

ECL Door of Hope

Bringing Hope to the hopeless and Help to the helpless

“Flowers are beginning to grow amid the rubble”

March/April 2010



Dear one,

I want to tell you about some flowers that are beginning to grow in the poverty stricken gypsy villages of Korsynty and Shevchenko in the Ukraine. In most cases, the **huts** that the people live in are small, dark and dirty, without water-pipes, sewerage systems, toilets or bathrooms – abysmal conditions that have many times caused hepatitis epidemics in the community. Some families are even sick with tuberculosis.

Absence of education, employment and government assistance have led to many people becoming involved in criminal activities. Most sources of legitimate earnings come through begging, fortune telling and scrap metal. The main bread-winners seem to be the women.

The gypsies are a deprived and vulnerable group in the Ukraine. Police authorities appear very hard on them, wrongly presuming that all gypsies are criminals. This deprives them of necessary documents that are needed for daily survival, complicates remote possibilities of legal aid and robs them of certain human rights that they legitimately possess.

The children, wherein lies Door of Hope's particular concern, do not receive proper medical and dental help, neither is their education encouraged by State schooling. Many gypsy children are not registered. They do not have necessary documentation and sadly, are considered useless when it comes to study. Subsequently, if they do get into a national school, they become marginalised and are frequently sneered at by both teacher and pupils.

Most gypsy children are semiliterate and have no idea of personal hygiene. They do require constant motivation, help and incentive to study, but this does not mean that they are not bright in other areas. I have always been impressed by their alertness and willingness to listen when given a little encouragement.

DOOR OF HOPE, P.O. BOX 60, BATTLE, E.SUSSEX TN33 0QB.

Telephone/Fax: 01424 870836

Email: Doorhope@aol.com Registered Charity 1083260

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The *Flower in the Rubbe* earlier referred to, is that Door of Hope has commenced sponsoring a school for gypsy children that opened last year in the extremely poor ghetto settlements of Korsyntsy and Shevchenko. You will see that the gypsy children now have desks, books and qualified teachers. It is a Christian school, their vision being to provide an elementary education, provide them with their own books and assist them to receive the official documentation needed if they are ever to find a position in a State school.

At present, the school is small, this is only because there is no available cash to welcome more children. In the grim, dirty and unhygienic village conditions, many are waiting to attend when asked. Pencils, exercise and study books, more desks and more Christian teachers are required to personally guide them in their studies. The children also need clothes, professional, educational and social care – someone to take them to a hospital when they are sick. We would even like to assist the school in purchasing their own building. Having opened a school in Bulgaria, Door of Hope has insight and experience when it comes to educational development. You can trust us to wisely use all received finance.

For this reason, we come gently asking for your financial assistance for children surviving in the poorest of conditions. **Your donation will have far-reaching spiritual and educational influences on little lives living in dirt and poverty.** A deprivation needing to be seen to be believed. Together, we can give the children a strong hope for the future.

Please make your donation today. We will keep you informed about the development of this vital project. **Thank you.**

Love and God bless.

Mrs Diane Streeter
(UKRAINIAN CO-ORDINATOR)



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