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September 2007
Issue V

The Mission Post
news from The Mission House

From NJK



In 450 BC a Greek soldier ran the 26+ miles from Marathon to Athens to announce the victory of the Greek army over the Persians and legend has it that when he arrived in Athens he gasped "victory" then collapsed and died.

'Victory' is a powerful word and when we use it we always mean that we've achieved a decisive superiority over whatever challenge we've been facing. So it's my great pleasure to be able to announce two more victories for The Mission House (but

without collapsing and dying!).

Victory No. 1 is The Mission House Child Sponsorship Program. This is to be one of our key strategies in fulfilling our vision to relieve spiritual and material poverty in the world. The article by Jeni Ozumba introduces you to the

This is to be one of our key strategies in fulfilling our vision to relieve spiritual and material poverty in the world.

Continued on page 2

Child Sponsorship Programme

By Jeni Ozumba

In the course of our work at The Mission House, we come across many children who are in desperate need of the basics of life. Many orphans and children are living in extreme poverty, born into a harsh, unfortunate world with no opportunity to realise their potential. These children need the help and hope that comes through being sponsored. In line with our goal of providing help and hope at home and abroad, we offer an exclusive personal sponsorship program in response to the individual needs of children, as well as a unique partnership between the child, local church and you.

The Mission House Child Sponsorship programme is purposed to ensure that children have their basic rights in life such as food, water, shelter, clothing, safety, education and health; provide lasting support with sustainable long-term benefits for the child to empower them to grow up with life skills rather than creating a dependency culture. Beyond that, the programme involves offering prayers for the welfare and development of children, helping children develop hope based on values and beliefs, and to have experiences of knowing the love of God through others. The Mission House Child Sponsorship programme is intended to deliver personalised support according to the individual needs and circumstances of children.

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FROM NJK - Continued from page 1

Child Sponsorship Program and for those who catch the vision and want to join the program immediately the enclosed leaflet explains how. Look for regular progress reports about the Child Sponsorship Program in future editions of The Mission Post.

Victory No. 2 is the outstanding success of our recently completed ACE Youth Summer Camp in North West Romania. We (that's you our Prayer Partner Volunteers, and you our Resource Volunteers providing the finances, together with our Field Staff Volunteers providing their time, expertise and their own travel costs) hosted 42 adults and young people from three children's homes. The pictures

accompanying the article give you a flavour of the event and also I'm pleased to report that we had no health problems due to sunstroke – in spite of the predictably glorious weather.

There is much news that I want share with you about our onward march to victory but lack of space means it'll just have to wait until another time. Meanwhile, we (that's all of you our Volunteers) continue on with our mission to bring relief, development and transformation to individuals and communities at home and abroad. Thank you for your support.

Nigel Kiernander

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The Mission Post
news from The Mission House

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The Mission House
providing help & hope at home and abroad

A small team of volunteers from the Liaison Group have dedicated themselves to assisting with the publications of The Mission House by gathering articles and assisting with the process of producing the publications. The Mission Post will continue in its present format, being both informative and inspirational. It is planned to produce four editions per year and in between, we aim to provide you with 'newsy' updates with The Mission Post Newsletter.

If you are involved in any outreach, charitable work or projects and would like to inspire others then please contact us by post or email. Simply send us a write-up (with pictures if possible please) of any length and quality. You can sit back and relax, as we will do the rest for you. We would also be happy to hear from you if you think we can improve our publications in any way. Please share your views with us.

All of us on the team thank you for your interest, support and readership of The Mission Post. Please send your write-up by email to editor@themissionhouse.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WHY IT IS GOOD TO SPONSOR A CHILD!

There are three primary reasons why it is good to sponsor a child.

1. It will ensure a child has the basics of life.
2. It ensures a child receives education and skills for the benefit of their personal future, their family and community's future, and eventually the future of their nation.
3. Child sponsorship is an opportunity to make your own contribution towards tackling

world poverty.

With our programme you can sponsor a child in Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ghana, Romania and Thailand.

Child sponsorship makes a real difference to a child and a community's future. For more information on how you can be part of this very important programme please contact The Mission House.



Mission Vocabulary

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) By Jennifer Ozumba

CBR is "a strategy within community development for the rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of all children and adults with disabilities. CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities themselves, their families and communities, and the relevant government and non government health, education, vocational, and social services."

..... The purpose of CBR is to help people

To activate communities to promote and protect the human rights of people with disabilities through changes in the community, for example, by removing barriers to participation.

with disabilities of various type to overcome their disabilities, thereby living normal lives in the community and contributing to society. Through CBR, various communities are encouraged to remove discriminating barriers, while everyone in the community works towards protecting and promoting the human rights of people with disabilities.

