



January 2004 Report



Medjugorje International Relief

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

Since the last report in July , you have given a further £650 for this, which means a total of 47 people have now been freed from slavery by you. Thanks to the many prayer groups and individuals for your kindness to these forgotten people.

Testimony of Yai Kenyang Adhieu - 13-year-old boy from Korok, Aweil East County:“ I was captured three years ago in Korok by Murahileen. The raiders came very early in the morning and took the whole village by surprise. I was separated from the rest of my family as I tried to escape. I was caught and driven away immediately. All I remember is that I left the rest of my family at our homestead surrounded by the raiders. I cannot tell if any of them are still alive. I was beaten by the raiders who drove us mercilessly at break-neck speed. My hands were tied and then put on a rope behind a horse. I had to run most of the way to keep pace with the animal. When I got tired I fell down and the horse simply dragged me on the ground. In the process I broke my collar bone.



Many people lost their lives on the way, shot dead or slaughtered by the Arabs for one reason or another. We were distributed at Daein. I was given to a certain **Abdullahi**.

His home was at Matarik. My work was to herd goats and sheep. I also used to wash clothes in the morning before taking the sheep and goats for grazing. I slept in the barn where Abdullahi kept his goats and sheep. One morning he told me to take the animals for grazing. When I told him that I was feeling unwell and would not be able to herd them that day, Abdullahi got angry with me and pulled out a fanga and chopped off all five fingers on my right hand. This occurred one year after my enslavement. I cried out in utter pain but nobody came to my aid.

My hand bled profusely until the blood coagulated and the bleeding stopped. I was not given any kind of medical treatment. It is a miracle that I did not die from the great loss of blood. I spent three days without going to

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

Cheques payable to “Manchester Medjugorje Appeal”

Herd goats and sheep. On the fourth day Abdullahi forced me to go to the forest with his animals.

Now free, I am happy to be back in Dinka territory. Although I cannot trace the route to my home at Korok from here, I believe some people will help me reach my home. I pray to God that

I shall find my parents alive and well. Thanks to El Nur who brought us back. More importantly, I am grateful to the people who have sympathized with us around the world and have contributed money to buy our freedom. May God bless and protect them.”

There are thousands still enslaved and suffering this kind of treatment, the worse stories I dare not print. Please pray for them and their captors and thanks again for setting some free.“**We cant do everything but we can do something**“



Bosnia ..Sr Muriel's home for the elderly

This project, mentioned in previous reports, is nearing completion now after a long haul.

Thanks to all who gave to this project, it will be a dream come true for many of the



destitute elderly in Bosnia. To keep it running they now need about \$300 per month per person..an “adopt .a granny” scheme has been suggested.

Romania ..Medical supplies

Surplus items 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 in March 2004.

If you have any contacts or connection with the medical profession and could obtain consumables or even redundant equipment, please let us know as these items are in great demand in many countries.

India ..Students

Two more students were sponsored via the SVP Twinnage scheme in this period (£120) solely from the proceeds of Aluminium recycling ..over 1/2 ton has been collected....does it feel like that much ?

Also a couple of hundred blankets have been given to the missionaries of charity for the homes for the dying

Postal address :

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

Phone: 0161-881-5664

E-mail: MIRmedjugorje@aol.com

Web page:

www.manchestermedjugorje.cjb.net



Our Lady's Message from Medjugorje December 25th 2003

"Dear children! Also today, I bless you all with my Son Jesus in my arms and I carry Him, who is the King of Peace, to you, that He grant you His peace. I am with you and I love you all, little children. Thank you for having responded to my call."

****New Project **Church in Moscow**...7th parish established, but they have no church —can we help ? St Olga's parish, served by the Divine Word Fathers, has been established and the parishioners have scraped together enough money to buy a building to convert into a church & centre. They need to refurbish it but have meagre resources. I know many of you would be interested to help the church in Russia find its feet and so we emptied the bank account (again) and sent **£200** to get the ball rolling. Perhaps we could link up with them & provide on-going support for this and feed back on its progress in each report. A good Lenten project for prayer groups/parishes ??

Other News! The usual avalanche of clothes (about 250 bags full) arrived from all points of the compass and was 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, foreign currency, hand tools and of course **fundraising events**.

Spread the word ! -we've reduced the mailing list (quite savagely) to include only current supporters so please make copies of this report for friends, your prayer group / anyone you feel may be interested.

Shoebox Appeal ...this year for Zimbabwe

This years shoebox appeal was a great success, a real joint effort between the 11 schools and 8 churches that participated as well as many individuals.

A total of **993** shoeboxes were given, about 3 tons of food and toiletries as well children's clothes and other useful items.



Plenty of enthusiasm for fundraising for this too, as well as the schools there were some private

donations and a bring-and-buy sale by a local over sixties club.

We were able to send **£1000** for the transport costs to Zimbabwe.

Our partners this year were (another Medjugorje inspired charity), "Crown of Thorns" in Lingfield who arranged to have them flown out to Harare and given to the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops charity **IMBISA**.

They will distribute them to various locations to children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic and other families suffering as a result of the recent troubles there.

Thank you all for your Kindness

Food items not required in Zimbabwe were given to Cornerstone & local SVP groups.

