

AUTUMN 2024



MWBVoice



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MissionWithoutBorders



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MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

JESUS IN MATTHEW 25:21



As I begin my new role in Mission Without Borders as the UK’s National Director, I am conscious that the last few months have been challenging ones for the many of our Mission family, following the unexpected death of my predecessor, John. My conversations with the staff in the UK office and some of the supporters I’ve been able to speak to since beginning, gave me the impression that he was someone who always bore his Christian faith openly on his sleeve – whether from his time in the mission field in Nepal, to his work with Mission Without Borders, I have been given the impression of a man who met those challenging words from Jesus in Matthew 25:21 to be a ‘good and faithful servant’.

Indeed, these are words that all at the Mission strive to meet. We seek to invest all that we have been given in a manner that brings glory to the Lord, to help those in need that have been entrusted to our care.

Sadly, the need is very great and the war in Ukraine has only increased this need.

In response to the war, the Mission has launched a three-stage strategy to ‘Respond, Restore and Rebuild’ the lives of those affected by the war – not only to provide for the immediate needs of families and children affected in the form of food and hygiene packages and assistance with accommodation, but to provide long-term care to help people restore a semblance of normality and rebuild their lives so that they are able to thrive.

And while these are early days for me in the Mission, I am staggered to see the incredible gifts we have received in support of our work from individuals, churches, and charitable trusts – together, you helped us to raise £913,526 last year, along with another £1,972,560 in corporate donations that have helped us provide bedding, clothing and other essential material aid to the people of Eastern Europe. Thank you all so much for your generosity and kindness in helping us to achieve all that we have over the past 12 months!

As we build more relationships with churches in Eastern Europe, we continue to look at the future needs on the ground and the potential for expanding our work further – and telling you of that work!

Thank you again for all of your prayers, for your advocacy of our ministry, for your unwavering faithfulness and kindness to us – and I look forward to meeting more of you in person, or by phone in the coming months.

God bless!

Tim Gray
UK Country Director



WHAT WE ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR



168,208

meals were provided to people in need



73,308

Bibles and pieces of Christian Literature were given out



87

Trucks of Aid provided material help for 44,000 people in need



496

partner churches helped to maximize the impact we have in the communities we work in



8,027

children were directly helped through our child sponsorship programme



2,692

families and 8,320 children were helped through our family sponsorship programme



8,692

young people took our Bible Correspondence Course.



266

families became self-sufficient

MESSAGES FROM OUR FIELD COUNTRY NATIONAL DIRECTORS

ALBANIA

Population: 2.8 million

29% of the population of Albania live in poverty and the youth unemployment rate is at 27%, fuelling large levels of migration by many searching for a better future.

To address the root of the poverty in 2023, 412 families in Albania received regular support from the Mission, including 54 families who became self-sufficient.

“Thanks to your faithful support, we have been able to do so much, but there is a great deal still to be done. Together, we can be more responsive towards the needs of broader communities and become an even stronger force for change and one more reason for people to stay in Albania.”

Monika Qerimi,
Country Director



BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Population: 2.8 million

According to UN data more than 70% of children in Bosnia-Herzegovina are food deprived and more than 1/3 live in poverty.

As part of our commitment to help, last year, our staff and volunteers served 48,343 meals to those in need through our soup kitchens.

“There was much to be grateful for in Bosnia-Herzegovina last year, with Mission Without Borders experiencing rapid growth in a relatively short time as we expanded our work into Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where there are so many families with children struggling with everyday life. Thank you for being side by side with us in this work!”

Dalibor Kojic,
Country Director



BULGARIA

Population: 6.5 million

Bulgaria has the highest child poverty rate of any country in Europe and remains the poorest country in the EU. 1 in 4 cannot afford to eat a proper meal at least once every two days.

In Sofia, Mission Without Borders is the only NGO that has worked with the homeless population every single day for over ten years. For many of them, our support proved to be lifesaving, both materially and spiritually.

“We hold Bible lessons, Christian celebrations, and offer emotional support at the clubs we run. Here, they are given the opportunity to make the greatest choice of their lives and to accept the Lord as their Saviour.”

Sarkis Ovanesyan,
Country Director



MOLDOVA

Population: 2.6 million

Sharing an eastern border with Ukraine, more than 1.5 million refugees entered the country following Russia's invasion, with around 116,000 remaining. An estimated 25% of the population are considered to live in severe poverty.

