

ACHIEVEMENTS

2019



MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

 MissionWithoutBorders

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 mwbuk.org



2019 IN NUMBERS



10887

Children sponsored



2304

Families sponsored



71,485

Bibles and Christian literature distributed



226,400

Number of meals served



29718

Operation Christmas love parcels delivered



559

Scholarship students



3926

Attendees at Summer Camp

164

Child Sponsors (UK)

105

Family Sponsors (UK)

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

Welcome to this year's *Achievements* magazine in which there is so much to celebrate and be thankful for achieving over the past year.

I am delighted that the hard work of our staff on the ground in Eastern Europe along with those supporting our work across the world including in the UK is bearing fruit and changing lives.

None of this would be possible without your help. Our heartfelt and deep thanks to individual friends and partners who support us either through sponsorship of a child or family or through regular gifts in response to appeals throughout the year. These gifts are precious and we can't thank you enough for your patience and generosity. We are also grateful for our developing partnerships with churches and charitable trusts. Corporate donations of "gifts in kind" were particularly successful this year for which we are grateful.

2020 marks the 60th Anniversary of Mission Without Borders which began by smuggling Bibles into Communist countries behind the Iron curtain. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 we continue to journey with those on the margins of society and are committed to relieve their suffering, encourage their transformation out of poverty and share the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

While the events of recent months with COVID-19 have created great uncertainty and impacted on us all in different ways I have been greatly encouraged by the commitment of the team who continue to do all they can to bring practical help and powerful hope to the poor and marginalised.

Words from Proverbs 3 v 5-6 have been a great reassurance to us all at MWB – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." May I encourage you in these difficult and uncertain times – we will continue to take your kindness to the doorsteps of those that need it most in 2020.



Michael Thomas, CEO



MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Without Borders is an international network of Christians who journey with the poor and marginalized, bringing practical and spiritual support with hope of a better future, enabling and encouraging people to lift themselves out of poverty, always sharing the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

UK (BASELINE)

GDP Per Capita Income was £33,840 in 2019 (current)
(Source: World Bank)

Infant mortality - 4 children in 1000 (Source: UK Govn)

ROMANIA

Key Facts

GDP Per Capita Income was £10,335 (current)
Deaths from unsafe water sources nearly 9 times higher than UK.
68% of Roma do not have access to tap water in their homes.
Just 36% of Roma have primary education.

How MWB help

To address the educational needs of young people in Romania, we supported 2,151 children through our sponsorship scheme in 2019 and offered educational support through our After Schools Programme.

UKRAINE

Key Facts

GDP Per capita Income was £2,927(current), the poorest of the six countries we work in and just 9% of the UK's.
43% of the population cannot afford basic household goods
1.5 million people are considered undernourished.

How MWB help

Thanks to our generous sponsors 980 children were able to go to Summer Camps in the Ukraine in 2019, up on the previous year. We continue to help people in the conflict zone in the east of Ukraine and delivered 7,000 Operation Christmas Love parcels to struggling families throughout the country.

MOLDOVA

Key Facts

GDP Per Capita Income was £3,598 (current), just 11% of the UK's.
One of the poorest countries in Europe with monthly average wages of £192 for a family with children barely more than subsistence.
Infant mortality 14 children in 1000, over 3 times higher than the UK
Deaths from unsafe water nearly 9 times higher than UK.

How MWB help

To develop the future lives of young people with the hope that they will be able to give back to their country, MWB supported 4,114 children in Moldova through its sponsorship scheme and provided 69 young people with educational scholarships.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Key Facts

GDP Per Capita Income was £4,858 (current), 14% of the UK's.
Unemployment 4 times higher than the UK.
29% women of reproductive age have anaemia, double that of the UK.

How MWB help

To support the health of woman and newborn children, Mission Without Borders provides specialist Mother Care packages containing essential care and hygiene products to cover the period around the birth, to help ensure mother and child are provided for when they are at their most vulnerable.

ALBANIA

Key Facts

GDP Per Capita Income was £4,282 (current), 13% of the UK's.
Undernourishment is twice as prevalent in Albania as the UK.
Deaths from unsafe water are nearly six times higher than UK.

