

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

JAMES 3: 17-18



Life continues in an unsettled and fractured world. Each day full of unexpected twists and turns with shocking and distressing events. It is reassuring that in these times, the one constant we can trust and hold firm to is the faithful love and grace of Jesus, the Prince of peace. In this Magazine you will see how, with your help, Mission Without Borders brings hope through His love and grace to those in desperate need.

In these times I am reassured and encouraged by the steadfast support of our donors. We are so grateful that you continue to respond with generosity this year, on the back of helping us exceed our fundraising goals last year. MWB UK was able to fund all our programmes in 2024. Your response is inspiring, we are truly grateful. You can read in this edition how your support for our appeals and family sponsorship is helping to save and transform lives.

Ukraine remains in our prayers. I feel so fortunate that the team and I were able to meet with over 50 of our supporters on the 3rd Anniversary of the war in a Zoom prayer gathering. While the hour and the day is still unknown MWB is preparing for peace in Ukraine. At our MWB International Conference I met with our Ukraine Director, Volodymr. He shared with me some of his experiences and hopes. His team are assessing where and how we will work to rebuild and restore lives Ukraine. Here in the UK we will be preparing our response whenever peace is declared. Please continue to keep Ukraine in your prayers and consider how you might respond to our future appeal.

I have visited our work in Moldova and Bosnia Herzegovina. I witnessed how the prayers and regular support of Family Sponsors are giving hope and helping to restore lives. Please take time to read about the experiences of Salih and his family on Page 14. Our Family Sponsorship programmes partner with local churches, who introduce MWB's regional coordinators like Sandra to families in need



of practical and spiritual support. The work, love and care of Family Sponsorship coordinators like Sandra helps to positively change a family's future. If this exciting possibility for helping rewrite a family's future is something you would like to be part of please do consider becoming a Family Sponsor today.

May I wish you peace and grace in His name.

Time.

Tim Gray UK Country Director



WHERE FUNDS WERE RAISED IN 2024

Three years after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, we remain incredibly grateful and humbled by the enormous generosity of supporters. The majority of our income comes from the kind support of individual donors as well as gifts from churches and charitable trusts.

We received a total of £959,458 throughout the year, including £26,050 of gifts left in legacies and regular giving towards our sponsorship programmes. In addition, with the help of corporate partners we sent material aid valued at £2,300,016 to help people in need last year.





BIG GIVE

Over a week at the beginning of December 2024, we were offered the wonderful opportunity to match your giving. For every £1 you gave, our faithful pledgers matched it with another £1.

Together, we raised more than £16,000 to help 30 families in desperate need who have been displaced in Ukraine. These funds will support their essential needs including hygiene and food parcels, clothing and emotional and trauma support.

Thank you to everyone who partnered with us for this campaign!



February 24th 2025, marked three years of large-scale war in Ukraine. The war has plunged Ukraine into a severe economic crisis, with millions displaced, essential infrastructure damaged, and 12.7 million people now in need of continued humanitarian assistance. Mental wellbeing problems are affecting millions of people in Ukraine, as they struggle to cope with the lack of safety and stability and process their trauma and grief.

From day one of the 2022 invasion, Mission Without Borders staff and volunteers responded quickly to the overwhelming need that arose as millions fled their

homes. We began distributing food and other aid and finding displaced people emergency accommodation through church contacts.

Volodymyr Brychuk (pictured left), who took over from Mykola Bogdanets as Mission Without Borders Director in Ukraine, shares his experience:



"My family suffers from this horrible war, as all other families in Ukraine. Of course, I cannot compare my experience and feelings with those living close to the front line who survived occupation and saw the violence, destruction, and atrocities. We live in a relatively safe place, although there's no such place in Ukraine because Russian strike drones and missiles can reach you anywhere.

I think about the lengthy separation that I had to experience with my family when my wife and daughters had to flee to Poland. I think about constant air raid alarms, power outages, all the constant stress and tension. All this has caused emotional condition of my daughters, my wife, my parents to be very bad."