CBR has developed over the last 20 years in around 90 countries to provide primary health care and rehabilitation to people with illness and disabilities, who are often unable to afford health care. This assistance promotes health and independent living.

A key principle of CBR is working in partnership with the community by agreeing a plan with the village leaders.

A qualified professional will then train local people in health care intervention so they can utilise these skills in the community. Basically, CBR is helping people with disability live a normal and better life within their communities.

The benefit of CBR is that it is a cost effective way of reaching people, most in need, at the grassroots of society to encourage participation in community life.



CBR fieldworkers helping coach a child with disability.

Sports Mission in Wales

By Ugochukwu Anagor

My name is Ugochukwu Anagor but friends call me Ugo for short. I was born and trained in the Worldwide Church of God, Lagos Nigeria. In 2002, I received further training at the International Sports Leadership School of Sports for Christ Action South Africa (SCAS), Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa as a Sport Missionary - a leadership training that changed my life. Since the 1st of March 2005, I have been working in Rhondda Valleys of

South Wales, United Kingdom with a Christian Charity project called Sporting Marvels.

I heard about Sporting Marvels from the Operations Manager Christian Wellman in December 2003 at a time when I was going through a major spiritual challenge that almost left me in despair occasioned by the frustrations of religious persecution at my home University. So after the Lord ministered to Christian Wellman to uphold me in prayers in my time of despair HE created a need in

of Rhondda and raise them above the social problems in Rhondda, which makes life a challenge for the young. As at 1st Oct. 2006, Sporting Marvels has a presence in three comprehensive schools and seventeen primary schools and is recording success in its mission.

As a sports missionary with Sporting Marvels, I conduct sports activity for children, building meaningful relationships and being a role model for them. This is a challenging role but exciting, as I witness the significant impact our project is having

Continued on page 4



The primary aim of this charity is to “put a positive Christian role model in front of every youngster, every day...” and sports, is the means of achieving this goal.

Sporting Marvels for a YDO and that was how I applied and got the opportunity to serve in Sporting Marvels.

The primary aim of this charity is to “put a positive Christian role model in front of every youngster, every day...” and sports, is the means of achieving this goal. The project strategically places Christian role models into Rhondda’s 37 primary schools (visiting once a week), and 6 comprehensive, and partner churches. Relationship-led, the secular message of the project is “Sport is Good”, the Christian message, “Jesus is Lord”. This project was founded in 2002 inspired by a 5th July 2002 Morning Prayer meeting of Pastor John Bullock and four others. The vision: to positively influence the children



**Go on mission
See the world
Experience a new culture
Give a helping hand
Be fulfilled**



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among the young people of Rhondda. I love the work. It is great to be of service in changing the lives of young people, helping them develop skills and values that will make a difference in their lives and build them into responsible adults. It is indeed a wonderful opportunity to be involved in Christian mission working to give hope and purpose to the youth. I relish every minute of it.

I hope to achieve spiritual development and fulfillment, more experience in my Youth Work and Sports Ministry skills and gaining new relationships cutting across nationalities. Although life in a new

I love the work. It is great to be of service in changing the lives of young people, helping them develop skills and values that will make a difference in their lives and build them into responsible adults.

SPORTS MISSION IN WALES - Continued from page 4

culture can be challenging, it is a great to learn about another culture. My beautiful wife, Nancy (a Sierra Leonean), joined me here on the 27th of May 2007 and we are settling in and are grateful to God for his abundant grace. We can never have enough of your prayers: for us, for the youths of Rhonda and especially for the Sports Marvel project. I have stayed here now for two years and six months and I am looking to continue in this Kingdom Service Opportunity (KSO) until God opens up another door of assignment (i.e. an opportunity to serve and be blessed through service).



RHONDDA:

The need & The Problems

In 2001 Rhondda had the lowest percentage of population regularly attending church; less than .9 of 1%. Modern-day Rhondda is a place where drug abuse and suicide has claimed scores of young lives, where drug-related criminality continues to soar and a place where one-parent families and teenage pregnancies have become the norm. According to government statistics, Rhondda is the poorest part of the UK so when you add in a poverty mind-set, acute health problems (including a large number of people on medication for depression) and an over reliance on the benefits system the social cocktail of problems is both negative and potentially explosive.

The result is a sense of hopelessness and despondency, especially prevalent amongst Rhondda's young people. This is all both cause & effect of an "if you want to get on, you have to leave" type syndrome which sees Rhondda denuded and asset-stripped - on an annual basis - of its top talent as the area's most capable youngsters go off to university only to never return. This has the inevitable consequence of making a bad problem much worse.



