

# ECL Door of Hope

Bringing Hope to the hopeless and Help to the helpless

## Christmas care inside the heart of God

November/December 2011

*Once upon a time during a cold, snowy winter, three pilgrims from Kiev set out to visit where the Christ child was born.*

*While they were on their long difficult journey, one of the pilgrims became seriously ill. After much prayerful thought, one of the pilgrims decided to stay behind with the sick man in order to care for him.*

*The third pilgrim continued his journey and reached Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. There was a large crowd of pilgrims at the place where Jesus was born. The third Pilgrim called Sergei, could not get near enough to the crib to see where the Christ child lay. But suddenly, he saw something that amazed him. His pilgrim friend who he has left behind to love and care for the sick man, was **right at the front of the crowd beside the crib!***

*The man who had cared for the his friend in deepest need was closest to the Christ child.*

*The moral of the story being that the place of loving, practical care is the spot that is nearest to the heart of God.*

I'm sure that all of you reading this Christmas appeal letter have been hugged close to the heart of God in spite of the fact that you weren't aware of it. Not through your prayers, but in an impulse moment when you expressed care and gladly gave support.



By the time that you hold this newsletter in your hand, the child on the left will have received a Christmas Shoe Box as the children on the right have. Once again, our delivery of shoe boxes (assisted by *Link Romania*) full of Christmas goodies, will be delivered to some of the poorest, marginalised people in Eastern Europe, Many of them living in tents, sheds and hovels, propped together with broken bricks, corrugated iron, cardboard and any solid item serving as protection from the weather. Others will be residing in one or two rooms. It is not unusual for parents, children, grandparents and even cousins to be lumped together in

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small, claustrophobic spaces. In some accommodation there is no running water, in others, one tap jutting out of the wall. In some of the places where our shoe boxes reach, there is no electricity or heating. Washing and toilet facilities sometimes consist of buckets. It's difficult to imagine such deprivations right on our doorstep. Add to this the agony of thick winter snow and temperatures plummeting to 30 degrees below!

Into these miserable deprived areas, Door of Hope will be delivering large shoe boxes containing gifts for every member of the family... toiletries, toothpaste, hats/gloves, pencils/crayons, small toys & games, sweets and all sorts. Delivery of these boxes will not be restricted to ethnic origins or religious beliefs. Poor people in prisons will receive them as will prostitutes with babies – just like the girl in the left picture. Protected from pimps, she is now resident in an Orphanage with her baby.



Like our opening story, to help others is to come closer to where the Christ child lay. Loving the poor is a step closer to God's heart. "As you touch the lives of others," said Jesus, "you touch mine." **We need to cover the costs of all these shoe boxes** dear ones. Can you make a special Christmas donation? If you do, the poor of this world will receive special surges of gladness and pleasure this Christmas. **In donating to our Shoe Box appeal, you will be giving something of yourself to the poor, deprived and literally ignored. In doing so, you gain and never lose.** We thank you in anticipation.



Wishing you peace and sacred awareness this Christmas time.

Please donate. We are grateful for all your support – past and present.

Phil and Diane S.

Rev. Phil and Mrs Diane Streeter.



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