

MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS



ANNUAL REVIEW 2026

GRACE IN ABUNDANCE



FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL CEO



After more than seven wonderful years, I have retired from Mission Without Borders. It has been a profound privilege to serve and to witness what God's grace in abundance can accomplish when faithful supporters come alongside our wonderful staff to minister among children and families living in poverty.

In 2025, I had the privilege of visiting each of our programme countries, including Ukraine, and witnessed firsthand how, in his grace, God is working powerfully through the Mission.

This past year has been a powerful reminder that consistent, practical support offered in faith changes people's lives. In this Annual Review, you will meet a family once struggling under severe hardship whose daughters are now pursuing further education through scholarships. You will read about three orphaned brothers who, through family sponsorship, have moved from crisis toward stability, with the eldest now running his own car wash business. In Romania and Albania, two young children received vital emotional and practical support – one through consistent care while his parents work abroad, and the other through the joy and confidence gained at summer camp. And in Ukraine, your generosity is ensuring children receive the emotional care they need while families access essential aid despite the ongoing war.

These outcomes are not simply programmes delivered – they are expressions of God's abundant grace at work. Because of the support and prayers of so many, children are staying in school, families are building resilience, and hope is taking root in places where it is needed most. As we offer even the little we have, we witness more and more the God "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20).

As I step into retirement, I do so with deep gratitude and quiet confidence. Under our new CEO, Hans van Baaren, and dedicated teams, the Mission is well placed for the future. I warmly invite you to continue this journey with us, so that together we may see God's grace abound in even more lives in the year ahead.

Stephen Young,
CEO of Mission Without Borders

10,064

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE
COURSE STUDENTS

7,847

BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

7,671

CHILDREN ATTENDED
SUMMER CAMPS

495

CHURCH PARTNERS

116,318

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS
SERVED TO THOSE IN NEED

32,000

OPERATION CHRISTMAS
LOVE BOXES DISTRIBUTED

245

STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

81,785

BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN
LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

Over the course of 2025, Mission Without Borders impacted more than 60,000 people. Through our programmes and projects we have been able to support families, children and vulnerable adults across Eastern Europe practically, spiritually, and emotionally. We carry out this work through local staff, and church partners in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

183

ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED

24,416

STREET MERCY MEALS SERVED
TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

505

STUDENTS WHO
RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS

812

AFTER SCHOOL CHILDREN

172

COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



Ivan uses tools provided by the Mission

SUPPORT THAT BUILDS FUTURES

As the eldest son of a widow, Ivan – now 24 – has been stepping up to help since he was little. He was living with his two brothers and mother in Gotse Delchev, Bulgaria.

As a teenager, Ivan got an after-school job as a labourer to earn some extra cash.

His mother, Kemile, had health complications from diabetes and was unable to work full-time, but she had a part-time job as a cleaner.

When she died suddenly in August 2021, her three sons were left reeling in shock. At the time, Ivan was 21 and his brothers Georgi and Antonio were 14 and 10.

“When my mother left this world, it was as if the world had stopped,” Ivan said. At just 21, he became the guardian of his younger brothers. “Suddenly I went from being a child to being a parent.”

“But our mother taught us to be strong – we had to keep going to make her proud. Her absence is like a void in our hearts, but we know she would’ve wanted to see us fight and overcome our problems,” he added.

GRACE FOR FAMILIES

Those who choose to sponsor a family play a vital role in transforming the future of those living in poverty in Eastern Europe. They connect with families in overlooked communities who long for a better future, becoming a catalyst for lasting change.

Facing challenges like poverty, trauma, and discrimination, families receive tailored, long-term support. Local coordinators build trust through regular visits, offering practical, emotional, and spiritual care in partnership with the church.

As parents grow in confidence and skills, and children thrive through education and mentoring, lives are transformed – bringing hope, stability, and grace in abundance to every family’s story.



163

Families receiving self-sufficiency support in 2025



4

New family community programmes in 2025

And fortunately, Mission Without Borders were there to help them. Ventsislav, the Mission family coordinator, said, "Regular visits and conversations with the boys are vital. I have worked to support the family emotionally, spiritually and educationally."