Regarding the situation in Ukraine, he shares, "We are seeing more poverty, more people struggling with depression, more widows, more orphans. Displaced people and others in need have told us that were it not for our support, they would be in a really difficult situation. There are many people who are traumatised by their experiences in towns and villages that came under attack. Many are separated from loved ones, others are bereaved. Soaring food and fuel prices make everyday life very tough. Children are fearful and missing out on a normal education and carefree childhood."

As the war enters its fourth year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Mission Without Borders staff and volunteers in Ukraine continue to provide urgent and long-term support to families, children and elderly people who need our help amidst ever-changing circumstances.

As Volodymyr explains, "Even in the midst of the hardship and uncertainty, I am seeing my staff become more committed than ever to serving vulnerable people. They are looking to the Lord for his guidance and provision because people desperately need spiritual support as well as material help. In all of this, we are grateful to our generous supporters all around the world who have not forgotten us, who pray for us and who share what they have with us. We could not do this without you."

"My village is partly destroyed. It's 18 kilometres from Russia. I have three children to look after. My worries are for them. I want to give them a better future, but I don't know how. Sometimes I feel too weak and it feels impossible. My children are traumatised by war, and they're still afraid. I pray for peace and that we'd return to normal life. Still, I understand that things will never be the same again, unfortunately. I appreciate all the people and the Mission staff who try to help us in any way they can." Lidiya (pictured below, from Bilopilliya, Sumska region)



Mission staff with church partners serving communities disrupted by fighting and uncertainty.









Ukraine parliament establishes a National Day of Prayer

The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, has established February 24 as the National Day of Prayer. It will be held annually on the anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion.

This National Day of Prayer will include representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations. Regional and city administrations will also be tasked with preparing local events. The authors of the law, in their explanatory note, cite historical examples of

national prayer changing the course of history, such as during World War II in the UK and the USA.

Alyona our Communications Manager in Ukraine says: "Daily intercessory prayer for Ukraine unites millions of believers in Ukraine and around the world, but what great news that from now on we will have the Day of Prayer on a national level, what a great encouragement for us all"



Olena grew up in a small city in eastern Ukraine. She gained a profession, got married and began a family. Bakhmut was an important industrial centre, known for its salt mines and sparkling wines, popular with tourists for its beautiful architecture and parks. Now the centuries- old city lies in ruins. It came under relentless, heavy attack as the large-scale Russian invasion began and endured the longest battle of the war.

All residents evacuated when they could, and Olena and her two daughters left shortly after their street began to be heavily shelled. They stayed nearby, hoping they could soon return. Two weeks later, the tragic news came: Olena's husband had been killed in an explosion in the yard by their house.

"It was a terrible feeling of helplessness. There was nothing we could do; we couldn't even say goodbye to the body of our father and husband. The reality that we really are at war hit home. I knew I had to put the children first. My eldest daughter experienced the loss very painfully: she withdrew into herself, stopped communicating, behaved aggressively and blamed me for the fact that we had left her father behind".

Olena continues, "I was broken. The feeling of hopelessness was getting stronger and stronger. At that time, we were living in a refugee camp, carrying

only a suitcase with a few things and our documents. Our house and all our belongings had burned down."

The family travelled to Rivne where they had relatives. Olena started attending the local church. Mission Without Borders staff member Oleksandr, attends the same church, he says: "I remember the first time I met Olena. She was reserved and closed off and so were her children.





Over time, Olena began to trust more, and shared her story with me. I offered her and the children help from the Mission. From that time, we began to support them regularly."

Since the war broke out, many displaced people have settled in Rivne – and Mission Without Borders now offers regular support to about 100 displaced families, most of whom have lost almost everything and have been traumatised by their experiences. Our family coordinators visit them regularly and provide emotional and spiritual support as well as food and hygiene supplies.

