

Bridge of Prayer

Mission Without Borders Australia

November-December 2011

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

DAY 1. MWB AUSTRALIA. As the end of the year approaches and we look at what has been achieved over the last year, we have much to thank God for. Thank you for all you have contributed, we could not undertake this ministry without your support. Your prayers, financial and practical support have all had a profound effect on our field countries – thank you for your generosity! You may never meet the beneficiaries of our projects, but know they see Australians as a very generous bunch!

DAY 2. MWB supporters. The current instability of the world economy, has caused unease and great uncertainty for many. Give thanks we have a God who will never leave or forsake us. Pray for all to keep their eyes fixed on the Lord, regardless of how Australia and the world are affected.

DAY 3. 'Gift in Kind (GIK)' with 'Operation Cover-Up (OCU)'. Your generosity in creating and donating beautifully knitted items resulted in many deliveries over the last few months. Give thanks for all who have contributed and for the wonderful volunteers who regularly come to our 'Workshop' in Dandenong and our warehouse in Sydney to sort and pack for us!

DAY 4. 'Gift in Kind'. Groups. Give thanks for the groups and churches who have chosen to take on our ministry and those in need in Eastern Europe as a particular focus. The St Marys Pharmacy knitters in Sydney produced over 2,700 items this year and they are just one example of groups and churches making a real difference!

DAY 5. 'GIK'. Deliver Australia. Give thanks that despite the fact Total Care logistics has now become Deliver Australia, they are still willing to assist us with transport around Australia. We simply could not achieve what we do without their help. Give thanks they are willing to be generous to us when times are tight for their industry.

DAY 6. Gift Catalogue. Give thanks for the wonderful array of ministries we undertake in Eastern Europe, that have been reflected in the Gift Catalogue delivered this month. Pray for those who receive a card explaining the gift that has been purchased on their behalf; that they would have their eyes opened about the need in Eastern Europe as well as the blessing of our ministry.

DAY 7. Operation Christmas Love. Give thanks for the generous donations toward this great annual project. A delivery of a box of flour, rice, pasta, oil, canned meat, jam, sweets and some delicious local delicacies may not seem to be something to get too excited over, but the 30,000 boxes being packed and delivered soon bring so much joy!

DAY 8. Field Country Managers. All Field staff are passionate about the Lord and sharing the great news! Please pray for these country managers and their staff: Monika Qerimi, Albania; Dalibor Kojić – Bosnia and Sarkis Ovanesyan – Bulgaria and their staff.

DAY 9. Family-to-Family (F2F). Give thanks for the families that have reached self-sufficiency this last year. For those who were close to self-sufficiency but have gone backwards with the current economic strife, pray they don't lose heart, keep trusting the Lord and remain committed to healthy, happy families. Pray for many others who dream of a day when their families are whole, self-sustaining and happy; that they do not give up on this dream with the current instabilities their countries and communities are facing.

DAY 10. Child Rescue International (CRI)– Children's Homes – Romania. As we make our final exit from regular sponsorship of Romanian children in Children's Homes by the end of 2011, give thanks for the many lives transformed by God's Love and the Gospel, as well as the considerable practical changes that made their physical lives so much easier over the last 21 years. Pray we do not lose contact with the thousands impacted; each one is precious to God.

DAY 11. Child Rescue International – CRI in Community –Give thanks for the recent sponsorships taken! What an encouragement for these children to know they have a sponsor who will help meet their needs & encourage them!

DAY 12. Open Days. Sydney. Pray for great weather and lots of visitors to our Open Days in Sydney on November 18 & 19. They are a tremendous encouragement to us and we hope a great encouragement and inspiration to those who visit! If you can make it, we would love to welcome you. If you live too far away, please contact us if you would like to help organise an Open Day or event in your area.

DAY 13. CHILD CARE. Puppet Shows. Give thanks for these wonderful shows! Squeals of delight can be heard throughout our field countries! Pray for children to be touched by the Gospel message that is central to every show.

DAY 14. CRI. Home budgets. Price rises have placed huge pressure on Children's Home budgets. Having to choose between purchasing food, hygiene items, school supplies and medicine; puts huge pressure on all Home staff. Give thanks our CRI sponsorship program and Gift in Kind deliveries are relieving some of these burdens.

DAY 15. SEEDS OF HOPE. Give thanks for the wonderful harvest of vegetables enjoyed by all families this year. As the freezing temperatures descend on Eastern Europe, families are thrilled they were able to preserve vegetables from the summer harvest. Prices for fruit and vegetables increase by as much as 4-5 times during winter. Before SEEDS OF HOPE, family diets became nutritionally inadequate during the long winter.

DAY 16. OPERATION WINTER RESCUE endeavours to deliver warmth to our field countries that often suffer at or below freezing temperatures for half the year. With the prices of gas, electricity and fuel for heating once again increasing, families, the disabled, elderly dread winter. Give thanks this initiative will keep the poor warm this winter.

DAY 17. OPERATION WINTER RESCUE. Operation Cover-Up plays a vital role in Operation Winter Rescue. Imagine the joy of beneficiaries as they get to choose from beautifully knitted items that suit their sizes and likes as temperatures plummet! Pray our containers arrive safely in Holland and can be trucked into our field countries in good time before the weather is at its coldest.

DAY 18. ALBANIA. F2F. BUKRI. This newly enrolled, young family of 5 lives in Katund Sukth village north east of Durres. Although Ferdinand has daily work, his usual wages of \$114/month are never enough to provide the basic needs of their family. This coupled with living in an old house, with no bathroom, an outside toilet, no running water and inadequate furniture, makes life miserable and causes great friction amongst family members. **Please pray we can find 4 sponsors to meet their needs and encourage them.**

DAY 19. BOSNIA. F2F. DJONLAGIC. This young family of 4 is trying to remain positive, with Sukrija trying his hardest to find work to support their family. We are helping this family through regular food, hygiene parcels, GIK items, medications and glasses for Amir (4). **Please pray we find 4 sponsors to meet their needs.**

DAY 20. F2F. Give thanks for the wonderful Coordinators. They love the families, walking with them as they heal and work towards self-sufficiency.

DAY 21. Operation Christmas Love. Pray for protection, strength and joy for all who undertake the task of delivering the 30,000 boxes! Many travel icy roads to make their deliveries. We wish you could be there as we deliver the boxes! Mums plan to make a Christmas feast, children quickly divide the sweets and the elderly and disabled are moved to tears with the generosity of people so far away.

DAY 22. Field Country Managers. Please pray for the following field country managers. The size of their ministries are by far the biggest. John Groza – Moldova, Eugen Macavei – Romania and Mykola Bogdanets – Ukraine.

DAY 23. MOLDOVA. F2F. VRANCEANU. Gheorghe (who struggles with heart problems) and Nina (who struggles with respiratory problems) are both classified as invalids, and yet they are trying their best to provide a stable home and education for their 4 children. Their two roomed flat is cramped and Gheorghe's only occasional employment makes life a struggle. **Please pray we can find 4 sponsors to meet their needs and encourage them.**

DAY 24. MOLDOVA. CRI COM. Aliona (11) has both parents but they are divorced. Her mother has gone abroad to find work so Aliona is cared for by her Aunt. Aliona is in grade 2 and described as shy, musical, obedient and sad because she misses her mum. **Please pray we can find a sponsor to meet Aliona's needs and encourage her.**

DAY 25. Christmas Plays and Puppet Shows. Give thanks for the performances that will take place as Christmas draws near. They are the highlight of the year for many. They make Jesus the centre of Christmas and share a precious message. Pray for people to be touched by the Gospel and reach out to Him as their Lord and Saviour.

DAY 26. MOLDOVA. CRI. Valeriu (10) lives in a Children's Home as he suffers from a mental deficiency and can receive special care in the Home. His father is deceased and his mother is poor and cannot provide for his needs. He has 2 sisters. Valeriu is in grade 2 and described as honest and diligent. He loves playing games with his friends. **Could you prayerfully consider sponsoring Valeriu?**

DAY 27. ROMANIA. F2F. BUTA. This young family of 4 is struggling to survive on their only regular income, the children's social benefit of \$34/month and sporadic income Dumitru earns as a shepherd. Their two roomed house has electricity, an outside toilet, but no bathroom, running water or gas connection. They have started attending the local Baptist church and are a happy, harmonious family. **Please pray we find one more sponsor to meet their needs and encourage them.**

DAY 28. ROMANIA. CRI COM. Maria (12) is in grade 4 and likes learning Romanian language. Her mother died earlier this year. Her father went to Italy and is living with another woman there. He has abandoned Maria so she is cared for by her Aunt and Uncle but they are ill. **Could you prayerfully consider sponsoring Maria?**

DAY 29. ROMANIA. CRI COM. David (8) comes from a poor family with 6 children. His father is working illegally abroad and does not have constant work. His mother cannot provide for the needs of her children. David is a cheerful and quiet child but doesn't go to school yet. **Could you please pray we find a sponsor to meet his needs and encourage him as he grows?**

DAY 30. UKRAINE. F2F. YAYCHENYA. This newly enrolled Christian family with 8 children is struggling to come to terms with the death of mother this year due to cancer. Their only income is \$111/month from Mykola's job as a caretaker. Please pray for the children, aged 4-17 who are struggling with grief. Health problems that are further burdening the family include: Mykola (father) has problems with his legs, Davyd has a hernia in his groin and Roman has enlarged adenoids. **Please pray we can find 4 sponsors to meet their needs and encourage them.**

DAY 31. MWB. International. We face very uncertain times in Europe. With many countries close to our field countries facing what seem to be insurmountable problems (like Greece and Italy) our field countries are filled with dread. Much of our financial support also comes from Western Europe. Their struggles have affected the level of support we are able to offer our field countries. Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they negotiate these difficult times.

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