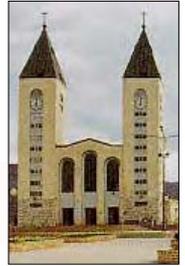




## July 2005 Report



# Medjugorje International Relief

Mongolia, Church's newest missionary territory, started in 1992, with only 100 Catholics in the whole country, is run by the Scheut (CICM) Fathers. One of their projects is for the street children in Ulaan Baatar, who live in the sewers, bringing them food, clothes, medicines and, to a fortunate few, shelter in the Verbist care centre, a home they run in the capital.

This is a brilliant opportunity to help these kids and help the Church lay its foundations in Mongolia for future generations. A report on the work there :- **£250 sent so far..**

### Ulaan Baatar...Outer Mongolia

Coal-burning steam generating plants crank out heat that flows through underground pipes into apartments and buildings in Mongolia's capital city. Scattered along the pipelines are manholes and underground maintenance vaults. The manholes also provide shelter to the thousands of homeless men, women and children seeking refuge from winter temperatures that sometimes dip to minus 50 degrees.

On Wednesday nights, the Rev. Gilbert Sales, an Immaculate Heart of Mary Missionary, climbs down Ulaanbaatar's manholes to bring food and compassion to the desperate underground world. The poor, homeless and unemployed in this former Soviet backwater are growing in number as Mongolia struggles to rebuild its economy and government after the collapse and withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1990.



The missionaries began first with the homeless children who knocked on their Ulaanbaatar apartment doors. Gaining the children's confidence, the priests were soon invited into the manholes, where the children hid. The priests began collecting the

children from the streets -- at first fifteen and then forty. They built a four-story center that now houses 120 children and also feeds and cares for homeless adults.

Fr. Sales, returns to the manholes looking for children who are fleeing abusive homes or who have been abandoned by their families. "When a child is there for more than six months, chances are they will stay," he said, explaining his weekly visits. "They begin to enjoy the freedom of the streets."

What sales is finding on his weekly trips to the manholes is an increasing number of jobless and homeless adults, who he said now outnumber the children by many times. Often these are displaced herdsmen and former factory workers who pour into Ulaanbaatar from the countryside hoping to find jobs. Instead they find misery.



And with them often sit their families -- wives and young children. Hoping to protect their children from the crime, sexually transmitted diseases, illnesses and hunger that are prevalent in the manholes, many parents have placed their children in Sales' care. "We are taking in the most vulnerable children and girls," said Sales, who explained the children at the Verbist Care Center continue to see their parents during regular visits and weekend trips "home" to the manholes.

#### **Our Lady's Message** (25th June 2005)

Dear children! Today I thank you for every sacrifice that you have offered for my intentions. I call you, little children, to be my apostles of peace and love in your families and in the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit may enlighten and lead you on the way of holiness. I am with you and bless you all with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.

**A Prayer Card**

of the Icon of Our Lady Queen of Peace has been produced, thanks to one kind donor who funded the first print run. Available for a donation (50p or more) from the address below. All proceeds will go to the new project in Mongolia described above. The back of the card is the Pope's prayer Totus Tuus. If you want cards posting to you, don't forget to enclose a self-addressed envelope with the appropriate postage stamps on it, alternately drop in and pick them up.

To have the Icon visit your church, please get permission from your PP first and then contact Charles on : 0161-881-5664. (currently just the Manchester area).



Since the last report in January , you have given a further **£600** for this, which will bring the total to **97** people freed from slavery by you: a lot of family reunions ! Thanks to the many prayer groups and individuals who gave...**on-going**

**Russia**

A further **£75** was given towards the construction of the church in the city of Oyrol which will be forwarded shortly. Its great to see the Solidarity or partnership with the church in the former Soviet Union , they are more than willing to build their new church and you're supplying the bricks and mortar. *Thanks to all who gave over the last year or so.*

**Romania**

A group of Christian Businessmen are sending a container of aid out to Romania which they plan to distribute to people in the prisons. **700 toothbrushes** have been given and they appeal for other **toiletries, stationary** etc, *we will forward any items given for this*

**India**

Thanks to all who continue collecting aluminium cans/foil and printer cartridges and old mobile phones as this has now put..**12 people** through college through the SVP Student scheme... and over 1 metric ton of scrap has been recycled....*feels like more doesn't it !!*

**Shoebox Appeal Feedback**

All the boxes were distributed in time for Christmas and all the groups which benefited were delighted with their quality. The bulk, given to the SVP Resource centre in Leeds, Tamworth Court and REVIVE went to asylum seekers and their families and others, via Christian Alliance went to homeless families and battered wives hostels . A separate report with more detailed feedback will be sent to participating schools.

We hope to continue with the shoebox appeal this year, (destination to be announced) but we will need a couple of committed (and fit) volunteers to help with the heavy work. Probably every day in the run up (week before) to Christmas, to take in deliveries from schools, prepare and pack, etc, its hard on the knees and the back but worth the effort ! Call our hotline ! 881-5664 if you can help, (**before August, when preparations begin**) if enough . respond we can continue....

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It costs about **£50** to rescue 1 person from slavery in the Sudan. **could you rescue**

**one person?**

Please give what you can.