Last year, nearly 4,000 children were directly helped by sponsorships in Moldova, 144 of whom were offered scholarships to help continue their education.

“What we've seen as a result of these relationships were people with rekindled hope, who now work hard for a better future for their children. The health of many children improved, and many children also felt safer and were motivated to study harder at school. All of this is made possible thanks to your generosity and compassion.”

Tudor Lungu,
Country Director



ROMANIA

Population: 19 million

According to the World Bank, 40% of young Romanians are functionally illiterate, with the number of young people obtaining a college education being amongst the lowest in the Europe.

In 2023, the Mission provided 232 scholarships for young people and After School projects were opened to offer children hot meals and homework assistance – not only to improve their literacy but also to establish a good understanding of the Gospel and help them to wrestle through issues they may encounter, such as questions about dating.

“With your steadfast support and our team's efforts, we have managed to change lives for the better, to bring smiles to children's faces and lighten the burden on parents' shoulders.”

Alexandru
Danilenco,
Country Director



UKRAINE

Population: 38 million

More than 210,000 buildings have been destroyed or badly damaged in Ukraine, including 3,790 educational institutions and an estimated 7 million young people have had their education severely disrupted.

In 2023, the Mission focused on supporting those who have been impacted by the war, as well as vulnerable children and adults. In December we distributed 10,000 parcels filled with food and Gospel literature, including 2,000 that were delivered to eastern Ukraine where there is immense poverty.

“We are confident that God will continue working, “all things for good for those who love Him and are called according to his purpose.” [Romans 8:28]. Please hold Ukraine in your prayers and may God bless you.”

Mykola Bogdanets,
Country Director



INTRODUCING SARAJEVO



In 2023 MWB expanded our work to help families and children in the city of Sarajevo.

Sarajevo is the political, financial, social and cultural centre of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and a prominent centre of culture in the Balkans. Also known as the “Jerusalem of the Balkans”, it is one of only a few major European cities to have a mosque, Catholic church, Orthodox church and synagogue within the same city.

Despite its rich cultural heritage, the city faces many problems.

The three main ethnic groups: Bosniak, Croat, and Serb — exist in tension with one another and the wounds of war are ever-present*. One thing they all seem to agree on, however, is that the youth unemployment problem is so severe there that it will be felt for years to come.

At 57.5%, Bosnia-Herzegovina’s youth unemployment rate is the highest in the world. There is widespread corruption, nepotism and economic stagnation. On top of this, many workers in the city earn very low salaries. So low, in fact, that even if both parents work, the combined salaries often do not cover the basic needs of the family. It comes as no surprise that many young people have left Bosnia and even families are now beginning to leave too.

In the aftermath of Covid in the past three years, churches have recognised the increasingly desperate need amongst the people of Sarajevo. There is an urgent need for both material and spiritual transformation. So, in 2023 Mission Without Borders extended its core programmes to partner with the evangelical church in Sarajevo.



“In a country where Evangelical Christianity is almost unknown, it is important for us to establish a strong presence. The evangelical church believes that the good news of Jesus has the power to bring together different ethnicities even when there are still so many tensions. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of families so that they can have a clear vision for a future in which material, social, emotional, educational and spiritual needs are equally met. We want every person we come into contact with to recognise and fulfil their potential. We believe that the Gospel holds the power to transform the present, not just the future. Our church is committed to working to restore hope in our country. We believe that many need a message of hope that comes in a practical way into their lives”.

MWB Church Partner



Sandra Krvavac is the coordinator who oversees this work for MWB. For many years she was actively involved in outreach work for her local church, overseeing summer camps for children, running a second-hand shop, connecting with local people and showing them love. So, when it came to expanding our work, Sandra was the perfect person for the job

Please pray for Sandra, the MWB team in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the partnership with the evangelical church in Sarajevo. We pray that one day the wounds of war which are ever-present now, will be healed in Jesus' name.

*The war raged from 1992-95, it was the most haunting conflict witnessed in the region since World War II. More than 100,000 lives were lost and more than 2 million more people were displaced.



“I LOVE IT AT SUMMER CAMP!”