Phil Davies - Chief Executive of Sporting Marvel

SPORTING MARVELS:

The Goal

To become a vehicle of great influence - a seed planting machine! - that helps make the church, Christianity, and Jesus relevant to the 84,000 people who live in Rhondda, helping facilitate as it does so, wholesale community transformation. And along the way, to develop a blue-print that can be replicated in other parts of Wales, the UK, and beyond.

for more information visit www.sportingmarvels.com

The Blue Column

Transformation By Nigel Kiernander

The word transformation is an expression of mission used throughout the Christian world today. The Kingdom of God advances as individuals hear and accept the Gospel by faith, are born again, and experience inward regeneration, and transformation expressed in obedience to "all I have commanded"

However, God's concern goes beyond the salvation of individual people. His redemptive plan encompasses the healing and transformation of entire nations.

Nations are discipled as Christians individually and collectively make the invisible Kingdom visible by faithful obedience to God's Word throughout culture - in every area of life and every realm of society be it the family, the community, the arts, sciences, media, law, government, schools, or business. Then societies start to enjoy spiritual and material plenty - they are transformed.

John 3: 3,16; Matt. 28:19-20;
Acts 2: 21; Gen. 1:26-28; 22:18;
Romans 1:16-17; Deut. 4:5-8; 30:11-20;
Gen. 12:1-2; Col. 1:18

The Kingdom of God advances as individuals hear and accept the Gospel by faith, are born again, and experience inward regeneration, and transformation expressed in obedience to "all I have commanded".



Romania Youth Camp 2007

By Conrad Townsend

2007 is an exciting year for our Mission House A.C.E (Activity Centered Experience) program in Romania. Not only are we in our third year but this year we are expanding! We have been blessed with the opportunity to go to a new location, which offers more activities and facilities.

The children and teenagers will be coming from three different children's homes in the town of Botasani located in the North

.....
They will be encouraged to set goals to work towards while at the camp and to apply the fruits of their achievements in everyday life after returning home.

East of the country and will make the fifteen hour train journey to the camp site in western Romania. This year we are delighted to be able to offer the opportunity to the children from Hand of Help children's home. While backgrounds and circumstances of all the children are very similar, the first two homes are quite different to the third. Casa Ioana and Casa Ruxandra are run as family style homes with the maximum of 9 children. Hand of Help is more institutional and currently has 102 children and teenagers.

Because of the facilities we have available to us this year we are able to offer a wider range of activities including basketball, netball, baseball, football, swimming (in adjacent reservoir), hiking and Christian living. One of the fundamental aims of the camp this year is to get the teenagers to look at how they apply Christian principles in their lives. They will be encouraged to set

goals to work towards while at the camp and to apply the fruits of their achievements in everyday life after returning home. To further inspire them, and to demonstrate Christian principles in action, the older children (16+) will engage in outreach projects when they return to their home towns. These projects will include helping the elderly prepare their homes for winter and food distribution to the poorest of the rural poor.

Everyone contributing to the success of the ACE program do so because of their Christian beliefs and their desire to be part of a God ordained opportunity for these children. And therefore it is only right that we give honour to God for the camp each year. He finds and inspires the people who get involved. The people who organize and run it and the people who donate the money that make it possible and it is He who looks after and guides everyone during the camp.



Pic 1. Outreach Group in local village on food distribution project.

Pic 2. Valley near the camp site.