Olena attends church services, and her younger daughter goes to Sunday school. Unfortunately, her eldest daughter, a teenager, remains closed off. She has not been interested in the life around her and has been keeping her grief deep inside. Oleksandr and others continue to pray for her.

Unfortunately, a few months later, there was more bad news. Olena was diagnosed with cancer. Through the efforts of the church, funds were collected for her treatment. "The news about the disease completely broke me," Olena said. "I was afraid to die, I was afraid for the future of my children. I was afraid constantly, and fear paralysed me. Two things helped me to hold on: the first was the words from the Bible, 'Fear not', which are repeated many times. The second was the incredible support of the people around me. They didn't let me feel isolated, and with their attention and everyday support, they gave me a sense of value. They inspired me to live and fight for myself and for my children".



In the run up to Christmas 2024, people from all over the UK showed immense generosity – helping us to raise more than £194,000 towards our Operations Christmas Love appeal. This fantastic support has meant that Mission Without Borders were able to deliver 38,000 gift boxes of food, treats and the gospel message, to families and elderly in desperate need in time for Christmas across Eastern Europe.

We work hard to ensure that Christmas is a day when those who are most vulnerable and in need can forget their troubles for a short time and join in the celebrations. To ensure this happens on time, we recruit hundreds of volunteers to help pack and deliver the boxes – and all of this work makes huge differences to families like Stefana's.

Christmas seemed far away from Stefana's small house in Romania. Her home lacks basic amenities and she lives there with her husband and four daughters. The harsh poverty that the girls live in has given them little capacity to dream about the future. There is little to do and nowhere to go, especially as the girls don't go to school at the moment.

For Stefana, every Christmas had been the same: hardship and hunger. It was a time that emphasised the painful

position she was in rather than give her any hope.

"We just wanted to have a celebration like everyone else," she explained.

Last Christmas, however, their situation changed. Our local family worker, Andrei, presented them with an Operation Christmas Love box:

"This family had no food left and their cupboards were empty. The boxes of food and treats that arrived felt like a miracle that came when they needed it most. Now they won't go hungry at Christmas."

Now Stefana's family have been enrolled on our family sponsorship programme and Andrei visits them regularly, providing much needed support and he is helping Stefana's older daughters to return to school.

"Your kindness, friendship and compassion have truly blessed us all, more than we can ever say," Stefana told us.

Unrelenting poverty like that experienced by Stefana's family is difficult to break free from, but Mission Without Borders's family sponsorship programmes have been developed to help every member of the family so that they can all benefit.

As Andrei explains: "There are many families who endure extreme poverty and who don't receive any help except from us. Receiving a Christmas box of food not only provides nutrition but also reminds families that kindness and generosity exist."

The kindness and generosity of your donations is transformed into the tangible gifts of love by our volunteers. Here are just 2 of many:



Violetta's Story:

Violetta, now aged 74, first encountered Mission Without Borders ten years ago when she started receiving regular support through our Elder Care project in Bulgaria. From the outset she demonstrated a willingness to serve as a volunteer, and for the past decade she has been a faithful volunteer for our Operation Christmas Love campaign. When asked about being a volunteer for OCL, she shared: "What began as a small act of service has grown into a passion. Year-after-year, I'm amazed by the generosity and kindness of people involved in Operation Christmas Love. It's a reminder that even small contributions can make a big impact. It's incredibly fulfilling to know that we are making holidays a little brighter for so many families."

Gabriel's story:

A member of MWB staff shares about Gabriel: "Unlike his brothers and sisters, Gabriel was too old to be enrolled into our child sponsorship programme. Nevertheless, Gabriel got involved in the activities organized by the Mission and church partnership and became a muchloved member of the church: the day camps, the community centre, the youth club... Step by step his heart opened to Jesus, He became a volunteer. It is always encouraging to see volunteers like Gabriel who are always ready to help, always asking, "What else can I help with?" and always working with incredible passion. God bless all the volunteers who are very precious to us!"