DECLARED IONUT, 12, WHO LIVES WITH HIS PARENTS AND FIVE SIBLINGS IN SOLCA, ROMANIA.

“WE ENJOY EVERY SINGLE THING HERE AND IT’S THE BEST WEEK OF MY YEAR BY FAR!”



**THIS YEAR,
OUR UK FAMILY
HAS RAISED MORE
THAN £110,000,
ENOUGH TO HELP
AROUND 600
YOUNG PEOPLE TO
ATTEND ONE OF OUR
SUMMER CAMPS.**



With the additional support we have received from other countries, the Mission was able to welcome more than 4,200 children into our 41 camps running across Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

More than 750 volunteers and staff at our Summer Camps offered a listening ear and a friendly and loving face; the young people were able to take a break from their everyday struggles to enjoy a time filled with fun and friendship. Each day, children enjoyed time with the Bible, as well as fun activities, craft, sports and games. An enormous amount of work and planning is put into making the Summer Camps an experience that will richly bless every child – and one they’ll never forget!

Not only do children leave our Summer Camps with a sense that they are loved and have been listened to, they return home with a seed of the Gospel planted firmly in their hearts and a life changed forever. Summer Camps have introduced tens of thousands of children to Jesus – children who, without the camps, may never have heard about God’s love!

Even after Summer Camps are over, our support does not end. Our staff meet up with them afterwards, and most of the children and teenagers who attend our Summer Camps receive regular help through our sponsorship programmes. Throughout the year, our staff work closely with children and their families, caring for them practically, emotionally and spiritually, painstakingly earning the trust of families. It is with this foundation that our staff build relationships with the children throughout the year. This trust also means that during our Summer Camps these children may talk about



HOW CAN I HELP AFTER THE SUMMER CAMPS ARE OVER?

For supporters like Frank and Jackie, our Summer Camps are a key reason for them support the Mission.

“My involvement in Summer Camps stems from sponsoring with the Mission two children in a Romanian orphanage back in the 1990s,” says Frank. “I was blessed to be able to visit the children in Aber Iulia, which made a great impression on me – and I’ve continued since then supporting children through Summer Camps – they’re superb!”

Jackie agrees. “I love the Summer Camps! These young people are our future generation. They need to be guided to know the Lord so they can lead in the future and be witnesses to Jesus – and Summer Camps do just that!”

Is the Lord calling you to sponsor a child or a family? Through sponsorship, you will change lives and help build better futures. Sponsoring children brings them into the MWB family, where they receive targeted help – including the opportunity to join next year’s Summer Camps!

If you’d like to partner with us to bring even more children to our Summer Camps in 2025, then visit our website at www.mwbuk.org or give us a call on 020 7940 1370.

things on their hearts they cannot do at home. Helping a child such as Sasha through sponsorship helps ensure that the work we do has a lasting impact.

Sasha’s father serves in the Ukrainian army, putting his life on the line every day. Although her background is not a Christian one, Sasha says she always knew there was a God ‘somewhere deep inside’. Originally from Kherson in eastern Ukraine, her family moved west to Sarny when it was occupied by the Russians. Sasha says, “I try not to think about the war and I don’t watch the news, otherwise I would never have any happy days.” Attending the Summer Camp made an indelible impression on Sasha. It was there she met Jesus:

“At first, I was surprised when I heard I’d get to go to a Christian summer camp but when I got there, my impressions were very good. I can’t really express it, but now I see myself differently, now I want to open myself up to God, to talk to Him and build my life on His Word!”

We would like to thank every one of you who has made our Summer Camps possible through your prayers and your gifts. Our Summer Camps were an amazing success this year, and we hope that we build on this incredible summer in the coming months.

UKRAINE UPDATE

On 24th February 2024, the full-scale war in Ukraine hit the two-year mark. It is estimated that 14.6 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian assistance, 3.6 million people have been internally displaced, and 6.34 million have become refugees across Europe. Russia's invasion has reversed 15 years of poverty reduction efforts in Ukraine, especially for households with children. According to the United Nations, a staggering 8 in every 10 children in Ukraine live in poverty.

Thanks to a quick response and generous donations from individuals, churches and charitable trusts, as soon as the conflict began, we were able to respond rapidly to care for those in immediate need. Hundreds of thousands of hot meals, drinks and emergency food and hygiene parcels have been distributed to refugees, along with other items such as blankets and clothing.