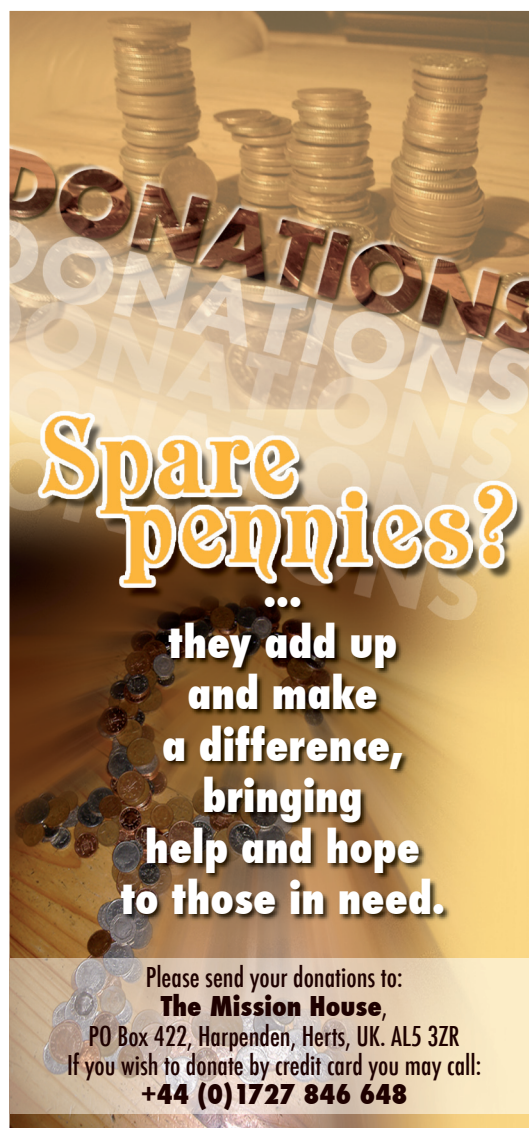
Pic 1. Another mountain conquered

Pic 2. Lake alongside the camp



Pic 1. Ready for the hike

Pic 2. Another view of the valley



Spare pennies?
 ...
they add up and make a difference, bringing help and hope to those in need.

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STOP PRESS Romania 2007



Romania



The largest of the Balkan countries, Romania has dramatic mountain scenery and a coastline on the Black Sea. It has seen numerous empires come and go from the Roman, to the Ottoman, to the Austro-Hungarian.

Full name: Romania

Population: 21.6 million (UN, 2006)

Capital: Bucharest

Area: 92,043 sq miles

Major language: Romanian

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 67 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 new leu = 100 bani

President: Traian Basescu

Info from BBC website.

Every year since I have started going to Romania to visit and work with these children and teenagers, I stop and wonder in awe at the way everything comes together. Then I remember that Jesus said "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you?"

So we certainly expected this year's camp to be an exciting and memorable Activity Centred Experience one for all those involved, children and staff alike, especially as it was taking place at this new beautiful location. And believe you me, it was wonderful and the best camp so far. Everybody enjoyed it: volunteers, staff and the children were just heavenly.

By the time we returned from the camp The Mission Post was going to press. But camp was so wonderful that we could not resist sharing titbits and pictures with you. Watchout for the full story next edition of the newsletter.

CONRAD TOWNSEND



The children in Romania are instantly likeable because they are so friendly and welcoming to anyone and everyone they meet, with no exceptions. They go out of their way to help you and make you feel at ease and when you only have two weeks to spend with them it's important to develop that rapport as soon as possible in order to do more. As much as you give them, or try to give, you will always come away from a meeting with them feeling better off, feeling enriched. They really are an example to all children around the world'.

By Sinead Templeman

The Children



Sinead is a member of the editorial team and volunteers regularly to work in the orphanages in Romania.

RAJKO RADOVIC: "I like the thought that I can be an instrument for God's mission."

According to the BBC website: "...Rajko's strong spiritual beliefs and soul searching have often had a deep impact on his fellow travellers, especially the youngest member, Jason." TMH spoke with the reality TV show star.

TMP: What is Last Man Standing about?

Rajko: A show that sent six Western athletes around the world to some of the remotest tribes on earth, to see whether they could take on the local people in their own unique indigenous sports. From Outer Mongolia to Mexico, we had to pit our strength and skill against the local experts in unfamiliar, and often extreme, tribal sports. Each of us was from a different sports and cultural backgrounds, and so the aim of the show was not only to make a documentary about tribal sport but also to see which athlete would be the most adaptable and most successful in these new unfamiliar sports - who would be the Last Man Standing!

TMP: How did you get involved?

Rajko: I heard about the show through a friend who had seen an advert for it. My friend wasn't interested, but he thought I might be. Initially however I deleted the email because as interesting as it sounded, I was busy pursuing a career in music. But then, about a week later, I remembered the advert and dug it out of my trash! I re-read it and thought to myself "even though this is not part of my plans or ambitions, is it something that I would look back on in years to come and wish I had done." When I thought about it with an open mind I realised that it could be the experience of a lifetime.

TMP: How did your beliefs affect the experience and how did the experience in turn enrich your faith?

Rajko: My beliefs and my faith shape my life and how I interact with everyone I meet. So even though I don't often directly evangelise or preach the gospel, I try to make sure that my actions always reflect my faith, and I feel that sometimes this can be more powerful than words. On the show, I often was living and interacting with tribal people who couldn't understand a word I said and so it was more about showing love than speaking. I've always felt that people who have God's spirit have a certain inner peace and joy that is sometimes conveyed without words, and can be very powerful and meaningful. I think my Christian beliefs also helped me appreciate and respect the people I met, because at the root of my beliefs is the teaching that we should love our neighbour. To do this you have to see the good in everyone you meet and sometimes overlook the differences.

