

Is a tent or a shed a home?

September/October 2009.

"Home is the most popular, and will be the most enduring of all earthly establishment."

(Charming Pollock)

Dear Ones,

If Mr Channing had been with Diane and I in the Ukraine and Bulgaria, he would have had to eaten his words. It is not the case as you will see in the photographs that we took. Each broken-down accommodation that you see, are in appalling, poverty stricken areas that Door of Hope, due to your support, has been able to give assistance both to the young and the old.



Can you ever imagine living **permanently** in accommodation like this? Spending Christmas here? Eating, sleeping, giving birth to a baby, being nursed in sickness and cared for when dying? Diane and I have been welcomed into these 'homes.' We always feel a sense of embarrassment, reserve and certainly shame as we consider the comfort and security of our own home.

In most of the 'homes,' there is no lighting or heating. Everything one touches is sticky and dirty. Everything smells. The air isn't fresh and the hands are in urgent need of washing. Hepatitis is a common summer enemy in these gypsy villages. In summer, temperatures soar to the high thirties. There is no air conditioning. Clouds of flies fill the room and numerous cats sprawl on the shredded carpets. I have never visited these tents and sheds during the Russian winter snows when temperatures drop as low as thirty degrees below freezing. Seeing the pictures, you will easily imagine how painfully cold conditions will be. I never cease to be amazed how families survive! We have even heard of men being electrocuted and killed in primitive attempts to connect wires to the National Grid in order to drag heating out of an old electric fire.

These are poor, deprived people receiving little help from their government. They eke out an existence by odd jobs when they are available, begging and stealing. On

becoming Christians, life is made further harder when they learn that stealing can no longer be a part of their life-style.



Door of Hope is doing everything possible through its representatives in Bulgarian and the Ukraine to assist families, especially children. Our contacts are thoroughly trustworthy. Food and family support does reach these people. This Christmas, through the kindness of "Link Romania" Charity, 4,000 family *Shoe Boxes* of gifts will be transported into Bulgaria and the Ukraine. They will reach the deprived ghetto villages that I have been describing to you. Meanwhile, we are wanting to provide further winter support for these people.

Diane and I shy away from the high-pressure money appeals of many Christian organisations. Nevertheless, we would make a single request for your support. A donation to this "Tent and Shed" appeal will touch the lives of the people that I have been describing. In the warmth and comfort of your God-given homes, we ask you to **give to those who really don't have reliable homes and secure accommodation.** **Thank you in anticipation.**

In the Name of One who lived a short while in the home of his mother and father.

Philip and Diane.

Rev and Mrs Philip & Diane Streeter.
DOOR OF HOPE

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