




MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS



**THANK YOU FOR
CHANGING LIVES
FOR ETERNITY**

ANNUAL MAGAZINE 2025





**“I FEEL HAPPY WHEN VALENTINA
COMES TO VISIT ME. I HAVE A
SENSE OF INNER PEACE BECAUSE
WE PRAY TOGETHER. I KNOW
THAT GOD WORKS THROUGH
PEOPLE. I REALLY DON’T KNOW
WHAT I WOULD DO IF I WASN’T
PART OF THIS PROJECT. THANK
YOU, TRULY.”**

In Leova, Moldova, over 30% of people are elderly, and many of them are battling poverty and loneliness, trying to survive on a meagre pension, just like Dumitru. They look to winter with dread, knowing they lack the money to make their homes warm. Join us in providing elderly people and families with much-needed support in winter – and make a donation today.



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OR GO ONLINE:
MISSIONWITHOUTBORDERS.ORG.NZ

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR IT'S BEEN AT MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS! THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU, MORE THAN 70,000 LIVES WERE IMPACTED ACROSS OUR SIX FIELD COUNTRIES THROUGH PRACTICAL HELP AND THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL.

Over the past year, I've had the privilege of visiting our teams and projects in Bosnia, Albania, Moldova and Romania. Joining me on some of these visits was Julian Browne, our new Church and Philanthropy Manager (and a pastor), who is now sharing the stories of what he saw with churches and supporters throughout New Zealand.

One of the most moving moments of my travels was in Albania, where I spent time with Monika, our Country Director there. She shared how Mission Without Borders first began in that nation. Back in 1991, Monika was working as a tour guide when a visitor accidentally left a Bible in her room. That Bible was one of the first to enter the country after decades of communist rule. Monika read it - and her life changed forever. She became a Christian, and after the Iron Curtain fell, she was invited to help launch MWB in Albania. Thousands of Bibles were distributed by Mission Without Borders in those early years to a spiritually hungry nation. The seeds planted then continue to bear fruit today.

Our work now reaches some of the most vulnerable families, children, and homeless people - many living in poverty so deep it's hard to describe. And yet, hope is rising. I met many former sponsored families who are now thriving - owning small businesses, running pizza shops,

mechanics, furniture makers, even owning and running local grocery stores.

One woman, whose husband runs a successful mechanic workshop in Flaka, Albania, told us how her life had been utterly transformed - physically, spiritually, and economically. From faithlessness to faith in Christ. From poverty to self-sufficiency. From silence to joy - she now volunteers as an enthusiastic helper at our Summer Camps and attends her local Church.

Stories like these remind me daily of the extraordinary power of your support. You are not just donating - you are changing lives and helping people find dignity, purpose, and faith.

As we look ahead, we remain deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We continue to pray for peace and are already preparing for how we will respond when that day finally comes. In every season, your partnership gives us the strength to keep going.

Thank you for walking with us. Thank you for believing in this mission. And thank you for standing with the people of Eastern Europe in both their hardship and their hope.



WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE,

Barry Raeburn
National Director

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GETTING TO KNOW US

CHANGING LIVES, TOGETHER!
BECAUSE OF YOU, HOPE SHINES BRIGHTER IN EASTERN EUROPE.

You're part of an international Christian mission that's walking alongside people facing hardship, poverty, and crisis. Together, we're transforming lives - one person, one family, one community at a time.

YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION

Ending Poverty's Grip

You help families break free from poverty's cycle with practical, long-term support - from food parcels that fill empty cupboards, to training that opens doors to new livelihoods.

Unlocking Brighter Futures

Because of you, children and adults gain the skills and confidence they need through tutoring, school supplies, vocational classes, and life-skills training.

Strengthening Families

Your support helps vulnerable families find stability, dignity, and hope. One-to-one sponsorship and holistic care mean children can grow up safe, loved, and secure.

Caring for the Elderly

Thanks to you, elderly people who might otherwise be alone receive visits, food, warmth, and spiritual encouragement - reminding them they are never forgotten.

Responding in Crisis

When war, disaster, or economic collapse strikes, you make it possible for us to respond swiftly with food, hygiene items, clothing, and compassionate care - practical help and hope when it's needed most.

WHAT MAKES MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS NEW ZEALAND SPECIAL

Christ-Centred: Your faith and generosity help us serve in love, offer hope, and share the Gospel as we meet urgent and ongoing needs.

Local Partnerships: You empower us to work hand-in-hand with churches, volunteers, and communities in Eastern Europe, ensuring our support is trusted, relevant, and sustainable.

Long-Term Commitment: Your faithful support means we don't just show up once-we walk alongside people for the long haul, committed to seeing lives transformed over time.

TOGETHER, WE'RE CHANGING LIVES.
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE JOURNEY.

WHERE WE SERVE

MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS WORKS IN SOME OF THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE REGIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE. EACH COUNTRY FACES UNIQUE CHALLENGES - FROM THE SCARS OF WAR TO DEEP-ROOTED POVERTY - BUT IN EVERY PLACE, WE BRING PRACTICAL HELP, LASTING HOPE, AND THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

Albania

Still healing from decades of harsh communist rule, many families in Albania face unemployment, poor education, and broken infrastructure. We support rural communities and families living in extreme hardship, offering education, job training, and spiritual encouragement.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

The trauma of civil war still lingers, especially among displaced families and those from minority groups. We help rebuild lives through emotional support, school assistance, food security, and family-strengthening programs.