How MWB help

Working in partnership with 16 churches in Albania, 361 families are benefiting from our Family sponsorship programme, up from 327 in the previous year. We also served 35,629 meals through our Soup Kitchens in 2019.

BULGARIA

Key Facts

GDP Per Capita Income was £7,790 (current)
Bulgaria is the poorest country in the EU and the world's fastest shrinking nation with its population predicted to half by the end of the century. Bulgaria has the lowest average salary in the EU, at £575 a month, the lowest minimum wage, at £260, and the smallest average pension, at £190.

How MWB help

Poverty in Bulgaria has resulted in significant homelessness. Mission Without Border's Street Mercy programme provided 33,820 meals to those in need in Bulgaria in 2019, and Mission staff provided help to those on the streets to access hospital aid.





EVERY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

Breaking the cycle of generational poverty in families Mission Without Borders works with is vital to our vision of seeing lives transformed across generations. Our support for young people includes After School Clubs and Summer Camps as well as the funding of scholarships and vocational training.

Summer camps create opportunities for young people living in poverty to have a break from their everyday struggles and have time filled with fun, positive experiences, make lasting friendships and encounter the truth of God's Word.

Last year 3,946 young people attended camps and, due to the incredible generosity of our supporters in the UK, £29,243 was raised in our summer appeal. Viktor comes from a desperately poor community in Moldova -



“I learned to beg from childhood; we had nothing to eat, and I had to go into the village and knock on people’s doors and ask for bread. Some children threw stones at me when they saw me coming. The rejection made me feel so alone.”

When he was young, Viktor was involved in a motorcycle accident which affected his memory, resulting in him being unable to read or write properly. “I started to pray that God would give me my memory back and amazingly it happened. I started to improve and began to be one of the best in the class.”

Despite this progress, Victor hated his home where he faced his stepfather. “He used to beat me and my brothers and sisters and we would run from him into the cornfields where we would sleep all night.”

Help came to Victor through visits from Mission Co-ordinators to his school. It was at this time that Victor also heard about MWB Summer Camps.



“I wanted to go to camp so badly as I saw the joy other children had when they came back. When I was 12 I finally got to go. At 17, I gave my life to Jesus. I never dreamed that my life would turn out how it has. The day I was baptized was the happiest in my life. In Jesus I found joy, peace, freedom and love.”

Victor has now become a leader at a MWB Summer Camp. “I want to serve the Lord,” he says. “I want these children to know that there is a plan for their lives.”



Victor and the other volunteers at the seminar

While summer camps happen only once a year, the Mission also supports young people throughout the year through our After-School Clubs which help provide solid academic extra-curricular teaching, a safe environment for children to do their homework, receive instruction and help and benefit from nutritious meals.

Ten-year old Ardi lives in Durres, Albania. Many children in his community end up abandoning school in order to help their families earn money to survive – his older sister, Jona had to leave school and work in tailoring to help the family.

Recently Ardi started attending MWB's After School project. "When he started Ardi did not know how to read well," said Oriola Tufa, one of the teachers. "So I developed a study plan to improve his reading skills and since then, he has really improved."

Ardi's mother said, **"Thanks to After School club, Ardi is now finishing his homework and started to feel good about himself. It has relieved me of such a big burden."**

The After-School program helps thousands of children like Ardi to grow and gives them a vision of a future without poverty.



Ardi in class



If you would like to know more about helping young people like Ardi and Viktor or know of a charitable trust or church who would support this work please do contact MWB.

"The only help I have ever received is from Mission Without Borders. Under this project we can produce vegetables to provide food not only for the summer but for the winter as well."

- Tryana, Bulgaria



SEEDS OF HOPE

STREET MERCY



"Since November the situation in Albania has been very difficult because of the earthquake. Thank you very much for every item you have donated to us!"

- Eris, Albania



GIFTS IN KIND

2019 IN P



OPERATION WINTER RESCUE



SELF-SUFFICIENCY SCHEMES



"MWB has sprinkled our lives with long lasting blessings and now that we are self sufficient and no longer on the family sponsorship programme, our greatest wish is that other families will get to experience the same triumphs that we have."