Over the past two years the Mission has extended our church partnership across the country, to include 192 churches – helping us to continue to support tens of thousands of people.

Our colleague in Ukraine, Olexandr says, **“The war brought new challenges to us. Internally displaced people are one of the main groups we now support. Many of these families have lost absolutely everything and many have also lost loved ones. They have little to no financial support, can't afford rent and can't find a job due to the economic crisis. So our help is so important.”**

Yulia Bulavka was six months' pregnant when the war broke out in Ukraine, and her baby was due when she and her two children were forced to flee their home.

Yulia says, **“Moving from place to place was stressful and exhausting. Thank God I gave birth to a healthy, beautiful boy. We called him Victor, which means ‘winner’. My husband serves on the frontline, and we don't hear from him often.”**

Yulia and her children eventually settled in Sarny, western Ukraine, where they began receiving regular support from Mission Without Borders. **“We were warmly welcomed into this community,”** she says.

Sadly, after some months, Yulia and her children were forced to return home to Kramatorsk. Although it is still dangerous, they lost their accommodation in West Ukraine and there was nowhere else she could afford to rent.

The family's move home to Kramatorsk demonstrates just how precarious life is for displaced people, and the very real impact of affordable accommodation. Please pray for their safety and protection and for others like them.



Olexandr



Yulia Bulavka

According to the United Nations, nearly 10 million people in Ukraine are at risk of developing serious mental health conditions. Children are particularly vulnerable, with 1.5 million requiring some kind of assistance in managing stress and other mental health issues. MWB staff undertake ongoing trauma training to be able to minister to the people they encounter.



"I couldn't read 'til now..."

Claudia lives in severe poverty in Moldova. At home she has no kitchen, no running water, no gas supply, and no sewage system. Her poverty has been a focus of her being bullied at school and, along with problems at home, this bullying led to deep feelings of loneliness and depression. Indeed, she almost dropped out of school altogether until an encounter with her cousin changed her world:

"One day my cousin told me about the After School Centre. She told me how much she loved it and asked me to go with her. When we went, I remember how warmly I was welcomed."

Now, Claudia and her siblings go along to the After School Centre every weekday. Around 30 children

living in poverty enjoy a warm meal, receive help with their homework, and take part in arts and crafts, music lessons, games and fun educational activities. The staff and volunteers create a friendly, safe environment, where the children have the chance to experience the love and care that is not always present at home.

One of our volunteers, Cristina, explained: **"At home, many of these children miss out on their parents' affection and attention. There's no warmth at home, and often there's no food. Here at the After School Centre, they're under supervision and good care."**

The friendships, mentors and support that children receive at the centre is vital to their development. Once their emotional needs are met, children are far more receptive to learning. They're relaxed, more confident and better prepared to make the most of being at school.

Claudia had a lot of challenges to overcome with her schoolwork. She had fallen behind and felt lost, but Cristina and our After School worker, Mrs Aurica, were there to help her. In just a few months, Claudia gained enormous confidence.

"I couldn't read 'til now," she said. **"Last summer I decided it was time to practice my reading and get better. This year I've improved my grades in many subjects."**



We really want children in poverty to excel in their education, so that one day they can have a better future than their parents. Mrs Aurica put it best:

"Our wish is that the After School Centre will help raise healed, healthy children, who are well prepared for the future."



OPPORTUNITIES AND HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

There are many barriers preventing young people in poverty from being able to get a good education. Course fees may be beyond their ability to pay, or they simply may not be able to afford the cost of books, stationery, public transport or accommodation.

We provide people like Alex and Dimitrina with scholarships towards higher qualifications or vocational training courses. Having schemes like this are key in breaking the chain of poverty within communities, giving children like Alex and Dimitrina the opportunity of a brighter future.

Alex's Story (Moldova)

22-year-old Alex had dreamed of becoming a maths teacher since he was a little boy. The odds were against him. Born into poverty in Moldova, he grew up without a father and, when he was still a teenager, his mother was admitted to psychiatric care for two years. Left alone, Alex had to look after his older brother and his uncle. Even though his mother is now out of care, he carries huge responsibility at home, helping his mother while trying to continue his studies.