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH

Life in the village of Casolt in Romania is simple, but it can also be challenging. For many, especially those who are younger, it feels like a trap: opportunities for work are scarce and there is pressure to take jobs abroad or in the big city.

In the middle of Casolt this, a small Baptist church has become a beacon of hope. As well as Sunday services, the church hosts community events, Bible study groups, prayer meetings and after school activities



which provide educational support for 20 children in the community.

The church initially started about 30 years ago, when a family opened their home to people who wanted to come and worship. The church soon outgrew their home and spread into another home. And still it grew.

So, after a time, the local Baptist church supported them in providing a building.

Alexandru Danilenco, Country director of MWB in Romania, says, "We're overjoyed to be in partnership with such a visionary church. Mission Without Borders is committed to working alongside and strengthening

Pastor Beniamin and

church member Marniela

the local church and we believe that church plays an important role in the spiritual growth and the transformation of a community".

Beniamin Seican, one of the pastors overseeing the church in Casolt, agreed: "Just like Mission Without Borders, we really value partnerships. We're very conscious that spreading the gospel to the poor, orphans,



widows and others in need, is a vast mission – one that can't be accomplished without support. We want to express our appreciation for the Mission's help and their long-term dedication to the community in Casolt. The impact on many families is undeniable and we can clearly see the transformation that has taken place".

Mission Without Borders is committed to working in partnership with churches. We partner with 461 churches throughout Eastern Europe, including 127 in Romania. In general, we only engage with communities where a church is already present and willing to support children and parents in their spiritual journey to transform the community. In the words of our Romanian Director, Alexandru: "This is because we want our work to be rooted in eternal values, empowering individuals to grow spiritually."

If your church would be interested in learning more about partnering with us we would love to speak with you. Please contact David in the UK office, at dchavannes@mwbuk.org, or by phone on 0207 940 1370.

ACTION WINTER RESCUE



Every year, Alina Daniliuc worries about how her family will survive the Moldovan winter. Like more than 80% of the families we work with in Moldova, she does not have running water or a toilet in her home and lacks access to heating and electricity.

Temperatures drop well below zero over Winter, seasonal work dries up, and staying warm is costly.

When the first snow falls, the Daniliuc children are excited to run outside and play



even though they can't afford winter clothes.

Before being supported by Mission Without Borders' family sponsorship programme, the Daniliucs struggled to do anything but subsist. Their family home is poorly insulated against the cold weather and their only source of income is from occasional jobs in construction her husband, Marian, is able to get in the summer months.

"For us, winter is a huge challenge. We are a family with four children and our expenses are high. We must buy winter clothes and shoes, firewood and other essentials." Alina says.

To support families like Alina's, Mission Without Borders offers families and elderly people living in poverty in Eastern Europe supplies they need for winter. This year,

the Daniliucs were given briquettes to heat their home, and their children, Petru, Ionela, Marina, and Eric received warm jackets, shoes, socks and blankets.

The kids eagerly dress in their cosy jackets and shoes and run outside to play. The warm clothing makes going outside a pleasure and equips them with everything they need for walking to school in the snow.

Alina says, "You have taken a great burden off our shoulders. Thanks to you, my children are cheerful and well dressed. They have the right clothes for going to school now."

Laughing as she watches them have a snowball fight, she adds, "There is nothing better than to see my children happy."

Our Action Winter Rescue project is a lifeline for families living in desperate poverty in remote, often forgotten villages in Eastern Europe. It ensures that families and elderly people living in poverty throughout Eastern Europe are given the support they need to survive the freezing winter.

With your help, we raised over £54,000 in the early part of 2025 to help support thousands of families survive the harsh winter season. If you'd like to support future projects or sponsor a family, please call us on 0207 940 1370 or check out our website on www. missionwithoutborders.org.uk or email dchavannes@mwbuk.org

SUPPORTING FAMILIES FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE





Salih, 34, and his family live in Bugojno, Bosnia and Herzegovina, struggling in a life of poverty. When Salih's wife suddenly left their home, he and his children were devasted.