- Corina, Romania



SUMMER CAMP



BACK TO SCHOOL

PICTURES



OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE



ELDERLY CARE

"I do not have enough words to express my gratitude for the care and love you show me. I am bed-ridden and my wife and children rejected me. Thanks to the volunteers who bring me food every day I see that God still loves and cares for me..."
- Andrei, Moldova



"Thank you so much for bringing Operation Christmas Love parcels to the internally displaced people and other poor families. God bless you!"
- Olea, Ukraine

SURVIVING THE HARSH WINTER THANKS TO OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE



One practical way of communicating the love of Christ to as many people as we can at Christmas is through our Operation Christmas Love (OCL) appeal. Last year you – our supporters – helped raise £41,828. This generosity helped the Mission to provide OCL boxes to 29,375 families living in poverty and struggling to put food on the table. These parcels are a wonderful way to reach out to people, containing food, essentials and treats, along with Christian literature that presents the gospel.

One family to benefit was the Milanov-Raykovas, who live in one of the poorest regions of Bulgaria. Life is an unrelenting struggle for Emil and Snezhana who have two young children. The family live in two small rooms without furniture and share an outside toilet with 10 other people. To make matters worse, one of their two rooms is regularly flooded by groundwater.

“I remember constantly emptying it out with buckets of water just a few months before our second child was born.” Snezhana told us. Her husband, Emil, does his best to support the family through seasonal jobs but the pay and work is unreliable.



Snezhana with her children



“I would like to thank the people who brought so much joy into my life with the OCL parcel. May God give them good health – but there are people who are in an even worse state than us – may they be helped as well.”



“I feel awful that as a mother I cannot put a meal on the table. My greatest worry is for our son Rumen who is autistic and needs to follow a special diet. We deny ourselves a lot of things – we don’t eat good food and we have meat only two or three times a month,” Snezhana said.

In 2015 the family were enrolled on MWB’s sponsorship programme. “That changed our lives”, says Snezhana. “Not only have we received food parcels throughout the year, we have received clothes, shoes, roof insulation and furniture.

I am very thankful to God that we met the people from the Mission – not only because of the material things we receive, but mainly for their positive attitude and the emotional support. MWB has raised us to a higher level in life.”

Last Christmas, Snezhana was overjoyed to receive an Operation Christmas Love (OCL) parcel. “I am so grateful,” she said. “It had all the basic foods we needed – flour, beans, lentils, sugar, cooking oil, pasta and more. Stela and Rumen were so happy with the chocolates, biscuits and other goodies they found inside.”

“The OCL parcel reduces the burdens faced by families before the holiday season,” said Ventsislav Bozhikov, the Mission Coordinator in Dabnitsa. **“It helps the**

parents forget their misery. The children are the most excited as there are luxuries in there their parents can’t afford”.

Snezhana’s voice almost breaks with emotion when asked what message she would like to give to MWB supporters, “I would like to thank the people who brought so much joy into my life with the OCL parcel. May God give them good health - but there are people who are in an even worse state than us - may they be helped as well.”

This year we want to reach out and help more families like Snezhana’s as we believe this winter will be harder than ever following COVID-19. We can take your kindness to the doorsteps of those that need it most. If your Church or Fellowship Group can help please do call us on 0207 940 1370 or email jchamberlain@mwbuk.org





Taking out a Child of Family Sponsorship with Mission Without Borders in this, our 60th Anniversary Year is a great way to break the isolating and desperate poverty so many of the families we work with.

Sponsoring a Family helps them to become self-sufficient and lead more independent lives, while sponsorship of a child helps young people to grow and develop in safe spaces that help them to learn, laugh, experience and feel good about themselves. Each young person and family have different needs, so our Mission co-ordinators meet regularly with them to ensure the sponsorship programme is properly tailored to provide the practical, emotional and spiritual support they need.

£18 a month will link you with a child or family in Eastern Europe, but a sponsorship is not just about money. By choosing to develop a relationship as a sponsor you're a wonderful encouragement to them as they know there are people who understand and care about them.

One of our beneficiaries living in western Ukraine is Olexiy Krasko. A widower struggling to raise his children after his wife's death was horrified to see his family home also go up in flames just over a year ago through a fire from the kitchen stove.

During the last year of his wife Oksana's life, the Krasko family's struggles were especially difficult because of the medical expenses they faced. They were enrolled on Mission Without Borders' family sponsorship scheme and began receiving ongoing support to help them get through the hardest of times.