Bulgaria

In rural Bulgaria, poverty is widespread - especially among Roma communities. We provide educational support, vocational training, and care for the elderly, empowering people to break out of generational poverty.

Moldova

As the poorest country in Europe, Moldova's families often face hunger, cold winters, and the separation of parents working overseas. Our support includes child sponsorship, warm clothing, Christian literature, and family mentorship.

Romania

Children growing up in remote villages face a lack of opportunity, poor schooling, and abandonment. We help by walking alongside vulnerable families, offering school support, agricultural training, and Christian camps for children.

Ukraine

Ongoing war has devastated lives and communities. We are providing emergency relief, trauma care, food and shelter, and long-term spiritual and practical support - standing with people as they rebuild from loss and fear.



248
STAFF
461
PARTNER CHURCHES
173
COMMUNITIES
1378
VOLUNTEERS

KIA ORA DEAR FRIENDS,

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT OF MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS. I HAVE HAD THE GREAT HONOUR OF TRAVELLING EARLIER THIS YEAR TO ALBANIA, WHERE I COULD SEE FIRST-HAND YOUR SUPPORT IMPACTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE AS WELL AS EXPERIENCE THE PRACTICAL LOVE OF CHRIST. YOUR GENEROSITY HAS MADE A PROFOUND DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES LIVING IN POVERTY AND HARDSHIP ACROSS EASTERN EUROPE.

Your giving is not just financial; it is a reflection of your heart for those who are hurting and in need. It brings hope where there was despair, and light where there was darkness. Every prayer and every gift you have shared has brought comfort and transformation to those who need it most.

I am reminded of Galatians 6:9: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Your continued faithfulness is sowing seeds of hope, dignity, and faith that will yield an eternal harvest in the lives of many.

Thank you again for being a valuable part of this mission. Your partnership ensures that together we can continue to reach the most vulnerable with the love of Christ, bringing practical help and spiritual hope.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY
FOR YOUR COMPASSION AND
FAITHFULNESS.

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE,

Tom O'Neil
National Chairperson, Mission Without Borders NZ

TO OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS,

IT'S A JOY TO BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE EXCITING WAYS THAT PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE HAVE BEEN HELPED OVER THE PAST YEAR. I WAS ABLE TO VISIT OUR TEAMS AND TO MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT WE SERVE IN ALBANIA RECENTLY.

A local bakery, pizza house, two car washes, a sewing team all set up by locals with help and guidance from MWB are some of the projects that provide purpose and an income. Many have also been linked into the local church, seeing the radiance of Jesus in the faces of many that I met was such a blessing.

Thank you for helping us to make this possible. Without your help, prayer and encouragement it could not happen. We are all so grateful to you for standing with us as we see lives transformed. Your faithful support and the funds you have generously given have had a great impact and influence on the lives of many. Your partnership in the team is so important as the whole church of Christ joins together in the responsibility of sharing Jesus with those who don't know him.

We rejoice that we know of over 400 people last year who have found Christ as their personal saviour, and there are probably many that we don't know about. Praise God!

I am reminded again how it has been a year of Love in Action. It's been our focus with the desire and mission to help people across Eastern Europe practically and to point to Jesus. The 350 local churches with whom we work are an important and vital part as we reach out into local communities.

It is my prayer that you will be blessed in your all that you do in His name.



PLEASE ACCEPT, AND
ALSO FROM THE PEOPLE
OF EASTERN EUROPE,
OUR SINCERE AND
HEARTFELT THANKS.

Michael J. Thomas
Chairperson, Mission Without Borders International

SEEING WAR THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES: A VISIT TO SARAJEVO'S WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM

RICHELLE RAE BURN, OUR COMMUNICATIONS & ACQUISITIONS MANAGER, RECENTLY VISITED SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, WHERE SHE STEPPED INTO ONE OF THE MOST QUIETLY POWERFUL PLACES SHE'S EVER ENCOUNTERED: THE WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM. IN THE REFLECTION BELOW, SHE SHARES WHAT SHE SAW, WHAT STAYED WITH HER, AND WHY THIS MUSEUM MATTERS-NOT JUST FOR THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH WAR, BUT FOR ALL OF US.

Nestled on historic Logavina Street in Sarajevo's Old Town, the War Childhood Museum invited me this past year into a deeply moving world-one where the echoes of war are told through the eyes of children.

As I moved slowly through the gray-walled gallery, each artifact-a blue stuffed bunny, an old humanitarian aid parcel, Grandma's worn red wallet-sat quietly beneath a soft spotlight. Each item held a story, and the written testimonies beside them spoke volumes: memories of fear, love, loss, and astonishing resilience. The space was hushed-no audio guides, just silence-broken only by the gentle shuffle of feet. It felt like we were walking through someone's childhood memories, careful not to disturb them.

