



2022

MWBVoice



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MissionWithoutBorders



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“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3 v5-6

These wonderful verses guide us to the Lord in whom we are to trust, not ourselves or our plans, and certainly not the world’s wisdom and devices. We trust in the Lord because He and He alone is truly trustworthy and the way forward. In the darkness and uncertainty we have all walked in over this last year, the knowledge that the Lord holds us, that He is sovereign, is a great encouragement.

At Mission Without Borders, in 2021, we responded to the increasing poverty and isolation in the communities we work in Eastern Europe caused by the pandemic. More Operation Christmas Love boxes were distributed to struggling families than ever before. We also made 84 truck deliveries of essential items from roofing and housing materials, mattresses, canned food and hygiene products through to face masks and hand sanitiser.

We know that our impact is more fruitful and longer lasting through the partnerships we have with the local church and organisations rooted in the community. Working with some 313 churches, these partnerships are a powerful way of responding to local need and demonstrating the love of Jesus.

After a long period marked by isolation and restrictions, last year nearly 5,000 children enjoyed a great time of fun and fellowship at Mission Summer Camps. The happiness of reuniting with each other, with the MWB staff and volunteers was overwhelming and the perfect “therapy” after such a stressful period.

None of this work could happen without the extraordinary help given by you – our faithful Mission Without Borders supporters. We have been humbled by the kindness and generosity of friends, charitable trusts, churches, sponsors and donors who have stood with the Mission as it seeks to transform the lives of those living in desperate poverty.

Finally, please do pray for the troubling situation in the Ukraine. People have suffered and lost so much already so please pray that God’s light would shine into the darkness and that peace would prevail. Mission Without Borders is continuing to support refugee families and elderly people in eastern Ukraine who have been most affected by the conflict.

Thank you again for all you have done and continue to do for Mission.

With every blessing



John Chamberlain
UK Country Director

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JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

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MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

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From:

Mykola Bohdanets, Ukraine



2021 was not easy and taught us to be grateful for even the smallest things in our lives. Especially hard has been seeing families living on the edge of survival in the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine. Thankfully, with your help, 2,650 Operation Christmas Love boxes were distributed to refugee families, in partnership with local churches.

From:

Alexandru Danilenco, Romania



Even in these troubled times, thanks to your love and prayers, we continued in our ministry. MWB scholarships to university and vocational college have made a real difference, with 233 young people benefiting. 4 After School programmes helped 165 children avoid dropping out of school and improve their grades and behaviour in 2021.

From:

Tudor Lungu, Moldova



It was a blessed year of grace as we walked alongside and supported 3,375 children and 694 families in their struggles. God met material needs and answered prayers. The Mission's impact in Moldova was amazing – as people were strengthened in the word of God with nearly 25,000 Bibles and Christian literature distributed.



From:

Monika Qerimi, Albania



There is so much to share with you as our ministry did not stall in 2021. We started work in two new communities enrolling 38 families, the first in Shkodra in north-west Albania and the second in Kamza, near the capital, Tirana. Around 5,600 families were helped through 62 distributions of donated goods.

PERSONAL MESSAGES TO YOU FROM OUR FIELD COUNTRY NATIONAL DIRECTORS

From:

Dalibor Kojic, Bosnia & Herzegovina



Thanks to your help we started work in a new community in Jajce, providing firewood and warm clothes to new families. 44,305 soup kitchen meals were served, providing nutritious food to the elderly and enabling people to stay strong in the winter months when job opportunities are few.

From:

Sarkis Ovanesyan, Bulgaria



We thank God that this year we opened a new centre in Ognyanovo in southwestern Bulgaria supporting 65 families. Over 35,000 meals were served at our street homeless project in Sofia while regular Mission summer camps were held again for children, enabling them to have fun and spend time listening to and studying God's Word.



MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



It has been a tough year for 25-year-old nurse Ketjona Vzharrri who works in a hospital in Durres, Albania's second city. While proud of the work she and her colleagues have undertaken on the COVID-19 frontline, Ketjona does not regard herself as a heroine. And without the support of generous sponsors, she may never have been able to train and qualify as a nurse, graduating from the University of Tirana with a Masters qualification.

"I attribute my success to Mission Without Borders and the wonderful people who supported my family and my studies", Ketjona says. "My family is now able to support themselves financially, and I will be forever grateful to them and to our Lord."

"The help I received, financial, spiritual and emotional, was such a blessing for me and my family, enabling me to study at one of the best universities in Albania" Looking back, Ketjona and her family could never have dreamt of such an opportunity and she recalls her family's gratitude to MWB, "I never imagined that one day my dreams would come true!" she says. "I really feel very blessed by the opportunity I've been given and will always try to give my best as a nurse."

