

ACHIEVEMENTS

2021



MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS



MissionWithoutBorders



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“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

Thessalonians 2 v 8.

These verses encapsulate much of what Mission Without Borders seeks to do in Eastern Europe, through God's grace. The steadfast faithfulness and commitment of Mission field workers and volunteers – especially resolute in the last year during the pandemic- in adapting services for the poor and homeless and building trust, credibility and understanding with families living in desperate poverty by walking together with them and living in the communities we work in.

This faithful witness on the frontline is about enabling and encouraging people to lift themselves out of poverty, but it is also about sharing the hope that is found in Jesus Christ, This last year we have witnessed to many families who have been in a dark place, who have lost hope and felt there was no way out – who now walk in the knowledge of God's love and the eternal hope that he offers.

The Mission has also been able to work in new areas of need, particularly Eastern Ukraine, where we have been serving people for whom there has been no one else, with emotional and practical support including home deliveries of food and hygiene parcels, soup kitchens, PPE and simple prayer.

Despite a challenging and incredibly difficult time for so many of us, we have been humbled by the generosity of our supporters, friends and churches, who have been moved to help children and families living in isolating poverty. Many of you are longstanding supporters and we are truly grateful. Thanks also to those of you who put your trust in and gave to the Mission for the first time in 2020.

Looking forward, my hope is that we capture the hearts and minds of a growing number of churches and people in the UK, who will join with us in praying, giving and advocating our ministry. If you would like to help us with this, please do get in touch.

In all things we trust the Lord to lead us and thank you for your partnership in this vital and precious ministry.



Michael Thomas, Chairman of Mission Without Borders

WHAT WE ACHIEVED WITH
YOUR HELP IN 2020



9,604

Children sponsored



2,376

Families sponsored



43,971

Bibles and Christian literature distributed



171,479

Soup Kitchen & Street Mercy meals served



41,800

Operation Christmas Love parcels distributed



504

Scholarship Students helped

261

Partner churches

8,500

Bible Correspondence Course Students

1,268

Children who attended Summer Camp

 **ROMANIA**

Key Facts GDP Per Capita Income was £9,360 (current). 70% of the rural population live in poverty and 40% of Romanian students are functionally illiterate.

How MWB help MWB partners with 83 churches and in 2020 3,580 students undertook our Bible Correspondence Course. We provide emotional and spiritual support to women through our prison ministry. In 2021 UK donors provided financial support for our greenhouse in Victoria, which enables families in poverty to grow crops and become more self-sufficient.

 **UKRAINE**

Key Facts GDP Per Capita Income was £2,705 (current), the poorest of the countries we work in and just 9% of the UK's. School closures during the pandemic have resulted in acute learning losses. More than 1 in 5 under 5's have stunted growth due to malnutrition. War in the eastern region has forced 1 million to leave their homes and 13,000 people have been killed.

How MWB help In 2020, thanks to our generous supporters we were able to provide 9,000 Operation Christmas Love parcels in the Ukraine. In response to the war we have also begun new work in the conflict areas.

**UK (BASELINE)**

GDP per Capita income was £29,295 in 2020 (current)

(Source: World Bank)
UK has fifth largest GDP in the world

 **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**

Key Facts GDP Per Capita Income was £4,380 (current), 15% of the UK's. 50% of the population have been designated as at risk of poverty. 62% of young people (18-25) are unemployed. 89% of urban homes are without modern sanitation facilities.

How MWB help In 2020, 45,949 Soup kitchen meals were served in Bosnia. MWB also runs a scholarship programme to support the education and vocational training of young people, to help them find future employment.

 **ALBANIA**

Key Facts GDP Per Capita Income was £3,786 (current), 13% of the UK's. Economic contraction in the last year is expected to double numbers of people living in poverty. 30% are without safe water and more than 45% of women report they have experienced domestic violence.

How MWB help Working in partnership with 23 churches, MWB supports women experiencing domestic violence and survivors of abuse to live safe and fulfilling lives through its family sponsorship programme and providing emotional support for those affected.

 **BULGARIA**

Key Facts GDP Per Capita Income was £7,242 (current). Bulgaria remains the poorest country in the EU. 32% of the population were deemed at risk of poverty in 2020.

How MWB help Our Street Mercy work in Sofia provided 35,395 meals to the homeless in 2020. MWB supplies important material support, including food, sanitation goods, and furniture to help alleviate those in severe poverty. We have also opened a new family support programme in partnership with local churches.

