

Medjugorje International Relief



January 2003

10th Anniversary NewsLetter

Dear friends,

10th Anniversary Celebrations

To mark the occasion there will be a day of thanksgiving on 8th February at The Schoenstatt Shrine (St John Fisher church, off Manchester Rd, Kearsley, Manchester) starting with Midday Mass, followed by the Rosary for peace, an exhibition of the first ten years work and tea/coffee later. A new Icon of Our Lady Queen of Peace written by a Russian Orthodox monk will be on display also on the day. I hope we can all meet up and pray together. (Please ask to display the attached poster in Church/ put a line in your parish newsletter).

Sudan –A testimony of one of the people rescued from slavery by Christian Solidarity International.



Alim Ajing Manyuat

A 10-year old girl from the village of Wakabil. "I was captured 4 years ago. I do not remember many details of what happened because I was too young. My father had died sometime before and we were living with my mother. When the Murahaleen came early one morning we were all captured with my siblings and my mother, Abuk Ngong Deng. I was taken to Adila by a certain Arab called Adam Ali. I used to look after his baby son. Other Dinka slaves worked on the farm and performed other household chores. One day, Adam's baby son fell down while I was looking after him. He hurt his lip and his mother became furious. She grabbed a bamboo pole and started beating me with it. I escaped her grip and ran away from her. Unfortunately, I tripped and fell down into an open fire in the compound of the house. Both my hands were badly burnt. It took many months for the wounds to heal but my hands became horribly deformed as you can see."

In the last 6 months you have given **£1050** for the slave redemption programme so another 21 people will be rescued from slavery in Sudan. God bless you for your generosity to this project. Its on-going !

Ethiopia - In response to the terrible famine sweeping across the region we sent what was left in the bank account **£450** to missionaries working in the area via the Little Way Association who, in common with ourselves, make no deductions for expenses.

Bosnia - A further **£225** was sent to Sr Muriel towards the construction of the old people's home, mostly through the fundraising efforts of St Alphonsus over-60's club. In a recent letter Sr Muriel said that it should be completed by the Autumn and sends her heartfelt thanks to all who contributed.

Liberia- No more shipments as mentioned in the last report, but we did receive some feedback from some recipients of the tools sent on the last container. The extract below is from Guwar Mulbah, -“ *I am writing this letter with much happiness to say thank you for the carpentry tools... At 10 years old I became a refugee in Guinea for 6 years where I learned carpentry.... I returned to Monrovia 2 months ago with nothing....they gave me tools including one hammer,saw and chisels, they are very new, ...I'll try to use them to make small money for myself.*” Just a few pounds can turn despair into hope !

Afghanistan- The remaining blankets and about 2 tons of medical supplies have been passed to the Al Massom group on-route to Afghanistan. Hopefully we'll get some feedback shortly.

India – About 200 bags of blankets were given to the missionaries of charity (brothers) for the homes in Calcutta. Also a further 5 students were sponsored in their further education via the SVP twinnage scheme. *Anitha Thomas*, now starting her training to be a nurse in the Punalur district was sponsored entirely from the proceeds of recycled aluminium cans/foil that you collected. No details on the other 4 students as yet. *Just for interest, since you started collecting aluminium foil/cans the totals are:-290kg recycled (equivalent to 17,500 cans). This represents a saving of over 4000 kilowatts of electricity, the fossil fuel otherwise used (in generating the electricity) would have released more than 2.5 tons of Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere which would have required more than half an acre of forest to “mop-up”. So recycling is good stewardship as well as providing cash for an education to kids in India—please keep collecting.*

Patrons: Our Lady Queen of Peace & Blessed Frederick Ozanam

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Romania



The shoebox appeal this year was well supported with **1163** boxes collected from 17 schools (Salford and Shrewsbury diocese). We had the opportunity to work with an old friend this year, John Hollins, who many of you will remember from the convoys to Bosnia in the early 90's now working with a group in Skegness called REACH who will take the shoeboxes on to two locations in Romania, Tulcea on the black sea coast and Fagares near Brasov where they work with street children. We also gave **£450** towards the transportation costs, as they are taking a 40 foot lorry over.

Our thanks to all the schools who took part this year, teachers, children and parents – your generosity is overwhelming and it makes such a difference to the children who receive your gifts – it may be the only act of love they've ever encountered.

This year's schools were:-

Our Lady of the Rosary (Davyhulme) **All Saints** (Ashton-on-Mersey) **St Dunstan's** (Moston)
St Monica's (Warrington) **St Edward's** (Macclesfield) **St Joseph's** (Little Hulton) **St Michael's** (Whitefield)
Bishop Billsborough (Moss Side) **St Wilfred's** (Northwich) **St Gilbert's** (Eccles) **St Paul's** (Blackburn)
St John's jnr (Burnley) **St Hugh of Lincoln** **Christ the King** (Walkden) **Our Lady & St Paul's** (Heywood)
Albion High School (Salford) **St John Bosco** (Bolton)

*******Come along on the 8th Febuary!! If you can*******

Crown of Thorns- Quite a lot of church supplies were given, mostly smaller items, a few boxes of spectacles and also a church organ. We sent **£100** towards their transport costs to Ghana. Any further donations of goods for this, please contact **Bernard Grigaitis on 0161-442-9570** (6-6.30pm is best) who is their contact person in the North West and he will arrange for collection. Still required:- statues, altars, fonts, organs, vestments, and football kits (especially boots) for school football teams.

Anyone like to sponsor a football team in Ghana ?? They have many outstanding requests for this as sports keep the lads out of crime, gangs and drugs and in the heart of the church community. – Perhaps your company/workplace might like to sponsor a team ?

Manchester/Salford – No let-up on the clothes deliveries and so we spread the blessing between Cornerstone, SVP shop/store and St Anne's hospice shop. Total approx 360 bags of clothes and some bric-a-brac items were sent.

Our Lady's Message from Medjugorje (December 25th 2002)

"Dear children! This is a time of great graces, but also a time of great trials for all those who desire to follow the way of peace. Because of that, little children, again I call you to pray, pray, pray, not with words but with the heart. Live my messages and be converted. Be conscious of this gift that God has permitted me to be with you, especially today when in my arms I have little Jesus - the King of Peace. I desire to give you peace, and that you carry it in your hearts and give it to others until God's peace begins to rule the world. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Contacts :- **Postal address:-** 13 Erlington Ave, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 0FN
Collection point : 'The Cellar' of The parish centre, (**Open by arrangement only**)
Behind St Alphonsus Church, Ayres Rd., Old Trafford, Manchester.
Phone:-0161-881-5664 (Steve, Eppie, Mike)
E-mail:- MIRmedjugorje@aol.com **Web Site:-** www.manchestermedjugorje.cjb.net
Account Name:- (for Cheques) Manchester Medjugorje Appeal