"I made sure they had everything they needed, including food and other essentials."

A local businessman gave Ivan a job in a car wash. Then in 2024, the Mission offered Ivan a self-sufficiency project.

"There's always demand for car cleaning and polishing services, and a skilled person equipped with good tools has a good business opportunity," Ventsislav said. "The Mission provided the family with the right equipment and supplies for car washing, cleaning, and polishing."

"During the summer holidays, Georgi and Antonio gain valuable experience by assisting their brother Ivan at the car wash. This boosts the family's earnings. This self-sufficiency project not only provides them with financial stability but also gives them a sense of security and hope for the future."

Ivan said, "Now that Georgi and Antonio are older, they have higher expenses for clothes, shoes, school supplies and other necessities. Since we started this car-washing business, our budget has improved significantly. "It was our dream to have our own business. Now, thanks to the Mission, our dream has come true."

Thanks to the kindness of donors, God's abundant grace has turned faith, hard work and a simple car wash into provision, dignity and lasting hope for three brothers.



2,782 Families sponsored in 2025

GRACE IN A BITTER LAND

"I was around 15 when we came to live here, in the middle of nowhere," Kristian, now 36, recalled. He and his family moved to a remote area in Shkodra, Albania, with no roads, infrastructure, or neighbours. "We would break up the rocks to clear the land and make it suitable for housing and cultivation. It was difficult, but it was the only way to improve our lives."

Now married with four children, Kristian and his wife Paqsore struggle daily to cover food, clothes, and bills. "This is a bitter land, but we are trying to sweeten it, and the Mission is helping us to do it," Paqsore said. Through Mission Without Borders' family sponsorship programme, the children receive school support, and the family receives monthly food and hygiene items.

"With God's grace and the Mission's help, we've started smiling and having hope. There's more life in our family than we could have imagined," Paqsore said.





SUPPORT THAT STAYS

IN EVERY SEASON

Nikolas (right) with his nephew

“They bring me sweets when they come back and I like that. But I wish they didn’t have to leave at all.”

Nikolas, eight years old, lives in Brasov, Romania, in a community where daily life is shaped by hardship and need.

While some temporary work exists locally, it’s never enough to provide for families. One common source of income is a nearby blueberry farm, which offers seasonal work at low pay, insufficient to lift families out of poverty.

Faced with constant financial pressure, Nikolas’ parents often have no choice but to leave for months at a time, traveling to Germany to work in agriculture, leaving him in the care of his older brother and sister-in-law.

Nikolas is well cared for and shares a close bond with his young nephews, but nothing can fill the void left by his parents’ absence.

Mission Without Borders works with many children facing this kind of loss, striving to be a steady and reassuring presence in their lives.

“I look just like my dad. I miss him,” Nikolas said.

At school, Nikolas works hard, determined to make his parents proud. His notebooks are neat, his handwriting careful, and his bag always packed, stability made possible through Mission Without Borders’ child sponsorship programme, which provides school supplies and other essentials.

“When my mother is home she helps me with my homework, but now I have to do it by myself,” he said.

After school, he plays football, rides his bike, and dreams of being a footballer like Ronaldo. But at night, the sadness returns.

“I know my parents went abroad to make money, but I wish it didn’t take them so far away,” he said.

Nikolas was enrolled in the sponsorship programme at age five, receiving both practical help and spiritual support through children's Christian events and the Bible Correspondence Course. "I know God is our Creator," he says.

Eduard, the Mission coordinator in the area, understands the toll separation takes. "It's incredibly hard for him even when the parents do come home. Just as he starts to get used to them being at home again, they have to leave again. It must feel like being abandoned over and over again, even though no one means to hurt him. It's a difficult cycle, for the parents, but even more for Nikolas."

Even in Germany, Nikolas' parents earn low wages and struggle to meet their family's needs. Sadly, many children in his community – and across the country – face the same reality.

"One day I will learn to drive, get a car and drive my parents to Germany. That way I won't feel they are gone for so long. I will bring them back myself, so we can be together," Nikolas said.

"What I want most in life," he added, "is for my parents to be home with me."