Olexiy is a devoted Christian and for many years he has ministered in the local church and reached out to people with the gospel. The tragedies he has experienced have challenged and strengthened his faith.

He said, "When our home burned down. ... a lot of people from MWB and the church helped us. We were given food, hygiene items, clothing and footwear – as well



as building materials, furniture and electric appliances."

However, as Olexiy said, "My main concern was the children's future. I felt such a great burden and responsibility for them - educating them, leading and teaching to believe God. I prayed a lot about it."

The answer came unexpectedly when Olexiy met a woman named Inna, who is a Christian. A mother of three children her own husband died three years ago. Through God's grace Olexiy and Inna were recently married.

Oleksandr, the MWB coordinator supporting the family, said, "Inna is in charge of prayer ministry in church. She teaches the children that everything in life must begin from prayer in the home."

The Krasko family has seen a great deal of tragedy – but they have had the joy of experiencing the love and care of God, demonstrated not just by local Christians who offered their support but also from Mission Without Borders. As Olexiy says, "We were helped so much, and we pray for our sponsors and for every supporter who donated to help us. May God bless you."



To find out about how you can become a sponsor please go to our website www.mwbuk.org or contact us on 0207 940 1370.

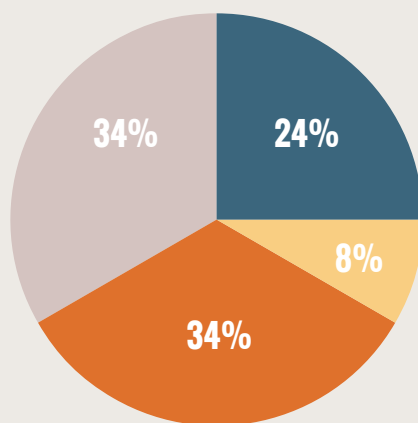
WHERE FUNDS WERE RAISED IN 2019

General donations including churches, supporters and charitable trusts raised £343,237, up 8% on the previous year.

Legacy gifts of £18,562 were gratefully received.

Corporate donations (Gifts in Kind) were also up on 2018 and raised £2,793,932, including donations of knitwear valued at £464,234.

WHERE YOUR MONEY WAS SPENT



- Childcare: 24%
- Family care: 34%
- Child and family sponsorship: 34%
- Education: 8%

Total fundraising expenditure including staff and administrative costs were 3% of total income for the year.

A BIG THANKS TO:

We remain extremely grateful for the continued support of In Kind Direct, a charity founded in 1996 by HRH The Prince of Wales, to distribute consumer goods donated by companies to charities in the UK and overseas.

Mission and Relief are committed to helping with the logistical aspect of Mission organisations and partner with us not only to ship both your parcels and letters to sponsored families and children, but also bulk material goods that we receive from organisations to help our work.

Our partners at Christian Hope International do an amazing job collecting knitwear and clothing on our behalf! We can't thank them enough for all that they have been doing – especially as they have continued to work through the pandemic!



We could do nothing without the support you give and our incredible volunteers, such as Pioli, who came into our office regularly around the year to help with our work. We are also very grateful to all of our partner churches including all those at St. Paul's Church, St. Albans; Christchurch, Cheltenham; St Marks, Harrogate; New Barn Fellowship; Bandon Hill Methodist Church; Green Mission Chapel; Longton Elim Church Living Springs, Dungiven & Bovevagh Parish churches, and all other churches that have been so kind as to support our mission.



We are also grateful to individuals such as Nick Amott who recommended MWB to his company's charity committee who kindly awarded a grant towards our work.



GIFTS THAT MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

We would also like to extend our tremendous thanks to all of you who purchased gifts through our Alternative Gift Catalogue in 2019.

Throughout the year our 'Chirpy Chickens' proved to be the most popular item, along with 'Seeds of Hope', 'Warm Blankets', 'Soup and Sanctuary' and, thanks to your generosity, a total of £7,496 was raised over the year to provide direct aid to those in need in Eastern Europe.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

A gift in your Will could help change the future for children living in Eastern Europe.

To find out more information about leaving a gift in your Will, call our office on **020 7940 1370**, check online at **www.mwbuk.org/get-involved/leave-a-legacy** or write to us at the address below.



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