 **MOLDOVA**

Key Facts GDP Per Capita Income was £3,303 (current), just 11% of the UK's. One of the poorest countries in Europe. 59% of the urban population live in slums and 27% are without safe water. Infant and mother mortality are 3 times higher than the UK.

How MWB help In 2020, MWB supported more families – 694 – and more children – 4,128 – through donor sponsorship than any other country we work in, giving hope for young people and enabling families to become more independent. We also provided support for pregnant women, young mothers, and children during the times they are most vulnerable.



HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE

Our joy is to see young people struggling from poverty given the opportunity to flourish and reach their full potential, often against all odds. Thanks to the kind support from individuals, churches and charitable trusts this support is growing, with our After-School Clubs and the funding of scholarships to university and vocational training colleges all giving young people real hope for the future.

Our Summer Camps can also be a lifeline for disadvantaged children facing anxiety and isolating poverty, giving them an opportunity to make new friends, have fun, learn skills that will help them in everyday life and hear about Jesus. As one Mission volunteer said, **“Summer camp is a special place for each child. It is a place of new friendships, hopes, adventures, testimonies, and joy. It makes me happy to see how kids change over a very short period of time.”**

Last year, lockdowns and restrictions on meetings across many countries meant that we had to adapt our plans to run large week-long camps into a series of one-day camps with tight limitations on numbers. Despite restrictions, we were able to safely provide 1,268 young people with camps in the middle of the pandemic.

This year, we are sending almost 3 times that number of young people to week-long summer camps. Zilha, a single mother in Bosnia-Herzegovina supported by the Mission, who has never been able to afford a holiday for herself or



Zilha and her sons

her children, explained how excited her boys were:

“The boys have been asking me all the time whether there’ll be a camp this year,” said Zilha, smiling. **“After each camp they’ve been to, the two of them would be full of stories and adventures. They would talk about it for months, and then they’d start the countdown for next year’s summer camp!”** She added, **“I was thrilled that they had those good role models and mentors there...I have learned through the years that the Mission brings together quality people to work with the children, and there is never any need to worry when my kids are with MWB staff.”**

In 2021 it has been wonderful to see the connections we have been able to establish between our supporters and the children with messages from donors here in the UK being posted on boards in camps like this one in Moldova and read by children.

CONNECTING THE ELDERLY TO COMMUNITY



Kateryna



Antonina

“When I first met elderly people, I was distressed. I saw people who stay at home for months on end and can’t take care of their most basic needs.” Nina

Nina is 17 and volunteers at MWB’s Soup Kitchen in Sarny, Ukraine. The Soup Kitchen has been running for over 14 years, providing meals to the elderly and disabled. Meals are delivered to those who are housebound and isolated with around 49 homes receiving visits every weekday.

Nina added, **“Social institutions do a miserable job of helping these elderly people living in such poverty. I realised God wants us to get involved, to help them practically and to care for them as people. We receive so much love in return!”**

In January 2021, UK supporters raised an incredible **£28,610** in response to our Action Winter Rescue campaign to help the elderly, disabled and homeless. Winter is a painful period for many of the elderly and disabled people we work with. “Their living conditions exacerbate their poor health,” Volodymyr continued. “Most of these elderly people live in very cold houses in poor repair, heated only with wood stoves. The temperature outside drops to -3C (25F)”.

“Older people just stay at home all the time. Often, they don’t have appropriate clothing or footwear. Their

Antonina is 92 and has been housebound for seven years. Her house is older than she is, and cold even in summer. Her 67-year old son has a disability that means he can hardly walk, so rarely visits.

Antonina always meets visitors with a broad smile and a sparkle in her eyes. Although she cannot hear well, she loves to talk and listen to everyone’s news. Volodymyr, the staff member who runs the Soup Kitchen, said, **“Older people need to be prepared for eternity. I try telling people about the Lord wherever I go. But more than preaching with words, we preach with our works.”**

isolation gets even worse than usual. Going outside can turn into a dangerous adventure, as the roads are covered with snow and ice.” Each elderly person living in poverty receives winter support such as firewood, and donated goods such as blankets, warm clothing and footwear. When Kateryna’s electricity was cut off when she couldn’t pay her utilities bill out of her small pension, MWB provided her with firewood. She said, “These people say that God inspires them to do these things for others. I’m not strong in faith, but their attitude shows me what Christian faith looks like”.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE POOR OF OTHER NATIONS



Justin Hall,
Mission Without Borders UK's
Church Relations Manager,
reflects on how Christians and the
Church can respond to poverty.