"I find it difficult to cope with everything. Every day I end up tired to the limit, but the Lord gives me strength," he told us.

Throughout all this, Mission Without Borders has provided constant support for Alex. He was enrolled on our child sponsorship programme when he was seven and recently, after graduating from school, he also qualified for one of our scholarships.

"If it wasn't for this scholarship, I'm not sure I could follow my dream!" he explained. He warmly recalls all the support he received from one of our colleagues, Ion, throughout his childhood. "Ion saw potential in me. He's encouraged and supported me since middle school, and continues to support me!"

Above and beyond providing practical help and emotional support, Mission Without Borders was also

instrumental in Alex becoming a Christian and now he leads Bible study groups at church and helps organise outreach programmes. At university, he has found close Christian friends he meets every morning for prayers before the day begins.

"I want to become a good teacher and to be a good example to students, teaching many generations to change the world for the better."

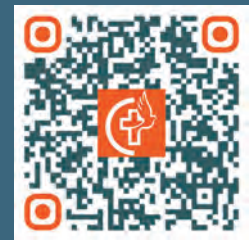
With the support of our colleagues and volunteers and crucially donors, Alex is now well on the way to achieving the career he once dreamed of as a young boy.





One of the key ways to support a child's education is through our sponsorship scheme – please do contact us by email at info@mwbuk.org call our office, or even go to our website using the QR code on this page, to find out more.

Last year, Mission Without Borders supported 489 young people through scholarships in higher education and 191 were given support for vocational courses.



Dimitrina's Story (Bulgaria)

When Dimitrina's family was enrolled on Mission Without Borders' family sponsorship programme, her husband Dimitar struggled with serious health issues that sadly led to his death.

"It became more and more difficult for me to cope financially. I applied for several jobs, but I couldn't get hired because I had no qualifications."

Our MWB colleague, Emil, visited the family regularly. One day he suggested Dimitrina join one of our vocational courses.

Dimitrina says, "When Emil offered me the chance to join the professional tailoring training course, I didn't hesitate for a moment – I had so much motivation to do it because of how employers kept refusing me a job."

Milena, Dimitrina's tailoring teacher, said, "She was so determined to complete the course, so that she could be useful to her family. By the end of the training, Dimitrina was a different person. She'd become sociable, she was very focused; she even began to joke and smile."

Dimitrina finished the course and, with her training certificate in hand, she immediately looked for a job again.

"That was the key that opened the door to my future: I was offered a job the very next day. I am so grateful to God and the people from MWB who reached out to me

at one of the most difficult times for me and my family."

MWB's vocational courses are a massive benefit to the people in Dimitrina's community. For many women in the region, it's difficult, if not impossible, to secure paid work without the necessary qualifications. In Emil's words:

"Material and emotional support is essential for the families we work with and, if they can become qualified as skilled workers, we know that they've received support that will last a lifetime."





Operation Christmas Love (OCL) is one of our biggest projects – and it is our way of communicating from you the love of Christ to as many people as we can at Christmas time.

Thanks to you – our incredible supporters in the UK – over £100,000 was raised last year towards sending 42,000 OCL boxes to families, young people and the elderly who are in need throughout the region, including 3,000 boxes distributed into Bosnia-Herzegovina. One of these was to the Hasanovic family in our new Sarajevo community.

Nermina lives with her husband Jasmin and four children. To make ends meet, both parents collect metal and raw materials and sell them. **“Although Jasmin has a good education, as a Roma person he has encountered a lot of discrimination in his search for work. He hasn’t been able to secure a stable job, one with a contract and regular hours, although he has been offered illegal work that he’s not interested in”.**

“There have been times over the last 10 years where I’ve cried at night because I wasn’t sure if my kids would still have a roof over their heads, if we’d ever find good jobs and be able to provide for them,” she said. **“And it’s not just the bare necessities, but also things like providing pocket money, money for school trips, and school books”.**

“There were times when we didn’t have firewood in the winter. In those situations, my husband would drive around and look for old wardrobes and furniture he could break up and use as wood.”

In the midst of these tough times, it was a great relief to Nermina and Jasmin when their family was enrolled on Mission Without Borders’ family sponsorship programme. They began receiving regular material support and visits from staff member Sandra.

And as the Christmas holidays approached, Sandra brought them boxes filled with food and treats, as well as gifts for the children and firewood to keep their home from freezing.