These deeply personal objects and stories-gathered from over 6,000 children affected by war around the world-remind us of a powerful truth: childhood speaks a language that crosses borders. No matter where conflict strikes, the fears, hopes, and quiet resilience of children echo the same. Founded in 2017 by Sarajevo native and war survivor Jasminko Halilović, the museum creates sacred space for voices that are too often overlooked or unheard.



Leaving the museum, I carried a sense of humility and hope. The quiet courage behind each testimony stayed with me-these stories are more than fragments of the past; they are living reminders of what war takes, and what children somehow hold onto. They are calls to empathy, to understanding, to peace.

For me, the visit shifted something. I found myself thinking not just about war, but about the resilience of the human spirit, especially in the smallest among us. It reminded me that even in the darkest times, childhood persists-in drawings, in laughter, in love remembered.

I urge anyone visiting Sarajevo to step into this space and take the time to truly listen. It will change how you see childhood-and conflict-forever. You won't leave the same.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

A GLIMPSE INTO HOPE — FROM THE HEART OF EASTERN EUROPE

Dear Friend

I've just returned from an unforgettable journey with Barry, visiting our field teams in Romania, Albania, and Moldova. We met many vulnerable families supported by Mission Without Borders - each with a story that stirred something deep in me. But there's one family I will never forget.

In the rain-soaked hills of Vurpur, we visited Dimitri and his seven children. As we arrived, three of his youngest boys came in from the cold, drenched and shivering, carrying heavy containers of water. With no running water in their home, this is their daily routine.

Their house was just one small room. A single stove-fire in the corner provided warmth - but it wasn't vented properly. Smoke filled the air, and Dimitri had to hold the door open just so we could breathe. My Kiwi D.I.Y. instincts kicked in - I wanted to head straight to Mitre 10 and sort out the flue!

But even in these hard conditions, there was joy. The boys smiled as they welcomed us in. Dimitri, their brave and gracious father, opened his heart to us. He shared his story, his struggles - and his hope.

Three of his children attend the local after-school program run by Mission Without Borders and are part of Mission

Without Borders Child Sponsorship Program. There, they're not only learning about faith in God, but also finding friendship, fun, and nutritious food. These simple gatherings are like pockets of light - reminders that hope is alive, even in the darkest places.

And yet, the need is immense. Dimitri quietly asked if there might be any way to get clean clothes for his children. His request was humble, but his eyes said more - he was asking on behalf of many.

Our local coordinator, Andrei, knows this community well and works tirelessly to meet the needs of families like Dimitri's. And I know - because I've seen it with my own eyes - that your support goes a long, long way.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us, and with families like Dimitri's. Your kindness brings warmth, dignity, and hope where it's needed most.

With gratitude,

Julian Browne

**Church & Philanthropy Manager
Mission Without Borders**



CHILD SPONSORSHIPS



VLADYSLAV B, AGE:14 (GRADE9) | UKRAINE

Vladyslav is from Danchymist, a small tight-knit agricultural village. He lives with both his parents and younger sister. He enjoys art in school and is known to be a responsible young man who cares well for his younger sister. Since the 2022 invasion, Rivne Oblast, including Danchymist, has been affected by missile and drone attacks targeting critical infrastructure. Widespread power outages, disruption to heating and water supply, and interruptions in education and transport have become regular challenges for families in this region. These strains place an even heavier burden on small villages with limited resources and job opportunities.



NIKOL S, AGE: 6 (GRADE1) | UKRAINE

Nikol is from a family of four. She lives with her parents and younger brother. She loves arts and crafts and enjoys running. Nikol lives in Danchymist, a small rural village in western Ukraine deeply impacted by poverty made worse by the ongoing war. Though far from the frontlines, her community faces frequent power cuts, rising food costs, and limited access to education and healthcare. Her family struggles to meet daily needs, with few job opportunities and no stable income. Despite these challenges, Nikol is bright, kind-hearted, and dreams of a better future.



ILONA K, AGE: 10 (GRADE5) | UKRAINE

Ilona loves running and enjoys art. She lives with both parents in Danchymist in western Ukraine. Their community, though peaceful, has been heavily affected by the ongoing war through rising food prices, power outages, and limited access to healthcare and education. Her parents work hard, but jobs are scarce and their income barely covers the basics. Like many families in the region, they face daily struggles just to get by.



ILLYA P, AGE:11 (GRADE6) | UKRAINE

Illya loves sport and running. He is known to be very active and comes from a lovely family. Illya is from the quiet village of Danchymist in western Ukraine, a rural community that has long faced the challenges of poverty-now made worse by the ongoing war. Though Danchymist is far from the frontlines, the effects of conflict are deeply felt: frequent power outages, disrupted schooling, rising food prices, and limited access to healthcare have placed added pressure on already struggling families. Jobs are scarce, and many households rely on subsistence farming or irregular work to survive. For children like Illya, these hardships can stand in the way of a healthy, hopeful childhood.



ARIANA B, AGE: 3 | ROMANIA

Ariana is a cheerful young girl who recently became a big sister to a baby brother. She loves drawing and playing outside. Her family live in a single room house and her father works as a labourer in construction and sometimes in forestry. Ariana is from Vurpăr, a small village in Romania where many families face the daily realities of rural poverty. In communities like hers, employment is limited, and parents often struggle to provide even the basics-food, warm clothing, and school supplies. Access to healthcare and education is often inconsistent, leaving children vulnerable and without the opportunities they deserve.