Living in a post-Covid, post Brexit UK has been, and will continue to be, challenging. Considering these realities, how is the Christian and the Church in the UK to respond to the suffering of the poor, not only in this country, but in other nations too?

There is a fascinating encounter in Acts 10 that shows the Gospel door to the Gentiles being flung wide. What necessitated this glorious opportunity was an encounter in heaven wherein a memorial was brought before God consisting of the prayers of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, and a copy of his financial records, most specifically, that he gave much to the poor. It's also interesting to note that Cornelius was stationed in the region of Israel during Rome's occupation. This was not an easy time for anyone and yet, Cornelius' financial generosity can be seen overflowing to those who were of a different nationality and who, to some degree, were antagonistic and unsupportive of who he was and what he represented.

What an amazing thought. What we do with our money concerns God and, when used to selflessly care for the poor, deeply moves God. In response to Cornelius' actions, God instructed that Cornelius send for Peter who would preach the Gospel to him and his household. The rest we can say, is history. What we do with our finances carries spiritual weight

that has the potential to bring incalculable spiritual blessing to bear, not only upon our lives but on countless others too.

In the light of this, why should the Church in the UK give and continue to give to poverty-stricken people from different countries, especially now? The question is, "Can we afford not to?". Can we who profess to follow Christ, afford to stop investing in an activity that has the potential to open heaven's resources and pour God's grace on people and nations that have never heard the Gospel? The answer, of course is a resounding no. We must use all that God has entrusted to us for His purposes in the earth. What we receive in return can never be measured. Let us be bold and courageous in the light of God's glorious generosity of grace.

About Justin

Justin Hall is from Cape Town, South Africa and brings a rich and varied experience in Christian ordained ministry for over twenty years both as a church planter and senior minister of various congregations. To talk with Justin and discuss more about your church's engagement in mission overseas and possible partnership with churches and MWB in Eastern Europe, please email jhall@mwbuk.org, ring on **0207 940 1370** or go to www.mwbuk.org.

RESTORING HOPE THROUGH THE NEXT GENERATION



At the Mission we believe education is a major way to break the cycle of poverty. In the poor communities we work in, studying costs prevent disadvantaged young people from pursuing higher education. Educational costs are more than just tuition fees; many of the communities we work with are rural, and the nearest college or university can be hundreds of kilometres away. To study, many students must board during term time. MWB provides talented children from poor families with the financial support that enables them to study at university or vocational college.

“It is much easier to study when you don’t have to worry about how it will go paying,” commented one MWB beneficiary student.

Rahela, 22, lives in Sibiu, Romania, and was raised in a Christian family – a family that has gone through a lot of heartache. **“I am the second oldest child in our family. Two of my sisters have died of a condition called dilated cardiomyopathy and when I was 14, my father died aged 40 of the same medical condition. Before this happened, we were talking about my future plans and dreams of becoming a doctor.”**

Rahela said, **“High school was a place I learned to trust God and dedicate my life to him. I decided to place all my struggles into His hands”**.

With all these family difficulties, Rahela was not able to complete her studies in biology and chemistry. However, thanks to support from a MWB donor, Rahela is now studying to be a nurse and she hasn’t given up on her dream of becoming a doctor, a heart surgeon to be exact, so that she might help people with conditions like her

father and sisters. She shares a rented room and works in the summer to keep costs down while the Mission supports her with a scholarship each year.

Scholarships enable hard-working young people like Rahela not to give up on their dreams and future career plans. **In 2020, thanks to kind supporters, 504 young people received scholarships to go onto university or into vocational training colleges and learn a variety of disciplines from sewing, engineering, electronics through to teaching, nursing and computer programming.**

As we approach the next academic year, we are looking to provide scholarships for around 500 young people like Rahela. There is a shortage of funds for the forthcoming year with each individual sponsorship supported with **£300. This helps cover the cost of tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses.** Any help you can give towards the **MWB Scholarship Fund** would be very precious to us. We would ensure you receive feedback on the individual young person or persons your gift covers.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE



“It gives me such peace in my heart. I had nothing to cook for Christmas. Seeing this food gives me hope we we’ll celebrate the holiday like other people.” - Albena



Every year our Operation Christmas Love (OCL) boxes bring the gift of love to families struggling across Eastern Europe, but the winter of 2020 was harder than most. The pandemic saw unemployment and loss of earnings for many while the price of basic food and hygiene items also increased due to shortages.