“I can’t describe how happy I was when I heard from Sandra that we’ll get a special box of food for this Christmas. That was God’s way of telling me not to worry,” Nermina said happily. **“When Mission Without Borders stepped into our lives, miracles started happening. I don’t know what the greater miracle for me was: having firewood by my door, receiving the parcel of food for Christmas, or receiving gifts for the children”.**

“I’m grateful to God for never abandoning us. He is the one who feeds us and looks after us.”

We want Christmas to be a day when families suffering from higher winter costs, the stress of unpaid bills, unemployment or poorly paid jobs can forget their troubles and simply join in the celebrations.



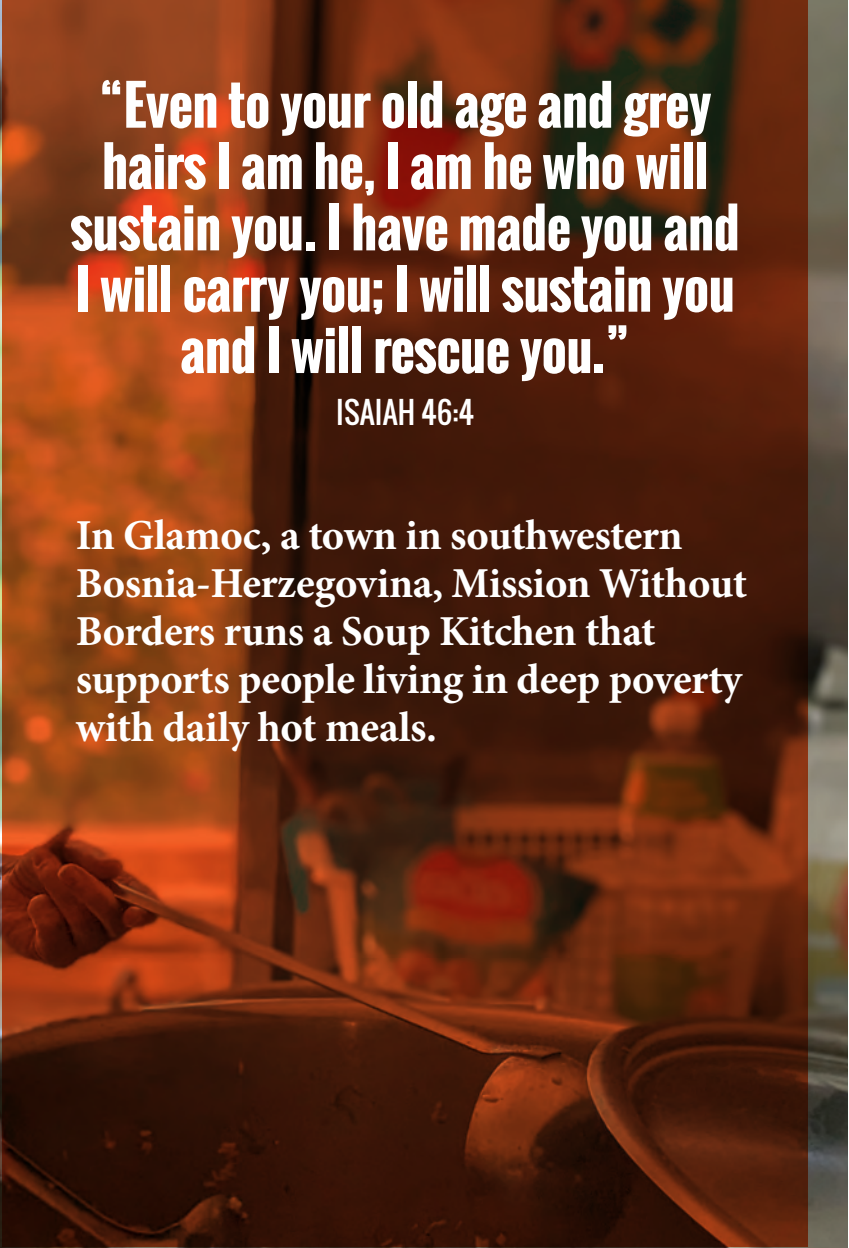
Please consider supporting our Operation Christmas Love appeal later in the year if you can. You can also choose to sponsor a family to help bring support and hope to a family just like Nermina and Jasmin’s



“Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

ISAIAH 46:4

In Glamoc, a town in southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mission Without Borders runs a Soup Kitchen that supports people living in deep poverty with daily hot meals.



