



# Newsletter

Medjugorje International Relief - January 2007

## New Website

A few months ago a volunteer kindly made a new website and designed a new logo for us, a brilliant job. This has enabled us to include much more information on the website and photos of projects past and present as well as downloadable newsletter and reports and it looks great. Hard to believe just how much you have given over the last nearly 15 years. Tons of goods, thousands of pounds, which has helped our brothers and sisters in need in 28 countries to varying extents. Thank you for 'never tiring of doing good'.



Another blessing was the opportunity to produce a CD/DVD with film clips of different current projects and a historical one about our beginnings with the convoys to Bosnia that some of you will remember. We have some copies available for anyone interested to use it for a fundraiser, alternately they can be viewed over the internet via our links page on the YOU TUBE video site, along with many other Catholic music videos.

Perhaps you could include the website address in your parish newsletters, it's: <http://www.mirmedjugorje.org>

## New Project: Manila, Philippines



There are a great many suffering hardship on Manila's streets; many families just falling on hard times or arriving from the countryside to seek a better life and finding instead unemployment and a few square feet of sidewalk as a home.

Just before Christmas this group (Jesus Cares Family) received a consignment of clothing and blankets from friends in the USA which have been distributed (SEE FILM 5 via the links page) and now they hope to continue with regular distribution of things like toiletries, basic medicines and other essentials. Any cash donations you give towards this, as with all other projects, will be forwarded 100% intact



, to the group so they can buy

items locally and expand their work. ...more info on the website

## Sudan: Slave Redemption Programme Christian Solidarity International



In September, 51 Black Sudanese slaves, including six babies, were freed from Arab masters and returned to Southern Sudan. Their stories include: 25-year old Deng Wol (renamed Mohammed

Abdelrahman by his master) reported that he was socially isolated, called "kafir" (infidel) and was stabbed in the abdomen in the process of becoming a Muslim. His Muslim supremacist Koranic school teacher promised him a better life as a Muslim. Upon submitting to Islam, Deng was taught that if he shared a bowl of food with a non-Muslim, blood would ooze from the fingers of the infidel and pollute the meal.

Eight of the 12 females over the age of 14 admitted to having been raped while in bondage. One young mother, Ajok Madwak (renamed Howah), was raped by visitors to the home of her master, Khalid Bashir. Ajok said she did not know whether he received money from his guests, but she assumed he was exploiting her as a prostitute. Ajok bears a scar on her right jaw, the result of a beating during a gang rape. A further £250 sent to CSI..many thanks



More stories on: [www.mirmedjugorje.org](http://www.mirmedjugorje.org)

# Ulaan Baatar..Outer Mongolia

Tumen was born in a town 400 km from the city of Ulaanbaatar. For some reason her mother ended up in the prison and she has never known her father. Poverty and misery pushed Tumen to join the horde of street children embarking on the train to the big city of Ulaanbaatar where there is more street life.

Street life in Ulaanbaatar is not easy although it offers more opportunities than in the small cities because of the markets. The most difficult thing for Tumen was during the winter time. Here she had to find a shelter at the entrance of apartment blocks, in the manholes and for a 12 year old girl this is a very hard life.



Then Tumen met the VCC team that goes to a weekly visit in the manholes of Ulaanbaatar. She was brought to the Centre where first of all she could take a shower and change clothes. Slowly she had to learn that here she did not have to fight in order to get some food. There were

people around to help her and take care of her. It is always a very strange feeling for the children when they come first to the VCC. They were used to being so free in the streets and here they have to learn some discipline and learn to share (not to fight). Then the first and most difficult thing is to trace back Tumen's family. Until today there are no claims from a family member and as long as her mum is still in the prison, Tumen will be a VCC child. She eventually enrolled in a secondary school and completed the requirement so she could start the college.

After four years of VCC Tumen joined the students' dormitory last September for her studies in sewing which she enjoys very much. She is happy to be a student and looking forward to find a job after her studies and make a living and eventually being able to take care of her mother.

...Another £300 has been donated Thanks.  
*Cheques Payable to "Manchester Medjugorje Appeal"*

## Icon of Our Lady of Peace



The Icon continues its travels in the Manchester area, the picture (left) is from St Cuthberts in Withington. The schedule for this year will be on the website as and when we know!

If your church would like to have it for a month or special day of prayer, contact Charles on 0161-881-5664, who is Our Lady's "roadie".

Thanks for the prayers for our work and all the donations given for the prayer cards, this goes to the Street Children's project in Mongolia where every pound makes a difference to the many children, cold and hungry in Ulaan Bataar's sewers, that the CICM Father's reach out to on your behalf.

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## SIR's Backpack Appeal



A few schools took part in this and approx 100 backpacks were given and £60 towards the costs. These will be shipped out to Malawi. Also to SIR, 100 or so hand made blankets were given; these will go to their projects in Romania.

Please encourage your local schools to get involved next year, we have an appeal letter and info on the website or give us a call!

## India

Thanks to all who continue collecting aluminium cans/ foil and printer cartridges and old mobile phones as this has now put..15 people through college through the SVP Student scheme. You have now recycled more than 1.5 metric tons of scrap and many cartridges and mobile phones, *Keep collecting!*

 **Medjugorje  
International Relief**