ANDREI D, AGE:5 | ROMANIA

Andrei is a shy young boy from Vurpăr, a village in Romania where many families face deep poverty. He loves riding his bike, but his world is limited by the hardship around him. Andrei lives with his family in a small, one-roomed house with no space or comfort. His father works as a labourer, but the income is barely enough to cover their most basic needs. Like many children in Vurpăr, Andrei faces daily struggles that no child should have to bear.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER SPONSORING A CHILD LIKE ONE OF THESE?

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT CAN HELP CHILDREN LIKE THESE MOVE FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY, FROM FEAR TO SAFETY - AND GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE TO DREAM AGAIN. BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO KNOW THEY ARE LOVED, AND NEVER FORGOTTEN. THANK YOU.

Join us today and be the beacon of hope for a family in Eastern Europe.

FOR JUST \$45 PER MONTH YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**CALL US TODAY
0800 469 269**

**OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
MISSIONWITHOUTBORDERS.ORG.NZ**

FROM HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION



In the small Romanian village of Cașolt, just outside Sibiu, Barry and the NZ team met a mother whose story speaks for so many.

She lives with her four children on the edge of the village, far from shops, services - and too often, far from help. Her eldest daughter lives with epilepsy, and the family has no steady access to the medication she needs.

We were accompanied by Nicolae, our local Family Sponsorship Coordinator. Nicolae's story is remarkable - once a professional bodybuilder who competed alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger, now a man of deep faith and compassion, dedicating his life to serving families in need.

Nicolae took us to meet this family, who have been part of our Family Sponsorship Program for several years. The mother shared how, not long ago, they had been abandoned by the father of the children and left utterly alone. For a time, they were homeless. With no one to turn to, she found a run-down, one-room shack to shelter her children.

No bathroom. No heating. Just walls to block the wind and a roof that barely held. That's when Mission Without Borders stepped in - with love, prayer, and practical support made possible by people like you.

Today, the family lives in a modest two-room home with a small bathroom - humble, but safe. The mother was proud to show us around, smiling as she pointed out the walls she had painted herself with paint provided through the program.

She told us about the night a bear tried to break into their home - a terrifying reality for families in remote areas like this. Since then, with donor support, they've built a gated courtyard and now have a few dogs whose barking helps keep wild animals at bay.

Her young son ran about happily as we talked - but we couldn't help noticing his shoes. The soles were worn thin, the fabric frayed and splitting. Nicolae gently promised to bring him a new pair soon. The boy's face lit up with joy.

"I CRIED EVERY NIGHT," SHE TOLD US. "WE WERE COLD, WE WERE HUNGRY. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GO ON."



It's a small thing - new shoes. But it speaks volumes. That moment reminded us: when a child knows someone cares, it changes everything.

This family still lives in poverty. Life is still hard. But they are no longer invisible. They are no longer alone.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER SPONSORING A FAMILY LIKE THIS ONE?

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT CAN HELP FAMILIES LIKE HERS MOVE FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY, FROM FEAR TO SAFETY - AND GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE TO DREAM AGAIN.

BECAUSE EVERY FAMILY DESERVES TO KNOW THEY ARE LOVED, AND NEVER FORGOTTEN.

THANK YOU.

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HOPE IS ALIVE IN UKRAINE A NATION UNDER SIEGE

Maksym one of our volunteers standing in the town square of the galleries of soldiers and volunteers killed in the war.



THANKS TO YOU, HOPE REMAINS ALIVE IN THE HEART OF A NATION UNDER SIEGE.

WHEN WAR BROKE OUT IN UKRAINE, YOU STEPPED UP WITH INCREDIBLE COMPASSION. THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT OF MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS' UKRAINE RESPONSE TEAM PLEDGE, FAMILIES FLEEING BOMBS FOUND REFUGE. HUNGRY CHILDREN RECEIVED FOOD. THE ELDERLY, LEFT BEHIND IN SHATTERED TOWNS, FELT THE COMFORT OF VISITS AND PRAYER.



TOGETHER, WE'VE:

- DELIVERED THOUSANDS OF EMERGENCY FOOD AND HYGIENE PARCELS
- HELPED FAMILIES FIND SHELTER AND WARMTH AMID HARSH WINTERS
- PROVIDED SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL CARE FOR THOSE TRAUMATISED BY WAR



Together, we've:

- Delivered thousands of emergency food and hygiene parcels
- Helped families find shelter and warmth amid harsh winters
- Provided spiritual and emotional care for those traumatised by war

But as the headlines fade, the crisis is far from over. Homes lie in rubble. Jobs have vanished. Families who fled now long to return - but have nothing left to return to.

So, where to from here?

We remain committed to Responding where the need is urgent-ensuring people have food, shelter, and essentials. But increasingly, we're also focusing on how to Restore what's been lost:

- Helping families rebuild homes and livelihoods
- Supporting traumatised children to return to school and normality
- Equipping local churches to be centres of hope and community rebuilding
- Continuing one-to-one support through sponsorship, ensuring vulnerable families don't face the future alone

YOUR SUPPORT HAS ALREADY WRITTEN COUNTLESS STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE. YET SO MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

AS WE LOOK TO THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD, OUR PLEDGE REMAINS THE SAME: TO WALK ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES. TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP TRANSFORM DESPAIR INTO A NEW BEGINNING.

THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH UKRAINE. HOPE ENDURES - BECAUSE OF YOU.

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP TRANSFORMING LIVES - NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

BY INCLUDING A GIFT TO MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS IN YOUR WILL, YOU CAN PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN HELPING VULNERABLE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS EASTERN EUROPE BREAK FREE FROM POVERTY, HARDSHIP, AND CRISIS. YOUR DECISION TODAY COULD CHANGE LIVES FOR ETERNITY.

September is Wills Month - but anytime is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to be remembered. A current Will ensures that your loved ones and the causes close to your heart are cared for. It's also your opportunity to leave a legacy that echoes your faith, values, and compassion far beyond your lifetime.

Including Mission Without Borders in your Will is a simple yet powerful way to keep your heart for others alive. Your future gift will help provide practical support, education, spiritual care, and hope where it's needed most.

Gifts in Wills help sustain and grow our life-changing work, enabling us to plan ahead, fund vital projects, and reach those who might otherwise be forgotten. Your legacy will help transform entire communities and bring the light of Christ into dark places.

How do you want to be remembered?

Creating or updating your Will can be straightforward. Here's how to get started:

Speak with your loved ones and professional advisor about your wishes.

Decide what kind of gift you'd like to include

Contact us for guidance, resources, and suggested wording for your Will.

We'd love to support you every step of the way - and thank you for your incredible heart for Mission Without Borders' work.

Together, we can bring hope that lasts for generations.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE:



CALL US TODAY
0800 469 269
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
MISSIONWITHOUTBORDERS.ORG.NZ
OR EMAIL: NZADMIN@MWBI.ORG

LES AND NATALIE THOMPSON – A LEGACY OF COMPASSION AND FAITH

WHEN YOU SPEAK WITH LES AND NATALIE THOMPSON, YOU QUICKLY SENSE A LIFETIME STEEPED IN MISSION, FAITH, AND QUIET GENEROSITY. THEIR STORY IS NOT ONLY ONE OF LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS, BUT ALSO A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY - BOTH IN LIFE AND BEYOND.

From Letters to a Life of Mission

Les's journey into mission work began over six decades ago. "In 1960, I was the secretary of the Henderson Baptist Church Bible class and was asked to write to every Christian mission for information," he recalls. "I was deluged with replies." Among them, one stood out - the Sudan Interior Mission - sparking a lifelong commitment to global mission work.

Les's involvement deepened in the mid-1970s when he helped form the New Zealand arm of the Red Sea Mission Team, eventually serving as secretary, treasurer, home director, and chairman during a 44-year tenure.

It was around this time that Les also encountered the ministry of Underground Evangelism, later renamed Mission Without Borders. "I started supporting the work through the Rev. Hayes Lloyd at Mt. Albert Baptist," Les shares. "After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the mission changed its name, and I continued to support it - and still do."

Why Mission Without Borders?

For Les and Natalie, MWB's holistic approach has always struck a deep chord. "MWB reaches out to the whole person - physical and spiritual," Les explains. "Help in practical issues may lead to spiritual conversion. That's what makes it so meaningful to us."

A Gift for the Future

Their connection to MWB extends beyond regular support. Les and Natalie made the significant decision to include a gift to the mission in their will. "It's an investment in eternity," Les says simply. "MWB reaches out with the love and compassion of the Lord, and we want to be part of that - even after we're gone."

Setting it up was straightforward, thanks to their Christian lawyer. "It was not a difficult decision or process," Les notes. "It just made sense."

Living and Giving as One

Though Les and Natalie married later in life, they quickly found unity in their shared heart for mission. "Each of us had our own missionary interests," Les reflects. "But after we married, we both supported MWB."

While they haven't discussed the details of their gift with extended family, Les is confident their legacy speaks for itself. "Our nearest relatives know we are Christians. Leaving a gift in our will is one more expression of our faith."

Words of Encouragement for Others

To anyone considering leaving a gift in their will, Les offers a gentle but firm encouragement: "It's an investment in eternity. God is no man's debtor. He that winneth souls is wise."

Hope for the Future

Even in the face of overwhelming need across Eastern Europe, Les and Natalie remain hopeful. "MWB reaches out in practical ways to those in need."

At the heart of this outreach is the hope that it will have a spiritual impact and lead those so helped to the Lord." And their message to future generations?

"My hope is that you will benefit physically - and above all, spiritually."

**Blessings,
Les and Nat**



SUMMER CAMP

“NO ONE HAS EVER GIVEN ME SO MUCH HAPPINESS, JOY, AND SUPPORT.” A BOY LIVING IN POVERTY IN BULGARIA FINDS JOY AT SUMMER CAMP

For Most Children, Summer Means Carefree Days Filled With Sunshine, Games, And Laughter. But For 11-Year-Old Kostadin, Growing Up In A Cramped, One-Room Home In Rural Bulgaria, Summer Has Always Meant More Chores And More Hardship. That Is, Until He Received A Life-Changing Invitation - A Week Away At Summer Camp, Where For The First Time, He Could Simply Be A Kid.