Through Mission Without Borders, children like Nikolas receive stability, support, and love, allowing them to experience God's grace as enough - even as they face challenging circumstances.

Today, over 130 children in this community benefit from the sponsorship programme, a lifeline that reflects the abundance of God's love and faithful care towards them.



6,714

Children sponsored*



10

New child sponsorship communities*

*2025 figures



GRACE IN ADVERSITY

Denis is 14 and lives in Romania with his parents and little sister. He has multiple diagnoses including developmental delay, muscular hypotony, scoliosis, and autism.

Anisoara, his mother, said, "It feels like every time we visit the doctor, we come back with a new diagnosis. We haven't been given any hope that he could recover from any of it. It's just about him having continuous therapy for as long as he lives."

Raising a child with such complex needs in Romania could easily leave a family feeling overwhelmed and hopeless. Denis enjoys home-based learning, music, and their little family puppy, yet sleepless nights, seizures, and limited space make daily life challenging.

Since joining Mission Without Borders' child sponsorship programme, the family has received material, emotional, and spiritual support. Costi, the Mission coordinator, said, "Knowing that I can support them with their well-being brings me immense joy." Anisoara said, "People make plans but then life happens. We're committed to offering Denis a safe environment and showering him with as much love as possible."

Through the Mission's care, Denis's family are experiencing God's loving grace, sustaining them in the midst of challenges.

LEARNING, HOPE AND A FUTURE



Bernard and Leon enjoying their lessons, helped by one of the volunteers

“Every day, I come home exhausted from working in the fields, and I still have so much to do. I don’t have much education myself, so I couldn’t help my son with his schoolwork. He had a lot of trouble reading and writing.”

For Valbona – like many mothers in Fllaka, Albania – daily life is a constant struggle. She works long hours in agriculture for very little pay while caring for her five children.

But through Mission Without Borders’ after school programme in Fllaka, support arrived at just the right time. Valbona’s eight-year-old son Benard now attends the programme each day, where teacher Dila helps children with homework, reading, and learning.

“Benard loves going to after school because he feels valued and loved by his teacher and classmates,” Valbona said.

“His schoolteacher has noticed a significant improvement. I am incredibly grateful for the difference it has made in his life.”

Fiknete, mother of eight-year-old Leon, once shared similar worries. “I was really concerned about Leon,” she said. “He had no interest in school and I couldn’t help him with his lessons.

When I heard about the after school project I was very happy, but I was afraid he wouldn’t stay.”

Now in his second year, Leon goes eagerly each day. “When he comes home, his eyes shine with happiness,” Fiknete said.

“He’s doing much better in school. For me, as a mother, the after school programme is an enormous help.”

“Dila has seen the change first-hand. “When Benard and Leon first started, they struggled to concentrate,” she said. “Now they are more focused and their academic performance has improved greatly.”

For Arjana, the Mission’s family programme coordinator in Fllaka, the programme began with a clear need.

Many children were struggling with their schoolwork and were at risk of dropping out," she said. "Their parents wanted to help but simply couldn't."

Inspired by Isaiah 58:10, "Spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed," Arjana worked to bring the programme to Filaka.

Today, the after school project is helping children grow in confidence and hope for the future.

"I want to stay in Albania," Leon said. "I want to become a police officer when I grow up – so I can catch thieves!"
His friend Benard quickly added, "Me too!"

In a community facing many challenges, this programme is helping children and families discover that even in difficult circumstances, God's grace can still be found in abundance.



Seven-year-old David lives with his family at the edge of a village in Moldova, where his father works for low wages as a shepherd.

