

4,000 Christmas shoe boxes for some of the poorest families in Eastern Europe!



November/December 2009



Can you help this Christmas?

By the time that you receive this letter, **4,000** Christmas Shoe Boxes will have been despatched to Bulgaria and the Ukraine. *Door of Hope* is more than grateful to *Link Romania* for assisting us in this project.

* These shoe boxes, full of Christmas goodies, will be delivered to some of the poorest, marginalised people in Eastern Europe. Some of them are living in tents, shacks and hovels pieced together with damaged bricks, corrugated iron and any solid item serving as protection from the weather. Others will be residing in one or two rooms. We have found that is not unusual for parents, children, grandparents and even cousins to be lumped together in this claustrophobic space. Frequently, because the man has left home, responsibility rests on the mother or grandmother. In some 'accommodation' there is no running water, in others, one cold tap projecting from a wall. In many of the places where our shoe boxes will reach, there is no electricity or heating. Washing and toilet facilities sometimes consist of buckets. Can you imagine such deprivations with the added agony of thick winter snow and temperatures plummeting to as much as 30 degrees below! Unemployment is astronomically high, jobs scarce and in a country like Bulgaria, now in the European Community, it will be years before a decent standard of living filters down to communities that are socially ostracised. For such people, survival is a struggle.

* Into these miserably deprived areas, *Door of Hope* will be delivering large shoe boxes (see cover picture). Each box will contain Christmas gifts suitable for every member of the family — toiletries, toothpaste/safety razors, hats/gloves, flannels/combs, pencils/crayons, small toys and games, sweets and sometimes even little tools. Delivery of these boxes will not be restricted to ethnic origins or religious beliefs, but every time, the compassion of God will be delivered to the poorest of homes in a practical way.

The next page of pictures show the social level of children where these Christmas boxes will reach. As you can appreciate, at this point we cannot supply photographs of the exact children who will be blessed this Christmas.

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! However, we do have delivery costs and travel expenses within Bulgaria and the Ukraine.

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

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

Diane and I take this opportunity to thank you for past support that you have given.

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

Phil and Diane S.

Reverend and Mrs Phil and Diane Streeter.

