



A Harvest of hope

Welcome and set the scene for your talk.

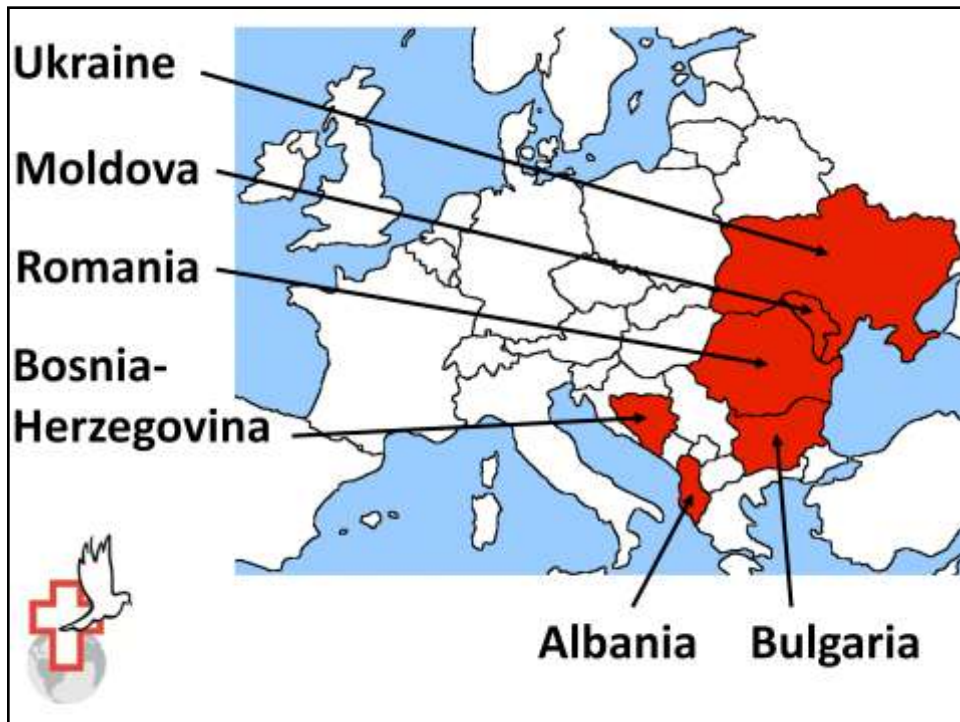
As you and your church give thanks for God's bounty this Harvest, this presentation tells the story of how two determined families are being supported by Mission Without Borders to become self-sufficient.

Mission Without Borders (MWB) reaches people for Christ.

With thousands of families, elderly and children across Eastern Europe trapped in poverty, MWB seeks to meet both their spiritual and practical needs. MWB offers a holistic ministry providing spiritual, educational, emotional and material support. This brings hope and healing to some of Europe's most marginalised.



The level of poverty in Eastern European countries is profound. Some families, as shown in this photo from Albania, survive by salvaging rubbish from city dumps.



Mission Without Borders works in six countries of Eastern Europe: Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Bulgaria.

Moldova is where our two featured families featured live. The European Parliament described Moldova as Europe's poorest country. In 2009 3.1% of the population was unemployed. By 2010 this had jumped to over 6.5%¹.

Other facts for the countries where MWB works:

- The average annual salary for Albanians is less than £50 per month.²
- Bulgaria loses about 30,000 people per year as they emigrate to find work.³
- In Bosnia-Herzegovina, one in five people live below poverty lacking access to basic needs, such as safe drinking water.⁴
- Romania's GDP fell more than seven per cent in 2009, prompting Bucharest to seek a \$26 billion emergency assistance from the IMF.⁵
- Unemployment is widespread in Ukraine where approximately 50% live below the poverty line.⁶

1 CIA factbook

2 Worldfacts website

3 NSI population table

4 UN, 2010

5 Basic facts website

6 Basic facts website

The Bondarenco family



For the Bondarenco family life was difficult. They had a small piece of land but no means of farming it.

