

ECL Door of Hope

Bringing Hope to the hopeless and Help to the helpless

“If only we had a well to draw our water!”

September/October 2011

Hello dear ones,

Exhausted but challenged, I returned from an extremely poor part of the Ukraine a few days ago. The poverty is lamentable. Individuals crouched in sunshine slowly cleaning mushrooms stalks desperate to earn a few coins. A man spending hours cracking walnuts to sell on street corners. I saw families whose “homes” were tents and splintered shacks, each man, woman and child struggling to exist. It was a deprivation not only seen but smelt. A sour, rancid poverty hanging invisibly in the hot, windless air. A bitter odour that one cannot escape from.



Pigs grunts along pot-holed streets. A sad-eyed donkey is tied forlornly to a post. Always, in the gutters run small streams of water like open sewers. Small dirty children squat in the dust playing with sticks and broken pieces of metal. It's a miserable site that I never get accustomed to.

Every trip I make to the Ukraine makes me deeply appreciative of everything that I have. Especially that long list of simple, everyday things that we all tend to

take for granted. Turning on the tap for a glass of cold water is a perfect example. The water tap is always faithfully present. I don't have to find a stream or rush next door to beg from a neighbour. Maybe water, that grand, glittering gift of life is made too easily available.

Last week, I visited the Ukrainian village of Rudancy. Once again, it is a ghetto area. A sprawling expanse of poverty where families are struggling to exist and certainly to survive the icy Russian winters.

The Rudancy family in the picture overleaf are one of many possessing next to nothing. The roof of their hovel leaks, they have no gas for cooking and no on-tap water supply. It amazes me how they continue to smile! In the biting grimness of winter, it could be another story.

For water to drink and wash in, they daily carry their pots and buckets to distant homes of people they know. No pleasant task in summer heat and winter snow.

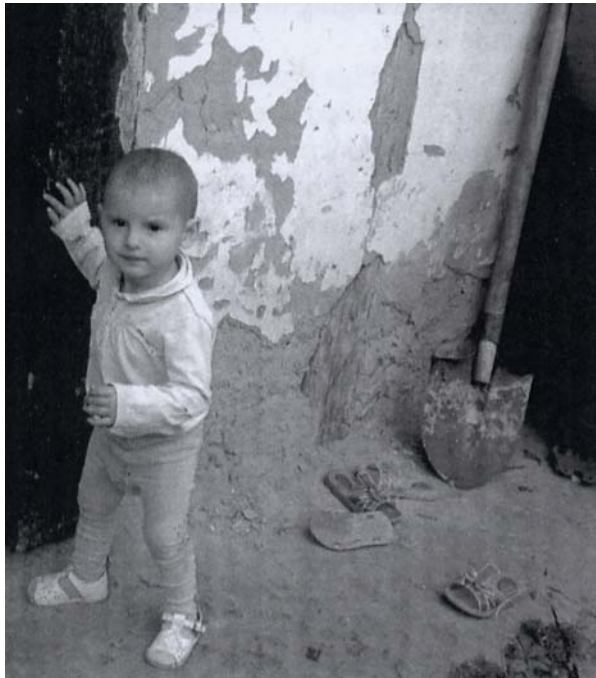
DOOR OF HOPE, P.O. BOX 60, BATTLE, E.SUSSEX TN33 0QB.

Telephone/Fax: 01424 870836

Email: Doorhope@aol.com Registered Charity 1083260

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With this in mind and on heart, I must tell you that there are opportunities for Door of Hope to provide this poor family and others with their own well right outside their home. I thought of the words of our Lord who said that *"Whoever gives one of these little ones a cup of cold water ... they shall by no means lose their reward."* Just a cup! We want to provide a well! Some of these people are Christians, others aren't. It is our wish to help all.

The cost of digging and installation is £1000.00. Think of the help & comfort that a well of water could bring! As I said, these people have little and nothing. I know that their gratefulness would music to your ears.

Can you make a donation? Please help us to sink a well of water. I will keep you informed of progress. My husband and I never like begging for money but we do present this need for your earnest thought and prayerful consideration. Meanwhile, fill a kettle and be thankful!

Your Door of Hope friends.

Please donate. We are grateful for all your support – past and present.

Phil and Diane S.

Rev. and Mrs Philip and Diane Streeter.
(Door of Hope)



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