"When she told me she wasn't coming back it was a huge shock. With three small children, it wasn't easy at all."

Fortunately, Salih's family was enrolled on

our Family Sponsorship programme. They were receiving monthly deliveries of food and hygiene items, as well as visits from Nermin, who works for MWBs. As Salih explains;

"During that time Nermin gave us so much support. He was one of the first people that I called, and I can't imagine how I would've got through that time without him and Mission Without Borders."

Salih worked doing whatever jobs he could find. "I couldn't afford childcare every time I had to work. My own family helped as much as they could but there were many times

that I had to stay at home because the children needed me."

Nermin adds "We had many conversations. As well as the material support, our emotional support gave Salih strength in all the hardships."

Salih says, "To be fully employed in the forestry industry, you need your own tools because employers don't provide expensive tools. I couldn't afford them. When Nermin told me that MWB could help get the tools I needed, I couldn't believe it. That was one of the best days of my life! I felt such relief. The children were so happy when they saw my happiness."

The chainsaw and equipment were provided as a self-sufficiency project to help Salih become financially stable and provide for his family. Thanks to the tools, he now has a higher paid job, with much better working conditions and improved salary.

Nermin says, "I strongly believed in Salih. When I recommended him for a self-sufficiency project, I knew that God would bless his efforts at work and as a father in his home."

Being a single parent is not easy, but with the help of Mission Without Borders, the family is doing well.

Salih says, "Words can't describe how grateful I am for MWB and Nermin for everything that we've received from day one".





Atlina, 40, was born in a village in eastern Albania. Life was difficult. She and her family moved to Durres in search of a better life. They ended up living in a house built on land reclaimed from the sea. Poorly managed, it frequently floods and there were few amenities. Families

become trapped in the same poverty they tried to leave behind.

When Atlina met Kostandin who works for Mission Without Borders, she was in desperate need of help. She had been physically abused by her ex-husband.

Atlina explains:

"It's not easy being a divorced woman with a daughter in Albania. Married at a young age, I became a mother in my teens. My life has been filled with challenges and hardship. There's been violence, abandonment, and everything you can think of.

I have felt completely without hope at times". Atlina remembers:

"When I joined the Mission Without Borders programme, my life changed in the most profound way."

Atlina and her daughter received regular food parcels, hygiene items, educational, emotional and spiritual support through our Family Sponsorship programme. A few years later, she received equipment to open a pizza business in her community. With Atlina's skills

and tenacity it has become a great success.

Atlina says, "Thanks to the opportunities provided by the Mission, I own a thriving small business that makes it possible for me to cover all my monthly expenses. And my daughter is now able to study Medicine".

Now Atlina volunteers for Mission Without Borders. She explains "When I was enrolled on the Family Sponsorship programme, for the first time I heard about God and Jesus. I was invited to church events, and there I found so much peace. I started to grow spiritually, and my daughter Selena walks with Jesus too."

Kostandin celebrates the positive affect Atlina brings; "Her impact extends far beyond the walls of her restaurant. Her desire to serve others in the community has had a ripple effect, leading to profound and lasting change in the lives of countless families."

Family Sponsorship not only impacts family members, it also changes the next generation and affects the whole community. In 2024 183 Families received a life changing self sufficiency project like Atlina's.

To discover more about how you could become a family sponsor and help change the life of a family and generations to come you can call us or visit the website www. missionwithoutborders.org.uk/sponsorships.



Between May and the end of September we held our annual summer camps. A much-loved time of year for both the children we support and our dedicated field staff and volunteers.

This year we are projected to have hosted **4,470 children** across **43 camps** (day and multi-day camps) across Eastern Europe; with the support of **818 staff and volunteers**.

Summer camps are a time of joy, fun, rejuvenation, faith, healing and friendship. They offer children the chance to enjoy a holiday and break away from the everyday hardship they experience at home.