Our response as a Mission was to increase the number of OCL boxes given to families in crisis to 41,800, up over 40% on the previous year and our largest distribution ever! This could only have been done thanks to the help of you – our supporters.

Albena, lives with her partner, and two children in Dabnitsa, a village in Bulgaria. In the past, when she had money, she would cook a good dinner, decorate a Christmas tree and buy some presents for her children. The COVID-19 restrictions were tough on the family. Albena

and her partner were unable to work for many weeks, and all they could do was earn a small amount of money by gathering walnuts and picking mushrooms in the woods.

However, they have been receiving help from the Mission with Ventsislav, the MWB Family Coordinator, keeping socially distanced, leaving regular food parcels at their door. Albena said, “I am very thankful both to God and to the Mission. Everything comes from God, and He gives me strength to carry on, no matter how hard things get. I’m so happy now, because MWB helps us to have everything we need for a good Christmas celebration. And not only the food, but the children always get sweets and chocolates and it just makes them so happy.”

On one of his visits to Albena, Ventsislav was surprised to see an old lady in the room who was a neighbours of hers that Albena had been telling about Mission Without Borders. “This lady wanted to learn more”, said Ventsislav, “and we had the opportunity to tell her the good news about God, His love for us and how we, from the Mission, try to show this love in Dabnitsa.”



TRANSFORMING LIVES LIKE ALEX'S THROUGH SPONSORSHIP

Children and families we serve are never just a number. They have a face and a name. And thanks to their sponsors, each child and family has the ability to dream and imagine a better tomorrow despite the efforts of poverty to rob them of every aspect of hope.

Over the last 12 months we have been truly grateful for the kindness of Mission friends who have taken out 37 new child and family sponsorships. However, as the Mission begins exciting new work in communities in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria we urgently need to find new sponsors for over 130 families and children. Children like Alex.

Alex is from Romania and was abandoned by his parents at just nine months old. He has significant health problems, which means he struggles to walk and speak and has heart problems. His aunt took him in to her one room home in one of the toughest communities in the city. From the beautiful mountains around the city, you cannot not see the terrible poverty that hundreds of children experience.



His aunt explained: **“There is no hope. It is like being trapped. When we are desperate for food, we borrow money, get into more and more debt and pay back triple the original price.”**

Before Alex began going to the Mission Without Borders After-School centre at the local church, he often had nothing to eat. But now he has a hot meal five days a week, space to do homework, have fun, and learn about the hope there is through Jesus Christ.

“I like to go to school and going to church” Alex said, “and I have learnt to count to 10.”

The smile that breaks across his face shows that he must feel hope and joy, but it is so fragile, and it feels like his future hangs by a thread.



“The children and parents here are so poor. If this centre was not here, many would have nothing to eat, and no one to look after them. Our job is to encourage, value and love the children here no matter what.”

Radu, MWB Coordinator, Romania.



Pastor Timotei with Alex and his aunt.

For just £18 a month you can help us reach vulnerable children and families in need in Eastern Europe. Your support can help create opportunities for children and families to thrive, providing essential food, medical support, clothing and shoes to survive the harsh winters. We can invest in their education and potential enabling families to become more self-sufficient. Find out more by going to www.mwbuk.org or ring us on 0207 940 1370.

A DAY WITH THE MISSION FIELD TEAM IN ROMANIA

8.00am

Team starts the day with reflection and prayer.



8.30am

Daily sorting begins at the Mission warehouse in Sibiu on donated new goods including clothing received from countries like the UK. This is then sent out to countries and people in need.



9.00am

Mission Coordinators start visits with relief supplies including firewood, blankets and food packages to families and the elderly.



11.00am

Our Coordinator in Vanatori visits an older lady who recently had to undergo drastic surgery, amputating her lower leg due to an illness. Often, we are the only people she sees in a day.



1.00pm

A check in to see "Sister Maria" as everyone calls her. She is a dedicated volunteer cook at the Mission After-School centre in Danes.



2.15pm

Coordinator Sorin, visits Bianca Mac's family with a gift and message from their sponsors.