Ketjona has also learnt a great deal about caring for others from the example set by her MWB sponsors, whose actions have inspired her in the values to live by. *"I am full of joy, knowing that in life you can achieve everything by faith and by loving and taking care of each other"* she says.

The Mission Without Borders scholarship programme supports young people who want to continue their education to a higher level after finishing school but can't afford to pay for their studies. 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.



“Scholarships are a great way to help a young person like Ilie Iosif get started on a career. Unlocking potential in an individual who has faced such a difficult start in their childhood can make such a difference.”

Helen Moulds, a MWB supporter is, like Ketjona, a trained nurse. Now retired, Helen recently sponsored Ilie Iosif Potop from Romania, helping with the cost of tuition fees, travel and accommodation expenses so he could study electrical engineering at university.



To study, many students must board during term time. Through the help of sponsors, the Mission provides young people from poor families with the financial support that enables them to study at university or vocational college and pursue careers such as nursing, teaching and medicine. Last year, 683 University and Vocational College students received financial assistance to enable them to persevere in their studies.

“I’ve visited both the Ukraine and Moldova with the Mission and have seen the wonderful work they do with families who have so little”, says Helen. “There is a real commitment to serving the Mission by the staff and volunteer teams”.

If you would like to know more about helping our University & College Student Scholarship programme please do contact us or tick the response coupon on the back page

Support the Mission With Your Knitting

Are you in a knitting group, or have a heart to crochet for charity? We would love you to knit for us. Whether you can knit a hat, a jumper or a blanket, these are valuable items that can help someone in need, especially during the harsh winters in Eastern Europe. Last year, we were overwhelmed by the support of groups and individuals from around the country who sent in everything from scarves to gloves. We are also grateful to our partners at Christian Hope International who do an amazing job collecting knitwear.



If you do have any items of knitting please ring us on **0207 940 1370** or send in an email to **info@mwbuk.org**

PARTNERSHIP JOY IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Luke 10:1-2 NIV

If there was so much work to be done and so few workers, why did Jesus send His disciples in pairs rather than individually? Jesus understood the work of God cannot effectively be done in isolation. We need each other. This is why last year Mission Without Borders worked in partnership with around 313 churches in Eastern Europe. Nurturing these relationships, both on the mission field and with churches in the UK, is vital to our vision of reaching people for Christ.

One of our partner churches is Christ Church, Cheltenham. I recently spent some time with their new Vicar Simon Heron and with Philip and Amanda



Whitefield who are leaders in the missional work of the church. They talked about the criteria used when deciding whom to partner with. Amanda commented, “We look for missionary organisations that demonstrate the love of Christ as shown in Matt 25:31-46

and MWB ticks these boxes”. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the folk of Christ Church Cheltenham and was deeply encouraged by their passion for the local church and zeal to extend the Kingdom of God.



The longer I walk with Jesus, the more I see that partnership in the work of the Lord is

not only a necessity but also, a great joy. Working with churches here in the UK is a great privilege. In 2022 MWB is looking to build friendships and working relationships with more church leaders, workers and congregations and provide support through prayer and resources.

MWB has recently prepared a Lent devotional booklet- Love One Another – inviting you to spend 40 days up to Easter reflecting on the impact that God’s love has had on your life and how you can walk in love in the world. To request your own free copy or copies for your church or home group please go to www.mwbuk.org or ring MWB on 0207 940 1370.



Justin Hall is Church and Community Relations Manager at Mission Without Borders. To contact him for a visit or talk please email jhall@mwbuk.org

OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE



Operation Christmas Love boxes full of essential food and Christian literature were a lifeline to struggling families at Christmas

We received terrific support from Premier Christian Radio who interviewed MWB Ukraine Programme Manager Volodymyr Brychuk as well as receiving coverage on Pam Rhodes's programme. Together with the Stewardship organisation, who also supported this Christmas Appeal, as well as you – our wonderful supporters - more than £89,000 was raised in response to our OCL appeal, enough to supply around 3,500 parcels. Thank you so much.

Many also sent lovely messages of encouragement that we placed in or on our OCL boxes to beneficiaries. These brought such comfort and hope to children and families who read them.

With the support MWB received from around the world, we were able to deliver 42,000 Operation Christmas Love (OCL) boxes – more than we have ever done before – to vulnerable families and individuals in Eastern Europe.

In the Ukraine, staff and volunteers worked through cold and frosty days, to pack boxes ready for distribution. One volunteer, Oleksandr, who comes from a poor rural family, explained his desire to help, **“The Mission gave me a great opportunity to study for free to help in my dream to**

become a chef. I'm glad that today I can give, at least my time and energy, for the sake of others.”