The people supported by Mission Without Borders in Glamoc are often elderly, but also include vulnerable families and those who have suffered from domestic abuse.

Every day, our colleagues at the Soup Kitchen witness beautiful ways in which God meets individuals' needs, giving each person the measure that they lack. Thanks to Mission Without Borders' supporters, we are able to reach out to so many vulnerable people and help them when they need it most.

At the Soup Kitchen, different generations of women support each other despite their own difficulties. Men come together to play chess and find community. Those who are housebound because of health problems are reassured, knowing that their visitor will come again and they are not alone.

Stana, 77, lives alone and doesn't have any family. Not only has she found community at the Soup Kitchen, but her life has been saved by our team there more than once.

“There have been three times that she's collapsed and remained unconscious, and each time, we immediately took her to the hospital and provided her with timely

medical help,” Blazenko Soldat, the coordinator of the Soup Kitchen in Glamoc, told us.

Our Soup Kitchens have always been places that bring people together and offer much more than a hot meal. They are places for chatting and meeting others, places where chess tournaments are held and where women come together to knit.

Nedeljko, 86, and **Miloš**, 78, are typical examples of this. They enjoy playing chess together at the front of the Soup Kitchen in Glamoc. And, as well as being helped by the Soup Kitchen, Nedeljko and Miloš help others by volunteering to deliver our meals to those who are housebound.

God has given us eyes that see, ears that hear and hands that embrace, and in places like our Soup Kitchen in Glamoc, people are empowered to support each other in fellowship. With your support we hope this will carry on for years to come.



A LEGACY GIFT WILL TRANSFORM LIVES FOR JESUS

In 2023, we received £21,200 because of the amazing generosity of supporters who had left us a gift in their Wills. Leaving a gift like this is an incredible way to help us build sustainable futures and share the Gospel with generations of people in Eastern Europe.

For more than 60 years we have been seeking to serve Jesus in all that we do. Without him we can do nothing and He is the centre of our work, whether we are providing bedding or emergency care packages for those affected by the war in Ukraine, or providing regular help through our sponsorship programmes that help transform the lives of struggling children and families.

All this has been made possible by the faithful generosity of our family of supporters, who support us financially and through regular prayer. We can't thank you enough.

But there's another way to support the Lord's work through Mission Without Borders: leaving a gift in your Will. Creating a Will is the most reliable way for you to ensure your wishes are carried out after you have gone. Gifts in Wills are vital to all areas of our work, so any gift you give, whatever size, will make a big difference to the work of the Mission.

HOW TO LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Deciding who you leave a legacy to is a personal and private matter. However, if you have already remembered Mission Without Borders in your Will, or you decide you'd like to leave a legacy to the Mission, we promise to handle your gift responsibly and in Jesus' name.

To find out how Mission Without Borders can support you in leaving a gift in your Will, please call us on **020 7940 1370** or email **info@mwbuk.org**. We'll be more than happy to help. It's quick and easy, and there's no commitment involved.

Thank you for all you do for the Mission – and God bless you.



OUR VALUES



CHURCH STRENGTHENING

We work with local churches because we want to strengthen them, so that in the future they may be better equipped to work independently to help those in need.



COMMITTED TO THE POOR

The reasons for people living in poverty are many and complex and as a Mission we believe we are called to serve the poor through direct support and care, inviting others to join us as we seek to help.



CHRISTIAN

Our Christian faith underlines the motivation for all of our work, and we wear it openly on our sleeves. We strive to make it evident in our collaborative work with churches, in our work with the poor and marginalised, and in our communications with our supporters as we seek to raise funds for our work.



INTEGRITY

We seek to act with integrity in all aspects of our Mission and communicate our work with honesty. When sharing stories and photos we strive to do so honestly, and through our safeguarding policies we act to protect the welfare and safety of children and vulnerable adults.



PARTNERSHIP

We work in partnership with the local church, volunteers and with various groups. Rather than duplicating what others do, we strengthen the work being done by working collaboratively.



