



# Newsletter

Medjugorje International Relief - January 2008

## Sudan .. CSI Slave Redemption

One typical Sunday morning in Sudan, the signs of dawn were visible on the eastern horizon. The rooster's crowing ceased as the savannah slowly brightened with the sun's warm rays. On this early morning, the end of the rainy season, the sounds of drums could be heard in the distance. Many of the CSI workers were still resting in their tents when Pastor Santino Bol arrived. This tall member of the Dinka tribe was wearing a white shirt underneath his brightly embroidered Talar.

In his sermon he said "God sent CSI to deliver our children, sisters and mothers out of slavery. My church continues to pray that CSI can continue its work in this forsaken region. Not far from here live Muslim Arabs who kill our children, rob, and take our women from us. Their goal is to make us into Islamic converts. Four local churches were burnt down; yet churches continue to grow. More and



more people accept Jesus as their Savior and many enslaved church members have returned."

"We have friends in the midst of us", he said, turning towards us. "We have known these brothers for years; they were here when everything was destroyed, when our women and children were taken away, and our churches were burnt down. It is today that we want to thank God for their help. Our friends here were responsible for raising awareness amongst other Christians abroad about the many Christian brothers and sisters living here in the Sudan. We are all connected just like Paul stated in his letter to the Corinthians; it doesn't matter if we're Jews or slaves, Africans

or Europeans, Jesus came and died for us all. Here in the Sudan, we're people of dark skin colour and still we belong to Christ's body, He's our Lord and Savior."

You gave a further £450 for CSI's work in Sudan

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## Icon of Our Lady Queen of Peace



The Icon of Our Lady left Manchester towards the end of the year after nearly 5 years touring different churches there and is now in the West Midlands.

In November it was briefly in the University of Warwick Catholic chaplaincy, then on to St Thomas More's in Coventry for a Queen of Peace day and the month of December. For January 2008 it is at All Souls in Earlsdon, Coventry. See our website for further updates as they come!

<http://www.mirmedjugorje.org>

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

# Mongolia..Verbist care centre

**On a snowy night with temperatures dipping to a bone-chilling minus 26 degrees, a manhole cover was pushed open on a street in this capital city, releasing warm steam. Four teenage boys then climbed out of the hole.**

They left home for various reasons, including poverty and domestic violence. Although reports say the number of manhole children has declined in recent years, new problems have surfaced, including homeless adults driving the children out of their only shelter in the brutal Mongolian winter or forcing them to commit crimes.



“Not many grown-ups knew of this location,” says Sukhbold, a 14-year-old who gulps down the soup offered by staff members of the Verbist Care Center, “But recently, grown-ups have been coming here and beating up the children or demanding cash from them.”

Sukhbold says he left his family home three or four years ago when his stepfather began to physically

abuse him. He has been living underground for about a year, and spends his days collecting empty cans for change and buying bread with the little money he makes.

Sukhbold and the three other teenage boys say their underground residence offers them protection from the harsh elements. The heat from hot-water pipes connected to thermoelectric power plants produces underground temperatures of at least 20 degrees.

The nation’s economic struggles have been particularly harsh on rural areas. More adults are coming to Ulan Bator seeking work, but they often remain jobless, and some end up fighting the manhole children for the warmth of the underground shelters.

The Verbist Care Center distributes meals for street children once a week and cares for 120 children at the centre. They would like to expand their work... You gave another £450 during this period.

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## SIR's Backpack Appeal

**Thanks to all the schools and churches in Manchester who got involved this year in the backpack appeal. 140 backpacks were collected and a few extra items, blankets etc which are on their way now to Malawi with Scottish international relief.**

Also £175 was sent to help with the transport costs and their Mary's Meals pro-gramme. As they have some local volunteers, this project can continue throughout the year, so no deadlines as such...why not ask your local parish or school? On our website there is a poster and letter that can be downloaded giving all the info and requirements for anyone wishing to take part. <http://www.mirmedjugorje.org>



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## Recycling for India Student Sponsorship

The recycling is going well and another student in India has been sponsored in their further education through the SVP Twinnage scheme. Keep collecting the aluminium & old printer cartridges !! Its making a difference.

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