2,650 OCL parcels were distributed by 20 churches to refugee families and the elderly who have been suffering the devastating effects of the ongoing conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Eastern Ukraine.

One refugee, Olha, now lives alone with cerebral palsy, in Blahodatne, western Ukraine, after her mother's death from cancer.



“My mother died soon after we moved,” Olha said. “I wish she was with me, but I find many little reasons to be joyful every day. I am limited physically, but my heart and my soul are free. I'm happy that I found a new family in Christ. I thank MWB for the Operation Christmas Love parcels. I cannot thank the people who gave generously in person, but I will keep them in my prayers.”

EVERY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

Mission Summer Camps Are Back!

In 2020, the pandemic meant that we were unable to run our full programme of Summer Camps, so as we went into 2021 we had to field questions from children and their parents about when and if they were going to happen. Thankfully, through your generous support and God's blessing, we were able to go ahead and hold Summer and Day Camps in all six countries we work in with 4,853 children attending.

Mission Without Borders is passionate about giving young people unforgettable memories, the opportunity to learn basic life skills and just have a great time of fellowship and fun, all especially precious after the challenges of the past eighteen months. For many young people, Summer Camps are places where they can take a break from the hardship of life at home, where they can develop new friendships, enjoy crafts and sports together, eat good food, and share their home concerns with staff.

Alexandru (9) was just one of the many young people who couldn't wait to go to a MWB camp last summer. Sometime before the camps were fixed, the Mission Coordinator



visited Alexandru and his family, where he begged to go. When the MWB Coordinator asked him why he wanted to go so badly, he replied, **“Because the last camp I was at was the best! I had the time of my life! Even now I remember everything and I wish I could go again!”**

“Well, did you pray about it?” he was

asked, **“Every night before I go to sleep! I pray that the camps will take place and that I will be one of the**

campers,” Alexandru replied. The MWB Coordinator was so impressed he was speechless for a few seconds. When he collected himself, he replied, **“I tell you what - you will be the first child on my summer camp list!”**

Alexandru counted the days down until camp. When the day finally came, he was in heaven: **“Here we have the best food and accommodation, the best activities, games, Christian lessons & songs and the best leaders ever! We play a lot in teams and I like it! This way, we get to know each other better and also make new friends. I never want to leave this place! Thank youuuuuuu!”**

As they grow older children will not forget the way we made them feel and the fellowship they experienced. Thank you again for your generosity and love which reached straight into the children's hearts!



THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS CHANGES A CHILD'S LIFE



Today MWB friends from around the world sponsor around 12,000 children and families. It is one of the best ways to provide direct help to children and families in need and gives them real hope for a brighter future. Developing a close relationship with a family and sharing in the stories of their everyday lives can make for an unforgettable experience.



One such person who is helping in this way is Matthieu, who took out a MWB child sponsorship last year.

“Education has always been an issue close to my heart. I was lucky enough to have good parents who did their best to give me a good education and send me to an excellent school. At an early age, I understood that not all children were

as privileged as me, and by the time I finished school, I wanted to become an educator in an orphanage. Divine providence decided otherwise, but I have always wanted to help other children. That is why I took out a sponsorship with MWB: I can support the physical and spiritual wellbeing of a child and share with him the benefits of a good education.”

Sponsorship helps provide practical support including life-saving essential food, housing and insulation materials to



keep warm in winter, as well as school equipment, books and after school classes to help children complete their education. They also have the chance to hear the gospel.

Amongst those we currently support are 490 children in Cantemir, one of the poorest communities in Moldova. One young person there is Gabriela. Her home has no toilet or running water and her stepfather sometimes drinks non-stop for days and is abusive.



Pastor Boris, who works with the Mission, takes up the story; **“Gabriela was traumatised by her awful situation at home. She often stole food from the market or from people’s yards. At a counselling session, she said to me, ‘I don’t want to steal, but when I haven’t eaten for a day or two, I’m so hungry I do it.’”**

“Since Gabriela started attending the youth club regularly, she has become calmer, more peaceful and changed her speech and behaviour,” Boris said. “Gabriela also doesn’t steal anymore. Now when she comes to the club she says, ‘I feel so good when I’m here, it’s like I’m in heaven. I wouldn’t ever want to leave.’”

If you would like to receive more details on sponsoring a child or family please contact us.

YOUR LEGACY CAN BRING HOPE AND LIFE



Stela's son Mihai

From our earliest days, Mission Without Borders has been on a journey with those we serve for the long term. From smuggling Bibles across the Iron Curtain and sharing the gospel with communities, to working practically to break the cycle of poverty of families and children, we have helped transform the lives of countless individuals.