RESPECT

We respect all those we work with and treat them with dignity. In our communications we do not portray them as generic victims, but rather as people made in the image of God. We use names where appropriate and we quote individuals where we can so that the story is shared in their own voice, and to show the needs and struggles they face.



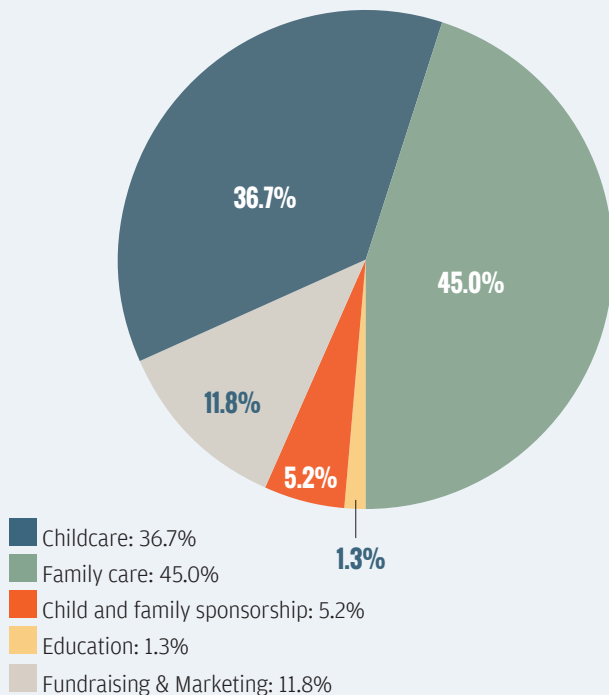
STEWARDSHIP

We strive to be good stewards of the resources God has given us. We achieve a lot with the money that is given and its impact is multiplied because of the other resources that we are able to add to it. For example, we receive much needed practical help in the form of clothing, hygiene products, furniture and other items we could not afford to buy.

WHERE FUNDS WERE RAISED IN 2023

One year after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, we remain incredibly grateful and humbled by the enormous generosity of supporters. The majority of our income comes from the kind support of individual donors, as well as gifts from churches and charitable trusts. After an exceptional year of giving in 2022 in the aftermath of the outbreak of war, gifts to us settled down in 2023. We received a total of **£892,347** throughout the year, including **£21,200** of gifts left in legacies and regular giving towards our sponsorship programmes. In addition, with the help of corporate partners, we sent material aid valued at **£1,972,560** to help people in need.

WHERE FUNDS WERE SPENT



A BIG thanks to:

CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS Throughout 2023 churches up and down the country have helped to support our ministry with more than £15,000 in gifts, as well as through the dedicated prayers of many in those churches. In particular, we would like to thank all the team at St. Mark's Church, Harrogate, who last year helped us to host an amazing Evening of Music in support of our work in Ukraine. It is hard to express our gratitude for the kindness and thoughtfulness of all those in our supporting churches – and if you would be interested in having one of us come to your church to talk about our work, please do contact us.



KNITTERS Thanks to the dedicated work by a great many knitters in 2023, we were able to send hundreds of items of knitted gloves, hats, jumpers, scarves and blankets to help the people of Eastern Europe – particularly over the cold winter months. We cannot thank you enough for all the incredible work you have done to help throughout the year and hope that we can meet many of you in person in the future!

IN KIND DIRECT Established in 1997 by the Prince of Wales, In Kind Direct has been instrumental in helping us to provide material goods, such as mattresses, bedding, clothing and hygiene goods like handwash, to parents and children in need in Eastern Europe. We are very grateful for their partnership over the past year – and we hope they are able to partner with us for many years to come.



BIG GIVE

Thanks to pledges from some incredible members of our family and another charity, who partnered with us for this campaign at the beginning of December 2023, we were offered the wonderful opportunity to match your giving. For every £1 you gave, our faithful pledgers matched it with another £1. Together, we raised more than £10,000 to provide five families in need in Ukraine with tools and farm equipment to help them towards being self-sufficient.

In December 2024, we hope to raise funds to help 30 families in desperate need who have been displaced in Ukraine. You can help make that possible. Please look out on our Facebook page for 'The Big Give' towards the end of November



Thank you to Mission & Relief, who are faithful partners with us, shipping material aid donated to MWB to where it's most needed in Eastern Europe.