Eleven-year-old Kostadin lives in Dabnitsa, a Roma community in Bulgaria, where poverty and hardship are a daily reality. He shares a single room with his 15-year-old sister Daniela, who is partially paralysed, his mother Sevda, and their grandmother Maria. There's no bathroom-only an outdoor toilet shared with two other families. The family survives on a modest disability pension, child benefit, and occasional work. Sevda, overwhelmed by life as a single parent, turned to alcohol. It's Maria, 71, who holds the family together.

Ventsislav Bozhikov, a Mission Without Borders (MWB) coordinator, met the family and was moved by their resilience. “Three generations sharing a single room-it's something you rarely see in the 21st century,” he said.

For Kostadin, life is filled with responsibility and very little play. But this year, everything changed when he was invited to MWB's summer camp.

For a week, Kostadin experienced joy like never before: swimming, football, games, Bible lessons, and three full meals a day. “I couldn't believe I got to do everything

I love,” he said. “No one has ever given me so much happiness, joy, and support. This week will stay in my heart forever.”

His sister Daniela attended too, making the week even more special. Maria said, “Ordinary things like games and a swimming pool were a dream come true.”

Ventsislav added, “Some children at camp accept Christ, some eat three meals a day for the first time, some just get to be children. For Kostadin, it was life-changing.”

Now enrolled in MWB's family sponsorship programme, the family receives monthly food and hygiene parcels, clothing, and regular visits from Ventsislav. They've also started attending church.

Maria is deeply thankful. “At my age, raising grandchildren is hard-but MWB has given me strength and hope.”

Every year, MWB's summer camps across Eastern Europe offer children like Kostadin a break from hardship, and a chance to laugh, grow, and believe in a brighter future.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE

“YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH JOY YOU BROUGHT INTO OUR LIVES”



Snow dusts the rooftops in the Roma community of Bugojno, Bosnia and Herzegovina-a place where bitter winds bite through thin walls and hunger often sits at the table like an unwelcome guest.

Here lives Ibrahim, just 31 years old, a single father with four children clinging to him as both mother and father.

Eight years ago, his wife walked out, leaving him alone to raise eleven-year-old Nisveta, ten-year-old twins Senad and Elvedin, and nine-year-old Adin. In their tiny two-room dwelling, Ibrahim battles to keep his family warm and fed.

“I taught Nisveta to cook,” he says quietly. “The children help me a lot. They know our situation. They never ask me for anything.”

But even the strongest father cannot hold back every storm.

Nermin, who works for Mission Without Borders in Bugojno, remembers their first meeting vividly. “Ibrahim told me there were times of crisis. He and the children survived on the cheapest, most basic food, just so the children wouldn't go to bed hungry. Once, his daughter was so malnourished she ended up in hospital. Now, thank God, she's well.”

As the children grow, so do their needs, but wages remain cruelly small. Ibrahim scrapes by with construction jobs, watching buildings rise while his own family teeters on the edge of collapse.

And then there is winter-when work vanishes, temperatures plunge below zero, and fear sets in.

Nermin says, “The winter is always the hardest. Without work, there's no income. Families like Ibrahim's are just one missed wage away from going hungry.”

This past Christmas, Operation Christmas Love arrived like a miracle at Ibrahim's door. Boxes filled with food and treats meant for families who, though they don't celebrate Christmas, feel the crushing weight of winter's hardship all the same.

“You can't imagine how much joy you brought into our lives,” Ibrahim says, emotion thick in his voice.

Nisveta's eyes sparkled as she unpacked flour, salt, and sugar. “We're baking bread today!” she cried, proud to prepare a meal that would bring them together around the table.

Nermin smiles gently. “What I love most about Operation Christmas Love is that it brings hope and love equally to everyone. No one should fall asleep hungry - especially children.”

Today, Ibrahim and his children are enrolled in Mission Without Borders' Family Sponsorship Programme. It's a first step toward stability, hope-and perhaps, one day, a life where hunger and sorrow no longer shadow every winter's night.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE BOX FOR \$45, PLEASE CALL 0800 469 269 TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING HOPE AND JOY WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST.



OPERATION COVER UP

LETTER FROM LIZ

LIZ SURROUNDED
BY QUILTS FROM
TE PUKE

HELLO DEAR FRIENDS,

I HOPE YOU HAVE HAD A GOOD YEAR WITH OPERATION COVER UP. WE ARE AGAIN, TOGETHER, ASSISTING SO MANY MARGINALIZED PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHO LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY WITH OUR GIFTS OF LOVE.

As I look at the wonderful array of colours displayed in the quilts that surround me, I realise just how colour has influenced my life. As most of you know, I absolutely LOVE flowers. I have extended my colour range in the garden as I have realised that my life has been filled with multi colours in so many ways. I do believe that life is like a rainbow, and we are to use every colour. Colours truly are 'the smiles of nature'.

When we travelled to the Ukraine, what we saw was so much drabness and lack of colour. It made me feel sad. I wrote in my book "The Warmth of Love" how, when we were in our hotel room in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, high up in the building, I glanced out of the window and saw what looked like diamond dust everywhere.

