



Present for the Future

FOCUS

news

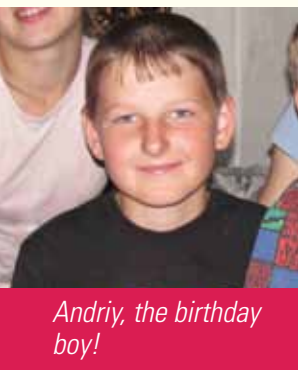
mission without borders, Australia

November 2011



Dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,

What a tumultuous time our world is currently experiencing. The fragile and volatile nature of the world economy is making many nervous. We are thankful for your continued support through this



Andriy, the birthday boy!

turmoil as our field countries of Eastern Europe are certainly not immune. When Greece, Italy and Spain falter, Eastern Europe trembles. Many who left Eastern Europe in hope of earning an income for themselves and their families travelled to and looked for work in Greece, Italy and Spain. As you can imagine many have now returned empty-handed, with despair and hopelessness overwhelming many.

Isn't it great however, that we can have hope beyond this difficulty and struggles overwhelming the earth. Our hope is based on our God who will never leave or abandon us. This firm foundation does not waiver when world economies falter and currencies see-saw. This hope is communicated by our field staff and partnering churches, a welcome and much appreciated encouragement during these tough times.

We hope you will consider using our Gift Catalogue as Christmas approaches, with the attached letter explaining how it works. I would however like to also give a personal face to our ministry this month, as I know it is the stories that fuel your prayers and inspire your support. I have also included the basic 'Gift in Kind' Collection Points this month. Keep knitting! We will send one more container from both Melbourne and Sydney before years' end, so keep the items coming! If you would like a more comprehensive list of collection points, please refer to an earlier Focus News or Contact our office on (02) 9647 2022 or email: australia@mwbi.org

Being present for the future for families who struggle to survive is part of our mandate. For Olena and her 4 children, aged 4-14 years, their recent enrolment in our Family-to-Family (F2F) program means their future is looking so much brighter! They were surprised when

help first arrived and see God's hand in all they are receiving.

In early June, Pavlo (MWB's F2F coordinator) and Lyudmyla (MWB's Emotional Support Coordinator) went to visit the Dasova family and organised a birthday party for Andriy, aged 11. It was such a surprise for the whole family! Andriy could not believe the special greetings and gifts were just for him! He was also excited that the entire family could enjoy oranges, bananas, juice and soft drink to celebrate, as these products are rare treats for the family.

After the short party, the children went outdoors to play and Olena told us about their family.

Pavlo: *"What is life like in the village?"*

Olena: *"It is almost the same, day in day out. Fields and cattle; that's all there is. Getting up early, feeding the cattle and doing some work in the fields before going to work. I am grateful to God for the work, though. It is a blessing to have a job in the village and a salary (\$125/month). I work at the Summer Camp as a cleaning lady. I have to take Yuriy and Dmytro with me to work, because there is no one to stay at home with them. I go back home at lunchtime to get water for the cow and to milk her, then I go back to work. In the evening, we all go out to our field. It is very tiring.*

I would like to have more time, but God gives me strength. When I look at my children, I can understand why I can't be content with what we have now. I want more for them!

I used to cry at first, after my husband abandoned us. It was almost a year ago. Now I am stronger. He visits the children and gives us some money, but we miss his presence and care. It is so hard to know he is not here when we need him. I believe that my husband will come back to us one day. We are all praying for him to repent. I remember Job, who was blessed with twice as much as he had before his tribulations. I believe that my trials will end one day and that God will give me a strong and happy



A birthday party!

family again. I keep praying for my husband. I believe that when he gets to know God, he will change and come back to our family.

I am thankful to God that He is so merciful to our family. When the children had flu this winter, I prayed for a quick recovery and my prayers were answered. I have work and the chance to provide for the family.

However, enrolment in the F2F program is necessary for our survival and we are so very thankful."



Olena and her young family are encouraged to fight on, despite the challenges

Please know each family in our projects is encouraged by regular visits from our Coordinators. They love the visits and these also allow us to ascertain their greatest needs, as they work toward the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency. For Olena, although she was thankful she had employment as a cleaning lady at Summer Camp; this job is not available all year round, meaning our help is needed more than ever during the winter. Food, clothing, hygiene items, medicines, school supplies, even birthday parties and Christmas celebrations are often taken for granted in this blessed country of ours. Be encouraged these simple necessities and life's pleasures are delivered to the families entrusted to us, thanks to your support! You can help children, families and the elderly this month by purchasing items from our Gift Catalogue. If you would prefer to simply make a financial gift, complete the coupon at the bottom of the attached letter. If a financial gift is not possible, know we love and need your prayer support. Safe travel for our Coordinators during the harsh, freezing winters is vital, as is the strength to carry the large workloads and approach each family with the compassion and love Jesus would display. It is a labour of love they feel privileged to bear, but they covet your prayers. Thanks for your support!

Upcoming Events

Sydney Open Days:

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th November

10am-4pm

10 Stubbs Street Auburn NSW 2144

We look forward to meeting you and giving you a tour. We will also be giving presentations throughout both days which will encourage and inspire you!

RSVP. There is no need to RSVP unless you are bringing a group.

2012 Sponsor Tour Romania and Moldova

We are inviting expressions of interest for our 2012 Sponsor Tour to Romania and Moldova. Tentative dates are leaving Sydney Saturday March 17, and returning to Sydney on Thursday April 5. We will tour a variety of projects from Children's Homes, our new CRI in Community initiatives, families and community centres. The Tour is open to sponsors of children and families as well as general supporters of Mission Without Borders. We will work out costs once we have the itinerary and size of group confirmed, but it will be in the order of \$6,000-\$7,000/person, inclusive of all travel, accommodation and meals. If you would like to register your expression of interest or ask anything about the prospective tour, please contact our office on (02) 9647 2022 or email: australia@mwbi.org.

'Gift in Kind – Update

Items Needed:

Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items:

- Blankets – the minimum size of blankets requested is 1.6m x 1.4m
- Jumpers, scarves, beanies, bed socks and knitted bears.
- Note we cannot send the tiny jumpers known as AIDs Baby jumpers.



Patchwork quilts

All items for sewing, embroidery, knitting and craft material, wool, needles etc.

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW
(CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WE MUST ADHERE TO)!**

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

Please contact our office for a more comprehensive list, refer to an earlier version of the Focus News and look out for a special edition in December!

David Turner is the Australia-wide Coordinator –Sydney Office:

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Jenny Grainger is our Victorian Coordinator:

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Email: jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net

Workshop: 8 Birch Avenue, DANDENONG VIC 3175

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