

# ECL Door of Hope

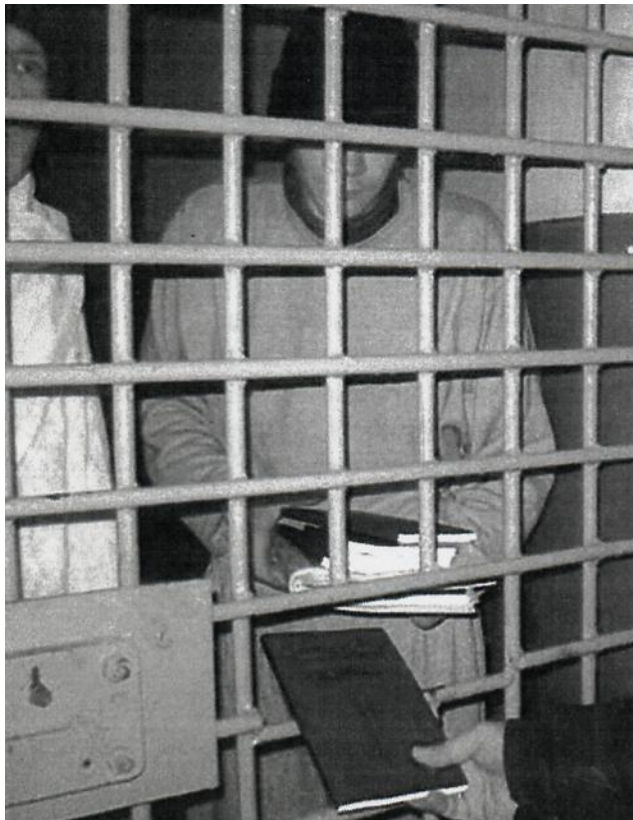
Bringing Hope to the hopeless and Help to the helpless

## “Children in prison – the story continues”

January/February 2010

Dear one,

We have brought this to your attention before and many of you have kindly donated, in order that our Door of Hope can continue to support Pastor Misha. Of all people that I have met, Misha has to be placed in the category of *saintly*. He is a male form of Mother Teresa spending his life in the care of children, orphans, the destitute and imprisoned in his area of the Ukraine. I have rarely seen him relaxing, in spite of having had serious heart by-pass surgery a few years ago. Like the Master the he honours, Misha devotes his life to the rejected of society.



Every month, he is visiting at least three Ukrainian prisons; the adult male (*see picture of male prisoner receiving a Bible*), female and a children's Detention Centre. When I accompanied Pastor Misha, the imprisoned children looked lost and unkempt. They rarely had visitors and living conditions appeared depressing due to meagre government funding. Their little dormitory beds were ancient and the bed linen un-ironed and ill-washed.

Most of the boy offenders aged between 12-16 years, had been rejected from homes torn apart by violence, alcohol abuse (very common in Ukraine) and divorce.

Children are imprisoned for a variety of reasons. ***Anything from stealing a loaf of bread to murder.*** In spite of smiles in front of the camera these children have

little hope for the future. Due to parental neglect and economic deprivation, none of them had that vital sense of childhood wonder. While youthful in body, they were adult in mentality. Beauty and innocence had long since gone, if it had ever been there in the beginning! The Prison authorities do what they can, little though it is, to bring cheer to this Children's Detention Centre, but as I remarked earlier, little money is available. The Ukrainian economy is miserably low. It cannot provide what Door of Hope, through the generosity of its donors, has been able to provide. I am thankful to God that over the past few years (with your help), we have been able to help fund a proper heating system to keep the kids warm during the cold Russian winters, further kitchen facilities, new beds and linen, a table tennis table, footballs (*see picture*), needles & coloured threads for embroidery (*yes, the boys love doing this*), clothes, shoes, sweets, writing & art materials, musical

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instruments, toothpaste, brushes, toys, and various hygiene items. Not forgetting Bibles and attractive Christian books for their spiritual education.



All of these items have been received with great appreciation by the prison staff and tremendous pleasure by the boys. They value the smallest of things. Maybe, here in the West, we have too much choice! The boys come and go from this prison. They come to fulfil a sentence and they finally leave jobless and frequently homeless. Pastor Misha does what he can to find them employment – an increasingly difficult task in the present economic climate.

We are wanting to continue our practical and spiritual input into this depressing Detention Centre. To see the Love of God birthed in their young hearts and to bring in some of the little pleasures that have brought them happiness in the past. Simple little joys that we take for granted. **This valuable project needs constant funding and a great deal of attention. Please help us today with your kind donations.** All received gifts will reach this Ukrainian project. My husband and I thank you in anticipation.

Love and God bless.

Mrs Diane Streeter  
(UKRAINIAN CO-ORDINATOR)



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