When I asked my husband Barry to come over and look, he explained it was ice particles in the air illuminated by the low sunlight, just after sunrise. It was a kaleidoscope of colour – absolutely beautiful - I was in awe! I likened it to

the array of colours in the beautiful blankets and garments given by the knitters and sewers through Operation Cover Up.

I would like to thank each and every one of you so much for bringing colour and warmth into the lives of so many people living in poverty and showing them that we do really care.

**THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEND YOU ALL
THE COLOUR OF GOD'S BLESSINGS.**

Liz Clarke
Operation Cover Up

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www.missionwithoutborders.org.nz/get-involved/operation-cover-up

WHAT'S NEEDED FOR 2026

BRAND NEW KNITTED ITEMS

- Jerseys, cardigans, socks, 3-piece sets of hat and gloves (or mittens) and scarfs. Knitwear for children, (however baby's items are not required)
- Blankets pure wool only see 'preferred blanket size' information.

BRAND NEW NON-KNITTED ITEMS

- Clothes and shoes for children aged between four to 15 years old.
- Clothes and shoes for adults.
- Hygiene items (soap, flannel, stick deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb or brush, hair ties).
- Sports and games equipment e.g. balls for soccer, volleyball, tennis, basketball, inflation pump, baseball set, pole tennis set, hula hoops, frisbees, water guns, chess sets.
- Sewing machines (new or used in good working order). Material (preferably soft). Haberdashery. Stationery (exercise books, notebooks, pens, pencils). Linen (sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers, towels).
- For the homeless: sleeping bags, warm men's trousers, jackets, jerseys, warm socks, gloves and hats, backpacks, disposable shavers/shaving soap.
- Sanitary products, toiletries (soap, flannel, toothbrushes, and toothpaste), disposable razors and blade.

We received an abundance of beautiful blankets and knitted items - truly amazing! However, I need to remind everyone that we only accept new items, not second-hand goods. This year, we received quite a few second-hand items, which takes a lot of time to sort and dispose of, ultimately leading to unnecessary effort and waste.

CRAFTING BEAUTY STITCH BY STITCH

PREFERRED BLANKET SIZE

At least 160cm x 140cm. Seven strips measuring 160cm in length make a blanket. Use size 8 (4mm) needles. Cast on 40 stitches and knitting garter stitch (plain knitting) to 160cm in length. All blankets must be made of pure wool, not acrylic as it doesn't retain the same warmth, for the homeless, darker colors, heavier wool and even larger sizes are required and blankets. For more information, contact a local coordinator.

FUNDS FOR SHIPPING FREIGHT TO EASTERN EUROPE

We need your help to cover these costs. Total costs for internal transportation in New Zealand plus container shipping to Europe is around \$35,000 all up, so as a guide, we ask for a donation of \$5 per blanket. Payments of \$5 or more qualify for a tax rebate receipt (name and address are needed).

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE

By credit card: phone Mission Without Borders (toll free) 0800 469 269 or through our website www.missionwithoutborders.org.nz/donate

By direct deposit or online banking to Mission Without Borders' ANZ account:

North Island: 06 0185 0122206 04
South Island: 06 0185 0122206 05

Call, email or write to us with the details of your donation so we can send you a receipt. Email: nzadmin@mwbi.org

Phone: 0800 469 269

Mission Without Borders POBox 76141 Freeman Way Auckland 2104

7 DAYS OF COURAGE

BREAK THROUGH THE FEAR AND IGNITE YOUR FAITH!

Imagine how different the world could be if more of us shared the hope burning in our hearts. Yet we all know the feeling - that quickened pulse, that voice of fear whispering "What if they judge me?"

It's time to silence the fear. It's time for courage.

Welcome to 7 Days of Courage - a faith-fuelled challenge that will stretch you, strengthen you, and set your heart ablaze.

Why Take the Challenge?

- Because deep down, you long to:
- Speak boldly about your faith – without fear
 - Love out your beliefs in real visible way
 - Inspire hope and change in a hurting world
 - Be part of something bigger than yourself

Over one week, you'll embark on a journey that pushes you beyond comfort zones and into moments that matter. Each day brings a powerful new focus - whether it's standing up for truth, speaking life into someone's darkness, or praying for courage to try what scares you most.

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT. YOUR FAITH CAN SHINE BRIGHTER THAN EVER.

Don't let fear steal your voice. Let your faith rise and shine - for His glory.

JOIN 7 DAYS OF COURAGE -
BECAUSE COURAGE ISN'T JUST
FOR HEROES. IT'S FOR YOU.

What You'll Gain

- A renewed boldness and deeper faith
- Practical ways to share hope in everyday life
- The joy of knowing you've made an eternal impact
- A strong sense of community as you journey alongside others

How to Join

Grab your church, your small group - or go solo and lead the way.

Signing up is easy:

- Visit: missionwithoutborders.org.nz/get-involved/7-days-of-courage
- Scan the QR code
- Or call us at 0800 469 269



Once you're in, we'll send you everything you need: a step-by-step guide, social media tools, a powerful video to share, and inspiring resources to help your group dive deep into the challenge.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
- Matthew 5:16



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

BECAUSE OF YOU, LIVES ARE CHANGING ACROSS EASTERN EUROPE.