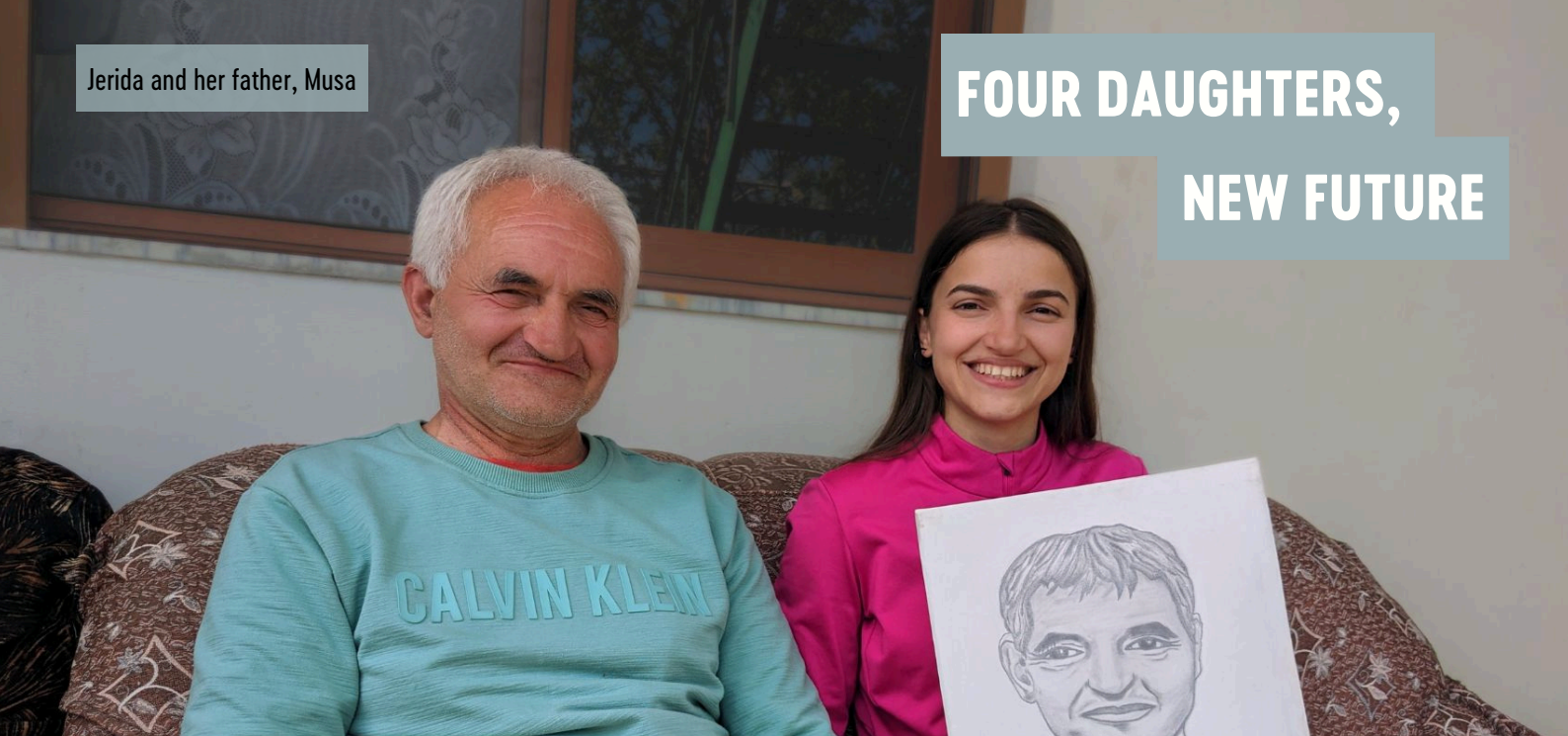
One day, when Alexandru from Mission Without Borders came to visit, he brought a special surprise for David: a bright blue backpack filled with school supplies.

Each year, the Mission provides backpacks and school supplies to children living in poverty, because in Moldova families must provide these items themselves, and for many the cost can feel impossible.

"Hello, little friend!" Alexandru said warmly, holding out the backpack. "This is for you, David. It has everything you need for your school journey."

David stared at it in disbelief. "All these school supplies are for me?" he whispered. As he opened the bag, his eyes widened with excitement. Inside were pencils, notebooks, crayons, and even a small storybook.

Thanks to this simple but life-changing support, David can now go to school fully equipped and confident, beginning his first step toward an education that can help him break free from poverty.



Many years ago, the Mulaku family moved from a remote mountain village in Albania to the outskirts of Durres in search of a better and safer life.

However, Musa, 59, couldn't find work in Durres and later developed hypertension and heart arrhythmia. Shpresa, 50, worked 12 years at a tailoring company, but the harsh conditions damaged her eyesight.

