

# The Wild Tribe of Usatova



July/August, 2009

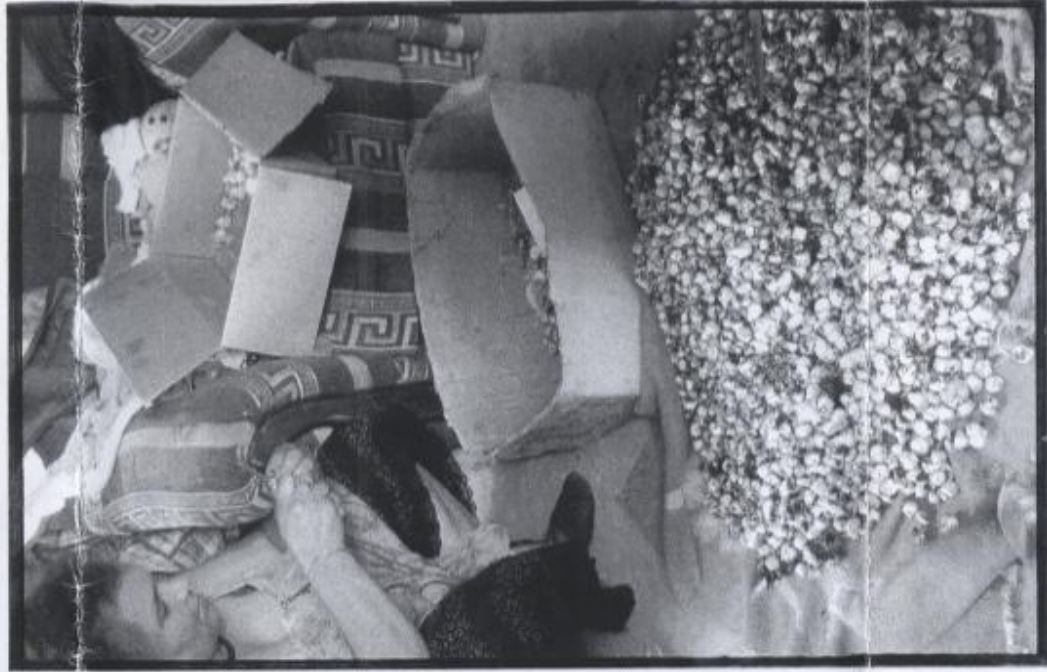
Hello dear ones,

I have just returned from the Ukraine. Some of the sights that I saw were quite harrowing. Poverty, to a degree that we never see in our own country, was very evident, especially among the gypsy communities. My guide and translator escorted me to villages where Door of Hope is at present giving support, also to other areas of desperate need where we would like to become involved. My friends were particularly concerned as we entered the village of *Usatova*. The village children were known as the "wild tribe." I was warned to remove all money, jewellery & valuables. On walking down the muddy streets, I was quickly surrounded by screaming, unwashed children who literally snatched the sweets from our hands. It was very disturbing. They appeared to be feral children, no family life, no parental control. We could not enter what appeared to be their 'homes' or hovels, neither would they allow us to take photographs. A Christian Pastor that we support is working very hard To gain their confidence in order to bring social and educational aid to this village.

*There are approximately 80,000 gypsy people in the Ukraine. These people suffer particular discrimination, forced as they are to apply for 'passports' which are equal to permits necessary for any employment or social interaction. At any time, these people can be stopped in the streets for a permit check. I would also add that opportunities for employment are very slim, hence, abysmal poverty in these gypsy communities.*

I visited families, in their homes, in the village of *Shevichenko*. They were extremely poor. To earn a pittance of money, they travelled out of their village to the backyards of distant Ukrainian hotels in order to collect reject mushroom stalks. Each stalk was carefully cleaned and then sold locally. *(see picture)*

I also visited the village of *Koruntsy* in the Perlermo area of the Ukraine. *Koruntsy* is notorious for drug barons and big drug operations that even include corrupt policemen. I discovered that any drug-dealing gypsy deciding to become a Christian, has an extremely difficult time. In refraining from selling drugs, he (she) no longer has a cash percentage to silence the police. In revenge, the corrupt policeman plants drugs on the gypsy and then arrests him. This usually leads to a jail sentence.



In every visit that I make to the Ukraine, I am encouraged to see dedicated individuals here and there, eager to help some of the poorest people in Europe. To feed the children (*like the little one that you see in the picture*), take them to summer camps in the mountains, introduce programmes of social care, visit youth in prisons, operate Orphanages, a deprived community of Cerebral city children and in every way endeavouring to introduce a Christian moral framework to hopelessly deprived young lives.



Because of your generous financial assistance, Door of Hope has been able to help fund and be part of these projects. It is our wish to provide further funding for these operations that I have mentioned to you. Your summer donation will be greatly appreciated!

You will also have noticed that, unlike some charities, we try to avoid heavy appeals for money which can be annoying to you & embarrassing to us, I mention our needs to you and then leave it with the compassion of our supporters and the faithfulness of God. Thank you.

*In the mercy of Him who cradled poor children in His arms.*

*Diane Streeter*

Diane Streeter  
DOOR OF HOPE.

## Door of Hope

P O Box 60, BATTLE, East Sussex. TN33 0WW, UK.

Telephone: 01424 870836. Registered Charity: 1083260. Email: [doorofhope@aol.com](mailto:doorofhope@aol.com)

Website: [www.ecl-doorofhope.org.uk](http://www.ecl-doorofhope.org.uk)