Both Viorel and Veronica had to find casual work – in an area of total unemployment. With little income, they were trying to care for their small baby, as well as Veronica's mother. In fact, their first child was a slow developer because of the family's poor diet.

It was when Emmanuel was still a baby that the Bondarencos joined Mission Without Borders' Family-to-Family sponsorship scheme.

MWB donated food and hygiene parcels to help the Bondarnecos with their most pressing needs. At the same time, MWB planned with the family the most appropriate steps they could take towards self-sufficiency.

With the help of their four UK sponsors, the Bondarencos began to move forward. The sponsors supported the family as they began to farm their land. They grew their own vegetables and gradually took on more responsibility.

A harvest of hope for the future



Today Viorel and Veronica are completely different!

Through MWB's Family-to-Family sponsors, the Bondarencos received a mini-farm. This included a cow, a shelter for her and feed.

Their new cow gave the Bondarencos milk – much needed when their second child, Ana-Maria, arrived. Also, with the cow's milk, Veronica learnt to make cheese. She is now successfully selling this.

Looking after their cow has given both Viorel and Veronica a new confidence. They are now working their kitchen garden and growing more vegetables and fruit for themselves. And they're learning to tend chickens.

What's more, Viorel has found work in a bakery and their children are going to school.

Today the Bondarencos have moved out of their desperate poverty to being totally self-reliant. They have hopes for the future:

As their cheese business continues to grow, the Bondarencos are now dreaming of buying an incubator to hatch their chicks. But their biggest, and newest, dream is to have a greenhouse.

The Bulmaga family



It was impossible for the Bulmaga family to reap a good harvest. They had a tiny bit of land, but could only grow a few poor quality vegetables – not enough for five of them. Viorel Bulmaga is unemployed and had little money to buy extra seed for planting. He'd spend his time looking for work. His wife, Liliana, is both deaf and dumb, but manages to work from time to time as a seamstress.

**Viorel and
Liliana cannot
afford to send
their children to
school**



Viorel and Liliana's three children love going to school. Schooling is free but children can only attend if they have the necessary school books and clothes. So Alexandra, Virsavia and Emanuil often miss classes. Particularly in the winter, because they lack suitable clothing and shoes to walk to school in the mud and snow.

The Bulmaga's chicken mini-farm



To boost the few vegetables that he could grow, Viorel wanted to have some chickens. But the cost of building a chicken shed and feeding the chickens was simply too much.

Then MWB offered the family a mini-farm. With support from their MWB sponsors, the Bulmagas built their chicken shed. They received chicks and feed and developed a productive chicken mini-farm.

A harvest of self-sufficiency



Today the Bulmagas lives have changed. Viorel states that ‘the chickens are helping us become more self-sufficient. We now have fresh eggs in the home and also meat.’

The whole family has a better diet and they are able to make money by selling their extra eggs. They use the money for the children’s school books.

Viorel knows God has blessed his family to being able to look after themselves. He is keen to support others in the same way that he’s been helped: ‘We want to be able to help others from what we have.’

*The Bondarencos and Bulmagas are reaping
harvests of hope for the future
from their mini-farms.*

Help more families farm a harvest of hope:

Mini-farm £1,750–3,000

Pig £60

Batch of ten chickens £40

Batch of five chickens £20

Box of seeds £15.

THANK YOU!

www.mwbuk.org



With the help of MWB, the Bondarencos and Bulmagas are now reaping a harvest from their mini-farms. They have now hope for the future.

This harvest, give to MWB so other families can harvest their own mini-farms and have new hope.

One complete mini-farm costs between £1,750 and £3,000.

One pig costs £60.

One batch of ten chickens costs £40.

One batch of five chickens costs £20.

One box of seeds costs £15.

All donations will be used within our Family Care programme to help families to become self-sustaining in whatever way is most appropriate to meet their needs. In the agricultural economies of Eastern Europe this is often through the provision of seeds and livestock, but may be tools for a carpenter or computer training or even car mechanics training. By employing local staff, Mission Without Borders can tailor the support to meet specific requirements. This ensures a true harvest of hope.

Thank you