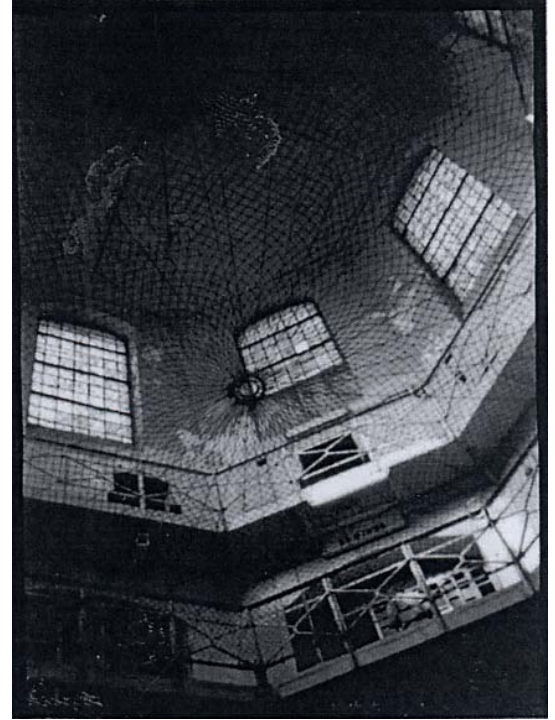
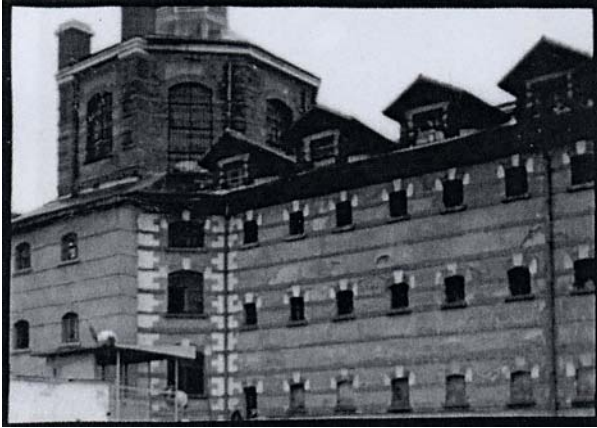


ECL Door of Hope

Bringing Hope to the hopeless and Help to the helpless

“For the first time... Christmas cheer comes to the wives and children of prisoners in Bulgaria’s top security prison!”

December 2010



Dear one,

As well as helping 2,000 families in the Ukraine, a thousand Christian and Muslim children in Bulgaria, Door of Hope (with the generous assistance of “Link Romania” charity) has accepted the unique opportunity of giving a Christmas Shoe Box to the wives and children of prisoners in Bulgaria’s main security prison.

The mothers and children that we will help, live in destitution and poverty. The husbands are behind bars for every crime imaginable, from cheating, stealing a pig or cow, to murder. Most of the murders occurred under the influence of excess Vodka consumption. Now the children have to suffer. Living in terrible ghetto conditions, the mothers and children struggle to survive, especially during the sub-zero Bulgarian winters. An added humiliation being, as wife and child of a prisoner, they are maligned and rejected in their community.

A quick word about this special status Prison having myself, by the Governor’s invitation, entered the inner security section to meet three murderers in their cell. (*Notice the suspended net in the above photograph. It was erected to stop long-term prisoners leaping to their death*). In Communist times, this was the worst of Bulgaria’s prisons Individuals as well as groups of prisoners were executed here, including a number of Christians who were executed for their faith. After the fall of Communism, professional staff were brought in to run the Sofia prison; fine, reliable men and women who I have met.

The Prison has between 600 to 800 prisoners. 60% are the poorest of gypsies to whose families we are giving help. During the past seven years, Door of Hope has supplied 7000 Bibles, bedding and mattresses, shoes (we saw many prisoners walking barefoot in the snow), computers and even funding bee hives in order to interest peasant prisoners to take-up a hobby. Alongside a few social workers, Door of Hope (with Government permission)

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conducts fortnightly seminars assisting prisoners in the reconstruction of their lives in preparation for eventual release.

By the time that you receive this letter, 4,000 Christmas shoe boxes, plus big cartons of clothes, will have been despatched to miserably deprived, ghetto areas of Bulgaria, the Ukraine as well as prisoner's families. Each box contains Christmas gifts for the children, for mother and for grandma. Presents of pencils, dolls, toy motor cars, games, sweets, hats, gloves, toothpaste, toiletries and many other niceties. Delivery of these boxes will not be restricted to ethnic origins or religious beliefs, but every time, the *compassion of God arriving at the poorest homes in practical ways....*

Observe the happy faces receiving their parcels during previous deliveries.



As I said, the shoe boxes will be delivered to some of the poorest, marginalised people in Eastern Europe. Some are living in tents, shacks and hovels pieced together with damaged bricks, corrugated iron and any scavenged item serving as protection from the cold weather. Others will be residing in one or two rooms. In some accommodation there is no running water or as we have found, one cold tap projecting from a wall. In some places that our shoe boxes reach, there is no electricity or heating, washing and toilet facilities consisting of buckets.

Can you imagine such deprivations with added agonies of thick winter snows and plummeting



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temperatures? For such people, survival is a struggle. **Door of Hope would invite you to share your love this Christmas.** We are thankful to God that most of the transportation costs have already been met, but we do have further delivery costs and travel expenses within Bulgaria and the Ukraine.

In making your Christmas donation to *Door of Hope*, you will bring a special, unexpected glow into the lives of the kind of families that we have been describing to you.

Many of these people are unable to write but we know they are grateful. Please be generous. Your gift, given in kindness and love, will not go unrewarded. If donations received surpass our costs, be assured that every penny will reach poor children in other Door of Hope projects. We thank you in anticipation.

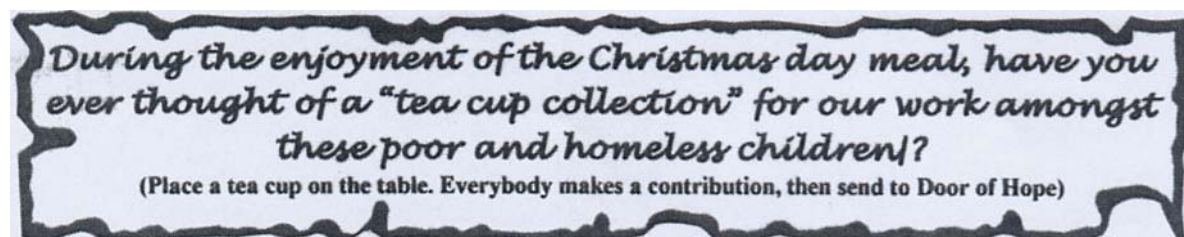
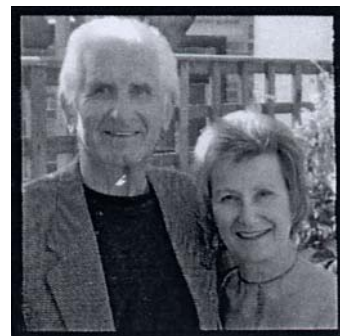


Dianne and I would like to thank you all for the generous support that you have given in the past. Without you, we are unable to bring help to the helpless.

We wish you deepest peace, human gladness and special sacred awareness this Christmas time.

Phil and Diane S.

Rev. and Mrs Phil and Diane Streeter
DOOR OF HOPE



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