When Mission Without Borders first came across the Mulaku family in 2014, they were struggling to survive under extremely harsh conditions.

"When I realised how much family sponsorship was going to help us, I began to breathe again," Musa said.

"The children were given educational support – computer and English courses, and they were invited to summer camps, special outings, and various gatherings," said Kostandin, the Mission staff member who regularly visited the family.

And now, thanks to our scholarship programme, Jonela, 25, is studying law, Jerida, 23, is doing a Masters in English, and Misiana, 18, has just started her own studies in English. Their youngest sister, Vesa, 16, is studying English and German at high school.

Jerida said, "The free English course offered by the Mission when we were young helped me to get a place at university. Tourism in our country has been developing fast in recent years, and we believe that foreign languages will help us find good, secure jobs."

So many young people are driven abroad to find jobs because of a lack of qualifications and lack of opportunity in Albania. "I don't want my children to go abroad to work and live," Musa said. "My hope is that they stay here and work in their country."

Musa said, "My children can receive an education thanks to you. More than anyone, I know how important education is." Kostandin added, "Four of the girls have benefitted from the Mission's scholarship project, and they have bright futures ahead of them. I can see the gratitude of the parents and daughters in their eyes every time I meet them."

Through the support of Mission Without Borders and its scholarship programme, the Mulaku children have received opportunities that will help them break the cycle of poverty – a powerful reminder of God's grace, giving far more than we could ever hope for.



CARE THAT CHANGES LIVES

Andriy at a children's institution

Behind every programme at Mission Without Borders are dedicated staff who faithfully serve some of the most vulnerable people in their communities.

In Ukraine, children's coordinator Andriy Brazhnyk is one of those staff members, walking alongside children in institutions and helping them experience care, encouragement, and hope.

"I've had the honour of serving in children's homes for many years, watching children grow from their first year to their final year at school," says Andriy.

For Andriy, the work is more than a role – it is a long-term commitment to children whose lives have often been marked by hardship. Many live with disabilities or grow up without stable family support. Almost all of them long for love, guidance, and someone who genuinely believes in their future.

Across five regions of Ukraine, Mission Without Borders partners with children's homes to provide holistic support – spiritual, educational, social, emotional, and practical. Staff like Andriy are the heart of this work.

"Directors often tell us that nobody else offers the kind of support we do,"

Andriy said. "When state support is lacking, we provide essentials such as food, hygiene products, school supplies, clothing, and furniture."

Yet Andriy and his colleagues offer far more than practical help. "Alongside this, we provide emotional and spiritual care," he says. "Children take part in daily prayers, receive support from local church volunteers, join Bible Correspondence Courses, connect with sponsors, and attend camps and special events."

Over time, these relationships bear fruit. "Some young people who grew up in these homes begin attending church, accept Christ, and are baptised in our partner churches," Andriy shares. "One group even joined the Kremenets church after first hearing the gospel through our ministry."

During the ongoing war, the presence of faithful and caring staff has become even more critical. "School staff and children often express deep gratitude," Andriy said. For Andriy, walking alongside these children year after year is a privilege. Through the faithful service of Mission staff and supporters, children facing great challenges are discovering hope, belonging, and God's grace.



THE SUMMER ANITA FOUND JOY

At nine years old, Anita is responsible for taking care of her four-year-old brother every day after school while her mother works.

After her parents separated – due to her father’s violence – Anita had to pick up a lot of the responsibility at home. Caught between childcare, poverty, and family struggles, Anita felt isolated from friends her own age.

One day, Anita was invited to a Mission Without Borders summer camp.

“Her eyes started to shine with the joy she experienced each day,” said Arjana, who works for Mission Without Borders. “She eagerly participated in every game, raised her hand to answer questions during Bible study, and danced and sang with the other children.

“She ran to the sea, laughing and having fun. We saw her emotional and spiritual situation

transform day by day. She started to feel valued and loved by the people around her, something that’s missing from her everyday life.”

Anita said, “I’m happy I came to camp. I had a lot of fun. I loved the sea, the different games, the great food, the Bible stories, and the new friends I made.