This year our summer camps appeal has centred around the theme of Endless Fun. The aim of our summer camps is to support and empower children through creating a safe space where they feel loved, seen and heard; providing them with opportunities to develop their social skills and forge friendships; encouraging healthy hygiene, dietary and wellbeing practices; and sharing the good news of Jesus and showcasing God's love in action.

For Codruta, 11, from Romania, summer camps gave her the chance to be a child again and take a break from chores, the responsibility of raising younger family members, and the pressures of poverty. Sharing about her time at camp, Codruta said:

"I like being at camp. It's a place where I can enjoy playing games with my old and new friends. The fun seems endless, and I am happy."

She added, "I know well that Jesus loves me and loves us all."



Alexandru, director of the Mission in Romania, said, "I take great pleasure in helping plan these camps, knowing the profound spiritual and emotional impact they can have on the children we work with."

With the support of our donors, we have been able to provide thousands of children with the opportunity to make memories and make friends away from the difficulties of daily life. Thank you!

You can still donate towards Summer camps by visiting www.missionwithoutborders.org.uk or calling us on 020 7940 1370.



Leaving a legacy to Mission Without Borders can help people living in desperate poverty in Eastern Europe rewrite their future. Your gift would help fund vital work with our partner churches to bring transformational change into the lives of children, parents, and their community.



The Trofymchuk family received plowing equipment to work their own land and become self sufficient. All thanks to generous MWB supporters.

A legacy gift in your Will can support life-changing initiatives. It could provide a family with means to generate their own income through the purchase of a rotavator, maybe a chainsaw for self employed work in forestry or livestock like a cow, goat or chickens. On the other hand it could finance After School clubs. Here cared for by our staff and volunteers children enjoy a safe space to play with friends, eat a nutritious meal, do homework and learn more about the gospel. Being in a loving environment changes lives.

funded by a legacy gift.

Your gift could resource bible courses, studied and enjoyed by all generations both the young and the elderly that teach of the love, mercy and grace offered in Christ. Your gift can bring hope and salvation and the opportunity to walk into a new future.

The possibilities of how your legacy gift can transform the lives of families living in poverty in eastern Europe are many. But they only have the chance to see the light of day if you take a first step of faith and write a Will.

Please take that first step and contact us today 0207 9401370 or email info@mwbuk.org

We are here to help you, to help others because love, has no borders.



As a single parent Salih was struggling to provide for his family. Trapped in desperate poverty it was difficult to see a better future. Salih worked doing whatever jobs he could find but could not afford childcare.

Fortunately, Salih's family was enrolled on our Family Sponsorship programme. They received monthly deliveries of food and hygiene items, as well as visits from Nermin, a coordinator at MWBs who provided practical, emotional and spiritual support.

The contributions of our Family Sponsors enable our coordinators to provide the vital difference to sponsored

Educational support – while helping a family improve their income, we provide essentials like school supplies, food, toiletries and clothing.

Practical support – to boost family livelihoods, we offer vocational support from classes in IT, sewing, animal husbandry and agriculture.

Emotional support – We provide a long term network of support, backed by the local church, helping the family build relationships.

Spiritual support – the family receive spiritual guidance and will be able to join in Christian events and activities at the local church such as summer camps for children.

Salih's 'best day' came when MWB was able to provide him with a chain saw to help him get a regular job, in the local forestry industry, paying a wage that would enable him to support his family.

"I couldn't believe it. That was one of the best days of my life! I felt such relief. The children were so happy when they saw my happiness."



By becoming a Family Sponsor, you too can bring joy and hope into the life of a family living in Eastern Europe struggling in desperate poverty. Your support will help a family shape a new future of opportunity for generations to come.

Family sponsorship costs £22 a month. It can help to change the future of generations. To make a difference that will last a lifetime call MWB today 020 7940 1370 or visit our website www.missionwithoutborders.org.uk/sponsorships/ why-family-sponsorship. You can also scan the gr code:

