



January 2005 Report



Medjugorje International Relief

Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Asylum Seekers

Welcoming the stranger

This year's appeal went well with 900 boxes being given from 10 schools and a few churches. A good fundraising period too which enabled us to add a few hundred pounds worth of food to the boxes and some woolly hats,



scarves and gloves as well.

Most went to asylum seekers, who are quite widely spread across the north of England and so we worked with quite a few different groups, the main recipients being REVIVE in Salford (a joint venture between the Diocese and the Holy Ghost Fathers, Tamworth Court, a hostel for asylum seekers in

Trafford, the Saint Vincent de Paul Resource centre in Leeds, which is a drop-in centre for destitute asylum seekers, and Christian Alliance who again run hostels and a variety of other out-reach projects in the North-West. So quite a logistical challenge which all worked out in the end, thank God, with all the boxes packed and picked up



by the groups before Christmas.

For the many who are a long way from home, and separated from family and friends, it must be a great comfort to know that they are not alone, that someone cares enough to make them a shoebox for Christmas. Thanks to all who helped bring it all together!

India ..Students

The Recycling ventures continued to expand this year and so a further 2 students will be sponsored in their further education in India. One from the proceeds of aluminium and scrap metal and the other printer cartridges recycling. Please keep collecting and encourage your neighbours to do so. **£120** Raised



The student sponsored last July was Jasmin Cleetus who is studying Nursing.

About 60 bags of blankets were also given to the Missionaries of charity for their homes in Calcutta.

Russia —a further **£400** has been raised for Russia to help build a church in the city of Oryol. Church congregations all over Russia are in need of help to rebuild or renovate churches.

A good Lenten fundraising project for prayer groups ?



Icon of Our Lady Queen of Peace (pictured overleaf) continues its travels around the many churches that have supported the appeal and many people have asked about prayer cards depicting the Icon. So, we are looking for **One donor** to give the required approx **£150** for the 1st print run of 1000 cards. *If that's you, let us know !!*

£100 will be sent shortly to another medjugorje inspired charity **Scottish International Relief** for their "Mary's Meals" project, primarily in **Malawi**, they supply food for school children in some of the poorest areas during the school day to enable them to come to school and get an education, so an excellent development project. For only £5 a year per child

Sudan ..Christian Solidarity International.. ..Slave Redemption Programme

Since the last report in July , you have given a further **£900** for this, which will bring the total to **85** people freed from slavery by you. Thanks to the many prayer groups and individuals who gave.

Slave Stories..from a press interview with John Eibner of CSI

I always interview at length some of the redeemed slaves. Here are four stories:

Adior Ajang Jongkor, a 35-year-old woman, was enslaved for two years by 'Ali in the village of Shetef. He changed her name to Huwa, Arabic for "Eve," had her perform domestic labor, repeatedly raped her, and slashed her with a knife



when she resisted his advances. Her body now bears the many scars that resulted from her resistance.

Achol Tong Nyan, a Christian wife and mother in her mid-20s, was enslaved in March 1998. During a two-week forced march to the north she had to carry on her head a heavy load of tea and clothing—her captor's inanimate booty. At night, she was beaten and repeatedly gang-raped. Her master, Isma'il 'Ali Mahdi, gave her the name Howeva, forced her to perform Islamic rituals, and used her as a concubine. As a result of sexual relations with her master, she now has a baby girl, Paulina.

Wol Dut Deng, a boy in his mid-teens, was captured by the government of Sudan's Popular Defence Force (PDF) in the spring of 1996. On the forced march to Matarik, he witnessed the execution of his two brothers, Kak Deng Aguer and Deng Deng Aguer. His master, Hamdan, routinely beat and insulted him. After Deng tried to run away, Hamdan threatened to kill him and tied him up with a rope, leaving scars on his legs.

Nyanut Adwal Anei, a teenage girl, was enslaved by PDF troops in 1997. She was forced to live as the concubine of her master, Mahmud, who had her genitals excised.

Such dehumanizing abuse is not exceptional. Severe physical and psychological torture is the norm for the contemporary chattel slaves of Sudan, as are forced labor, forced conversion to Islam, death threats, beatings, and exemplary executions (usually by cutting the throat). Women endure rape and, in some cases, genital excision. Boys are sometimes trained as *mujahidun* and then sent to fight against their own people.

Note the absence of adult males: able-bodied men do not make passive, reliable slaves. Better able than women and children to resist cultural assimilation, more difficult to control physically, they are normally spared the humiliation of enslavement and are shot dead

It costs about **£50** to rescue 1 person from slavery...**could you rescue one person?**

Please give what you can.

On sight during slave raids or are executed after carrying heavy booty to the north. Testimony from some redeemed slaves contain scores of grizzly eyewitness reports of many boy slaves unsuccessfully assimilated into servitude whose throats are cut just as they become physically strong.



Romania

A Van load of medical supplies (instruments & consumables) given by hospitals here in Manchester have been passed to a group of Christian Businessmen for their next convoy to Romania, where hospitals are in very short supply of even basic equipment. These should **go out soon**.

Postal address :

Medjugorje International Relief
c/o 13 Erlington Ave
Old Trafford
Manchester
M16 0FN



Our Lady's Message from Medjugorje (September 25th 2003)

"Dear children! Also today, I call you to be love where there is hatred and food where there is hunger. Open your hearts, little children, and let your hands be extended and generous so that, through you, every creature may thank God the Creator. Pray, little children, and open your heart to God's love, but you cannot if you do not pray. Therefore, pray, pray, pray. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Please pray for us and send a donation, small or large, today.. Be part of this work.. (contact details on the left)

Phone: 0161-881-5664

E-mail: MIRmedjugorje@aol.com

Web Page

www.manchestermedjugorje.cjb.net

****Stop Press** -please also pray for one of the appeal team who is ill at present, for a full recovery****



Medjugorje International Relief

....Special Report....

January 2005

Shoeboxes/ Food for Asylum Seekers & Refugees

This years shoebox appeal was focused on the home front. If we had a theme it might be “**welcoming the stranger**” as this year they went in the main to asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

10 schools participated this year and 900 boxes were sent in, filled with food, toiletries and gifts.



We were able to top-up the boxes with several hundred pounds worth of food as well as wooly hats, scarves and gloves, thanks to a good fundraising exercise too.

Distribution was a bit more complex than usual as we partnered with a number of organizations including : REVIVE in Salford, Tamworth Court Hostel in Old Trafford, Saint Vincent de Paul Resource centre in Leeds and Christian Alliance; all of whom serve the asylum seeker communities in various ways including hostels, drop-in centres etc...

The most frequent comment was that many asylum seekers are now destitute and so your gifts are really a life-line as well as a great source of joy and hope to perhaps the most neglected and unloved in our community.

For the many who are a long way from home, and separated from family and friends, it must be a great comfort to know that they are not alone, that someone cares enough to make them a shoebox for Christmas.



Loading for the SVP Resource centre in Leeds



Participating schools included



- Our Lady of the Rosary (Davyhulme)
- St Bedes (Whalley Range)
- St Peter's (Middleton)
- St Wilfred's (Northwich)
- St Hugh of Lincoln (Stretford)
- St John's Jnr (Burnley)
- St John Bosco (Blackley)
- St Gilberts (Eccles)
- Albion High School (Salford)
- St Peter's (Blackburn)

Participating Churches included:

- St Alphonsus-Old Trafford
- St John's—Burnley
- St Mary's –Levenshulme

Thank you All for your Kindness