Over the years, thanks to the prayers and generosity of faithful supporters and churches, the Mission has been able to bring hope and restoration to those living in poverty in Eastern Europe.

The Nastas family is just one of those families. Stela Nastas is raising her children alone after losing her husband to a heart attack six years ago. The family live in just two rooms in an old house in northern Moldova. **“After my husband died, loneliness, hopelessness and insecurity were my closest friends- but I realised I had to stay strong for my children”**, she says.

Everything changed for Stela and her children when they were enrolled on the MWB family sponsorship programme. **“The Mission offered warmth not only to our house and**

bodies but also to our souls! I can't imagine what our lives would look like now if we hadn't met the Mission some years ago.”

Legacy gifts from supporters can make all the difference, ensuring that their lifetime of love, faith and generosity lives on. Brenda and Gerald have supported MWB from the early days. **“My daughter went to Albania and she loved the people, but she saw how much needs to be done,”** Brenda told us. **“MWB is not a well-known organisation, but it is one of my favourite charities. As I was left some money, I wanted to use it to bring help and hope to others less fortunate.”**

We are incredibly grateful to every person who chooses to include a gift in their will to MWB. It can bring hope and life to future generations of children and families enabling us to expand our work into new areas of need across Eastern Europe. If you consider MWB's mission to be an important cause in your own life, please do consider making a gift in your Will.

If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy to MWB please do contact us or tick the response coupon on the back page

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU IN 2022!

After the last two years of lockdowns which has made face to face meetings so difficult, in 2022 we are hoping to meet more of the MWB family and friends. It would be great to see you at one of the following events –



May 13th-14th – Pilgrim's Way Walk – Join us on a 13.5 mile fundraising walk along the Pilgrim's Way from Boughton Lees to Canterbury Cathedral. Guides will make a presentation on the historic backdrop to the walk and on the route will tell stories and point out places of interest. Enjoy fellowship and raise funds for a great cause. Invite friends or your Church Group to join us. Sponsorship required starts at just £149.

June 3rd-4th – BCDO For the first time Mission Without Borders will be at the Big Church Day Out festival at Wiston Estate West Sussex. Enjoy a great weekend of music and join us for fun and fellowship at the Field of Fun.



September 12th-18th - Visit to Moldova We have had several sponsors and friends asking when we might organise a visit to one of the Field countries in Eastern Europe. Following discussions with the team in Moldova we are delighted to announce a visit has been organised for September. If you are a sponsor, donor or church group who would be interested in going please do contact us and we will send you further details. It would be really helpful if we could know approximate numbers as early as possible.

To find out more about any of these you can go ring us or go to our website www.mwbuk.org/get-involved/events

And finally...

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our busy office at London Bridge is in urgent need of volunteers to help. If you can spare a few hours, we would love you to join our team!
To find out more please email info@mwbuk.org or ring us on 0207 940 1370.



OUR IMPACT WITH YOUR HELP IN 2021



BIBLE STUDENTS



PARTNER CHURCHES



STREET MERCY MEALS



SOUP KITCHEN MEALS



4,858
Children attended
Summer Camp

42,000
OCL Parcels
Delivered



8,267
CHILDREN
sponsored



2,376
FAMILIES
sponsored



742
helped though
STREET MERCY



University and
Vocational Scholarships



Staff



Volunteers



Bibles
distributed



Articles of
Christian Literature

Yes! I want to help strengthen Eastern Europe's poorest communities

YOUR DETAILS:

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Title: _____ First name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

You can also donate at
[mwbuk.org/donate-appeal](https://www.mwbuk.org/donate-appeal)
or ring us on 020 7940 1370

Please complete this form and return
it to: **Freepost RRCC-LEJL-ELCH**
Mission Without Borders
175 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 2AG. Thank you.

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE:

£20 £50 £75 £100 Other £ _____ PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH

I enclose a cheque, made payable to **Mission Without Borders.** *OR*

I would like to make a donation by debit/credit card.

Please debit my: Visa Mastercard Charity Card Debit Card

Card number: _____

Valid from: ____ / ____ Expiry date: ____ / ____

Security number: _____ (Last three digits on the strip on the reverse of your card)

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Please provide a telephone number in case there is an issue processing your donation: _____

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Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Mission Without Borders from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Mission Without Borders.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. The Gift Aid claimed will be used to fund the whole of Mission Without Borders' work.

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income tax and/or capital gains tax. If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Other ways you can help our work and get involved

(please tick all that apply)

- I would like to know more about supporting your University & College Student Scholarship programme
- I would like to receive more information about leaving a legacy.
- I would like to be contacted about Mission Without Borders giving a talk at my church.



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