TMP: Why was it important to you to watch the first edition with friends and family rather than at a celebrity launch party?

Rajko: Because above all it is my family and friends who make my world not my temporary successes. I'd just spent a year away from my close friends, and so the most important thing to me now that I was home was to be able to enjoy my accomplishments in the company of those friends. I wanted to be around the people who have encouraged and supported me

over the years. One of the biggest things I've realised this past year: it's not so important to me where I am in the world, but instead who I'm with. I've seen some of the most beautiful and spectacular locations in the world, but I would sooner be close to the people who mean a lot to me than staring at a beautiful landscape with strangers.

TMP: Thanks for using that opportunity to raise money for the Youth Camp in Romania. What moved you to do this?

Rajko: If I can ever do something to help others, then I will always try. It was not a big deal for me to use the opportunity to raise a little money for the Youth Camp, and so I gladly agreed to it. In fact, Jeni and Chiemeka did all the hard work and I was just an instrument to help it come to fruition. I like that. I like being an instrument for good. I often think that is my calling as a Christian, possibly to make a success in the public eye and thereby be an instrument to pass on a good message to many people, whether through a tribal sports TV program or through my music or however God directs me. I like the thought that I can be an instrument for God's mission.

TMP: Thanks for your kind response.

.....
Often while filming the show I was living with and interacting with tribal people who couldn't understand a word I said and so it was more about showing love than speaking.
.....

Left-Right:

1. The Last Man Standing athletes: Richard, Corrie, Rajko, Mark, Jason and Brad. 2. Rajko dressed as a Trobriand cricketeer. 3. A collage of Rajko wrestling in the Amazon, stick fighting in Zululand.





Fundraising

THE FUND RAISING STANDING By Chiemeka Ozumba

The debut of the TV program Last Man Standing was an opportunity to raise money for The Mission House when one of the shows stars chose to watch it with friends and family. He convinced BBC Directors to move the launch event party by one day. Rajko Radovic was more than ecstatic that the BBQ he planned could be used to raise money for the Romania Youth Camp - a project of The Mission House. The idea really arose from Rajko who had fished out some old unused raffle tickets and wondered what could be done with them. The rest was history. He provided souvenirs and photographs from his trips and picture frames and tee-shirts were produced by The Mission House Volunteers. As the BBQ went on Sinead Templeman and Jennifer Ozumba, who coordinated the fund raising event, sold the raffles to the guests. There was a draw after Rajko had spoken about his travels and the Romania Youth Camp. Rajko's fundraising shows how we can be creative with raising funds for charity.

"I often think that is my calling as a Christian, possibly to...be an instrument to pass on a good message to many people, whether through a tribal sports TV program or through my music or however God directs me. I like the thought that I can be an instrument for God's mission."

- Rajko Radovic



Pictures left - right: 1. Rajko making a speech, 2. Raffle draw, 3. A winner receives his gift, 4. The tee-shirts

5. L-R: Ugochi Orji, Rajko Radovich, Sinead Templeman & Jeni Ozumba, 6. Top picture: Rajko standing for charity.



Business as Mission

In 2004 the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation... focused on Business as Mission.... in recognition of the importance of this strategic topic for global missions. The...Group developed a Manifesto and a landmark paper, the Lausanne Occasional Paper on Business as Mission"

The second paragraph of this Occasional Paper said this..."We call upon business people globally to receive this affirmation (to exercise their gifts and calling as business people in the world) and to consider how their gifts and experience might be used to help meet the world's most pressing spiritual and physical need through Business as Mission."* Since 2004 business as mission has been gaining increasing momentum in Christian business and missionary circles.

It is about breaking down the traditional and artificial barriers between work and our spiritual journey and focuses on how we can transform people and communities. An increasing number of organisations and businesses are exploring

.....
It is about breaking down the traditional and artificial barriers between work and our spiritual journey and focuses on how we can transform people and communities.
.....

how to engage in business as mission to bring about this transformation and in early 2008, The Mission House will be launching an exciting business as mission initiative that will provide you with the opportunity

to get directly involved.

It will be the start of a process to further facilitate Christians in the work-place to take up their God given role of helping to transform the world through the relief of spiritual and material poverty through business as mission.

*(Business as Mission Issue Group, Lausanne Forum 2004).

Experienced in volunteering?

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To inspire others!

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