In 2024, over 70,000 people have experienced hope and support thanks to your generosity. Your compassion has helped families, children, and vulnerable adults receive practical help, spiritual encouragement, and emotional care when they needed it most. Together with local staff and dedicated church partners in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, you are making a real difference-transforming communities and bringing light into some of the hardest places.

Thank you for being part of this mission.

HERE'S WHAT YOU HELPED ACHIEVE:

7,452 BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED	6,638 CHILDREN ATTENDED SUMMER CAMPS	461 CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS
125,931 SOUP KITCHEN MEALS SERVED TO THOSE IN NEED	38,000 OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE BOXES DISTRIBUTED	190 STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING
81,785 BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED	173 COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN	709 AFTER SCHOOL CHILDREN
473 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS	25,942 STREET MERCY MEALS SERVED TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS	193 ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTED

Together, we're not just easing hardship - we're building stronger communities, transforming lives, and sharing the love of Jesus. From all of us at Mission Without Borders, **thank you** for your extraordinary heart. We couldn't do this without you.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9

TOGETHER, WE'RE CHANGING LIVES FOR ETERNITY.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MWB SUPPORTERS

A Heartfelt Gratitude for your ongoing Dedication and Impact

The journey of making a difference in the lives of those who need it most is never a solitary endeavor. It is made possible by the dedication, generosity, and unwavering support of individuals like you-our MWB supporters. Today, we take time to reflect on the incredible impact you have made and to thank you for standing by us in our mission.

Your Support: A Pillar of Strength

Every contribution, whether through time, prayer, or resources has been vital in enabling meaningful change. You consistently demonstrate a commitment to building a better world, one step at a time. We cannot achieve what we believe God has called us to do in Eastern Europe without your vital support. Your actions, through our local staff, help propel many families and initiatives forward, changing the lives of families and children, championing education and providing hope where it is needed most.

Advancing Education

Education is the bedrock of any thriving society, and your dedication to supporting learning initiatives such as our after school work, providing scholarships and supplying learning materials to students has opened doors for many children. This helps to break cycles of poverty. The smiles of children who begin to enjoy school and begin to see the potential in them being realized through better and more education is a joy to behold.

Impact

Recently I was in southern Bulgaria meeting a number of families in the remote area near Gotse Delchev. It was a rainy cold day, in April, yet every family we visited were visibly grateful for the help that MWB had been to them. From a family who had managed to open a little grocery store near the local church, after several years with the Mission, to a family with a horse and a chain saw for cutting wood, to two teenagers with scholarships hoping to go onto university, whose parents had left them for the grandparents to “parent” them; all are testament to the work God can do though your support and our staff.

We have more than 9000 students participating in a bible correspondence course and over 400 adults have committed their lives to the Lord. God uses your gifts and prayers to achieve these results which are more than we can ask for or imagine, because it is God who is at work.

How You Can Keep Making a Difference

We invite you to remain active participants on this journey we are on together. Whether through donations, volunteering, or prayer, there are many ways to enable and strengthen the work we do. Share our mission with your networks, encourage others to join, and continue to be the beacon of hope that you have proven to be. Our goal is to reach people for Christ and you are an integral part of this.

In Closing: A Message of Thanks

To our MWB supporters, words cannot fully encapsulate the depth of our gratitude. Your generosity, faithfulness and prayers inspire us every day to do more, reach farther, and dream bigger. For many of you, giving to us is getting harder, and so we are more than grateful that you continue to journey with us. Thank you for everything you do-your belief in our mission fuels the change we aspire to create and the hope we actively share.

Let us continue this journey together, knowing that every step we take is a step toward a brighter future and a better hope in this life and for eternity. More people get to know about the love of Jesus. From all of us at MWB, thank you for being the changemakers the world needs.



Stephen Young

International CEO



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Charity Info
Charity Number: CC37218
Annual Report: www.missionwithoutborders.org.nz

Ways to Give
Online: www.missionwithoutborders.org.nz/donate
Direct Credit: Account Number 06-0185-0122206-12
Phone: (free) 0800 469 269

Contact
P.O Box 76141, Manukau City, Auckland 2241
missionwithoutborders.org.nz
0800 469 269
nzadmin@mwbi.org



JOIN US IN TRANSFORMING LIVES

1. YOUR GIFT

\$

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PARTNER WITH MWB MINISTRIES:

SPONSORSHIP (\$45) A MONTH

FAMILY

CHILD

JOIN THE UKRAINE RESPONSE TEAM (\$45 A MONTH)

PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ABOUT:

LEAVING A GIFT IN MY WILL

ARRANGING A SPEAKER

2. YOUR DETAILS

FULL NAME

SUPPORT ID

EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE

3. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE BY:

OPTION 1: DIRECT CREDIT
ACCT: 06-0185-0122206-12
REF: YOUR NAME, SUPPORTER NUMBER AND MAG24

OPTION 2: ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MISSIONWITHOUTBORDERS.ORG.NZ/DONATE

OPTION 3: CREDIT CARD
VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

NAME ON CARD

CARD NUMBER

EXP

SIGNATURE



**JOIN US IN TRANSFORMING
LIVES IN JESUS' NAME**



MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS