the neck size is big enough to fit over someone's head!
- **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)!**

## 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

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(Open Fridays 9am-3:30pm and 1st Tuesday of the month 1pm-4pm)

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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### 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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