We are so grateful for all the sponsors do for us. In the love the sponsors we see God's love for us",

Bianca

3:45pm

Volunteer Lili visits women in women's prison to encourage them.



With **30** employees, **125** volunteers and partnerships with **83** churches, Country Manager Alexandru Danilenco has much to run. "Like 2020, the first half of 2021 is not an ordinary year for anyone." The pandemic has changed a lot and we need to be flexible. Yet we see God's rich blessing in this difficult time, thanks to the support from our sponsors and donors."

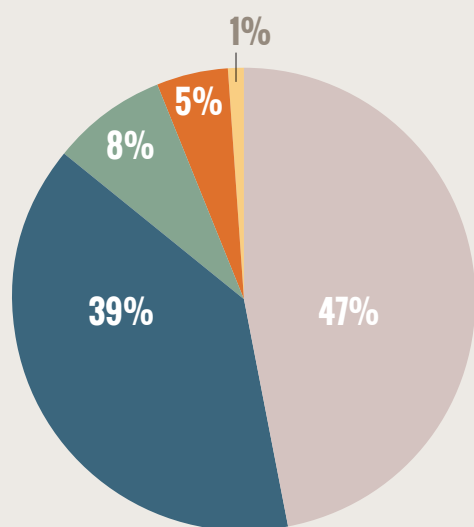
WHERE FUNDS WERE RAISED IN 2020

General donations from churches, supporters and charitable trusts raised £409,293, up 19% on the previous year.

Legacy gifts of £114,527 were gratefully received.

Corporate donations (Gifts in Kind) were impacted by COVID-19 and down on 2019, raising £1,688,800, including donations of knitwear valued at £195,811

WHERE FUNDS WERE SPENT



- Childcare: 39%
- Family care: 47%
- Child and family sponsorship: 5%
- Education: 1%
- Fundraising & Marketing: 8%

GIFTS THAT GIVE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Last year, gifts made from our Alternative Gifts catalogue helped make a real difference in the lives of people living in poverty in Eastern Europe raising £6,475. The most popular gifts were “Chirpy Chickens”, along with “Kids Snow Boots”, “Soup and Sanctuary”

and “Winter Blankets.” You can help again this year by purchasing gifts from our new catalogue or going online at www.mwbuk.org/shop

A BIG THANKS TO:

Mattresses, divans, toppers and headboards were all received through In Kind Direct in 2020. The charity was founded in 1996 by HRH The Prince of Wales, to distribute consumer goods donated by companies to charities in the UK and overseas.



Donated bicycles and furniture were received through Mission & Relief in 2020. They helped with all the MWB bulk shipments of goods received from organisations from the UK into Eastern Europe. They also helped ship parcels and letters to our sponsored families and children received from UK sponsors.



Our partners at Christian Hope International do an amazing job collecting knitwear, blankets and clothing on our behalf. We can't thank them enough for all that they have been doing, especially during the challenge of the pandemic!



OUR CHURCHES...

We are very grateful to all of the church congregations that supported us last year especially those at St Paul's Church, St Albans; Christchurch, Cheltenham; St Marks, Harrogate; Braehead Evangelical Church, Anstruther; Bridport Christian Fellowship; and St Saviour's Church, Retford.

And finally, a big thank you to all of our prayer partners, volunteers, donors, sponsors, regular givers and... knitters whose scarves, hats, blankets and shawls have been knitted from balls of wool. You have all helped in transforming lives.



THE UK TEAM

Please contact any of us if you would like someone to pray with, have any ideas on how we can spread the word about the Mission, or simply want to hear more about our work. Some of us are part time but we would love to talk with you.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| John Chamberlain | UK Country Director |
| Jos Downey | Sponsorships & Individual Donors |
| Alex Padureanu | Charitable Trusts & Foundations |
| Justin Hall | Church & Community Relations |
| Alison Brooking | Supporter Administration |





WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

Your Will is a wonderful opportunity to bless and provide for those you love and care about after you've gone. By also leaving a gift to Mission Without Borders you can help change lives and be a real blessing to families and Christian brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe.

We're incredibly thankful to all our supporters who choose to remember us in their Will. Without these gifts we couldn't continue to help people lift themselves out of poverty and share the hope found in Jesus Christ.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, call us on **020 794 1370**, go to our website www.mwbuk.org/get-involved/leave-a-legacy or write to John Chamberlain at the address below.



MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

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