

July 2004 Report



Medjugorje International Relief

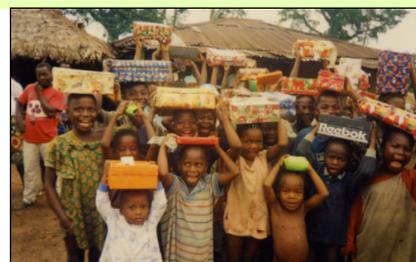
Shoebox Appeal ...Feedback from Zimbabwe

The shoeboxes, food, toiletries etc were flown out to Harare earlier this year by Crown of Thorns, and split between 2 groups, the majority (3/4) to the Salesian Fathers and (1/4) to IMBISSA, the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops charity. So there distribution was widespread. The Salesians, working closely with the St Vincent de Paul Society in the North of Harare, (Kambuzuma & Rugare parishes) sent food to camps where people are living under plastic sheets with no water or power, and to many sick, orphans and elderly in the area. Pens and other school supplies went to Kurai primary school.

So your considerable efforts have saved many lives of children in that region and perhaps illustrated that we are part

of a Universal church, brothers and sisters, willing to share in their time of need. What better credible Christian witness is there than to share? The children are really so thrilled to receive your gifts as the photo opposite (from a previous shipment to Liberia in 1999) shows.

The knowledge that they are not forgotten is as important as the gifts themselves.



Thanks again to all the parishes, schools and individuals who helped with this project. As one SVP member in Harare put it *"The charitableness of your children really touched us, it was quite a lesson for us"*



Romania

Surplus items (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 later in the year.



Russia —a further £200 has been sent to Russia to help build a church in the city of Oryol this time. The 120 strong congregation are building it with their own hands, but lack cash to buy bricks & cement. I suppose sacrificial giving like this (our fore-fathers did the same here) has an eternal value, treasure in heaven ! Please join them in sowing into the re-birth of the church in Russia, Just as an idea, a bag of cement costs about £5, a hundred bricks about £80.

Help Build the Church

India ..Students

One more student was sponsored via the SVP Twinnage scheme in this period (£60) solely from the proceeds of Aluminium recycling ..over 3/4 ton has been collected, now including other scrap metals.

Another batch of blankets have been given to the missionaries of charity for the homes for the dying in Calcutta.



Recycling is a great source of income for us, Why not ask your neighbours to give you their cans too !

The students sponsored last December were:

I.Preetha studying Computers and

M.Reena studying Nursing...



Special thanks to Mimi, Peaches & Marmite, the Persian team in Dorset for their unwavering dedication.

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



"Dear children! Also today, joy is in my heart. I desire to thank you for making my plan realizable. Each of you is important, therefore, little children, pray and rejoice with me for every heart that has converted and become an instrument of peace in the world. Prayer groups are powerful, and through them I can see, little children, that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje from Manchester on Wednesday 13th October (7 nights) £399 contact John Martin on 0161-653-7284

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

Since the last report in January , you have given a further **£1000** for this, which means a total of **67** people have now been freed from slavery by you. Thanks to the many prayer groups and individuals for your kindness to these forgotten people. Could we make it 100 by the end of the year ? If everyone gives a little, yes !

More testimony's

The attack

Francis Bok's last memory of a life lived in freedom in his homeland of Sudan is a visit to the local market, where he sold eggs and beans with other children. It was the first time his mother let him go to the market by himself. "She waved to me until I turned the corner..." He would never see his mother again. He had just put his goods down, when the market crowd was suddenly completely still. Arabs and Africans, traders, women and children all stood in silence as they heard faint noises coming from afar: screams and the sounds of galloping horses. Gun shots were fired shortly after, followed by the appearance of monstrous, terrifying animals.

Francis had never seen horses before. Screams of frightened people filled the air. A human head rolled in front of the horrified boy, and the yells and screams of the attackers waving their swords were uttered in an unknown language. Young Francis was seized by two strange-looking men and taken into slavery.

The escape

Francis Bok spent ten years with his new owner, an Arab by the name of **Giema Abdullah**. Francis tried to escape twice without success. He knew that Giema's threats were real. At the age of seventeen, Bok became so desperate that he ceased to fear his own death and attempted another escape. A truck driver drove the boy for some distance. Feeling compassion for Francis, the driver gave him the money for his bus fare to Khartoum.

It was an adventurous trip, and Francis Bok got to Cairo, Egypt by train and Nile riverboats. In August of 1999, his odyssey ended in the USA, after receiving a visa from the UN High Commission for Refugees in Cairo.



One of the people set free from slavery thanks to your generosity.

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

Cheques payable to "Manchester Medjugorje Appeal"



Yyak Kueck with grandson Deng (CSI)

A boy on the right path.. A story from a CSI trip..

"Then we met nine-year-old Deng, who has returned out of slavery together with his grandmother. At first he hides behind the elderly lady, who has become the most important person in his life since his mother was murdered. He and his grandmother were in the clutches of a slave owner for seven years. "I would like to become a Christian and be called William," he interrupts our conversation with his grandmother. "Because God has saved us. I would also like to ask Him to be with everyone who is poor." The boy is on the right path – peace has to do with God.

Other News! clothes (about 100 bags full) were distributed locally between SVP store, Cornerstone & Cathedral centre for the homeless and St Anne's hospice shop.

Crown of Thorns Still required:- all church supplies and football kits (especially boots) for school football teams in Africa. 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.

Current Needs donations of: Blankets, medical consumables/equipment, goods for recycling eg; aluminum, printer cartridges, scrap metals, sewing machines, hand tools and of course money & **fundraising events**.

Spread the word!

please give copies of this report to friends, family or other prayer groups you know of, any one who you feel might like to help ! All projects above are on-going