“I was thrilled when the camp director called my name on the last day and gave me a certificate of commendation as the best girl at camp. My heart was pounding, and I couldn’t wait to show my mom the certificate. I loved the gifts we received. I want to come again next year.”

A summer camp for children may seem small, but at Mission Without Borders, we see how God takes even our simple efforts to bring joy and multiplies them abundantly. Lives are transformed, hearts are opened to Jesus, and hope is planted that can last a lifetime. Thanks to our generous donors, countless children experience these life-changing blessings.

Kostadin (left)
and his
new friend



DISCOVERING LIFE BEYOND POVERTY

When 11-year-old Kostadin was invited to go on a Mission Without Borders summer camp – where he would enjoy a week of fun in a beautiful setting – he jumped at the chance. Kostadin lives in Dabnitsa, Bulgaria, with his 15-year-old sister Daniela, his mother and his grandmother, all in one room. Here they eat, sleep, and cook.

“Even though I see poverty a lot, I was particularly touched by this family’s situation. To see three generations having to share the same room is not something you see very often in the 21st century,” said Ventsislav, who works for the Mission.

Kostadin has never gone on holiday or travelled before so summer camp was a dream come true. He said, “I couldn’t believe I got to do everything I love for a whole week. The food here is the best I have ever had.

“It feels good to eat and have a full stomach. I never thought I could have so much fun! There were different games every day and I learned a lot of useful things. I saw and felt what it was like to not have a care in the world.

“No one has ever given me so much happiness, joy, and support. This week will stay in my heart forever.”

Ventsislav was glad to see how much Kostadin loved the camp. “Children like Kostadin need more than basic necessities,” he said. “They need new experiences, mentorship and meaningful relationships. For Kostadin, the camp was an experience he will never forget.”

Through our summer camps, children living in poverty are blessed with life-shaping experiences that continue to bear fruit for years to come, thanks to the faithful support of our donors.

FINANCIAL REPORT



65,536



DONORS IN 12 COUNTRIES



\$20.5M Total cash income

\$11.8M Total value of donated goods

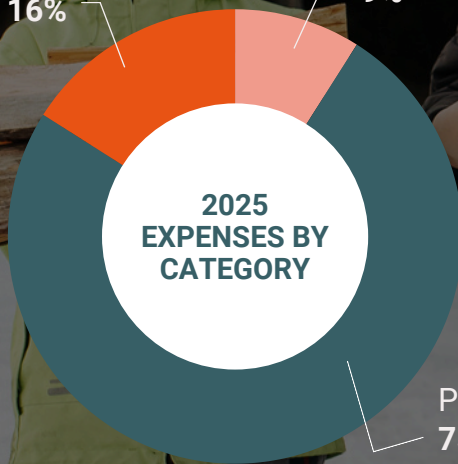
\$32.3M Combined total

88 Staff across 12 fundraising countries

226 Staff across 6 field countries

1,659 Volunteers across the 6 field countries

Fundraising 16% Management/ Governance 9%



Programme 75%

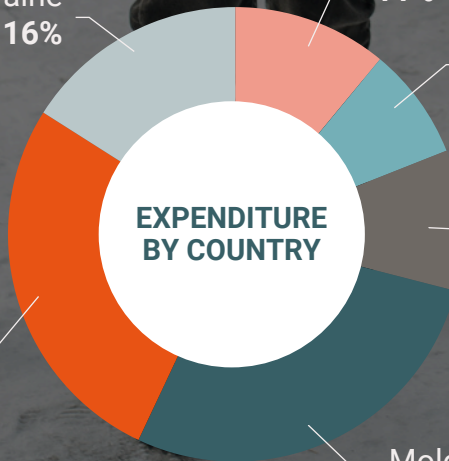
Ukraine 16% Albania 11%

Bosnia and Herzegovina 8%

Bulgaria 10%

Romania 27%

Moldova 28%



Figures are all 2025 unaudited figures - cash and donated goods

MICHAEL THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD



“And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 1:14

Looking back on 2025, it has been a year of abundant grace across the Mission Without Borders family. I trust that you too have experienced His grace as you have responded to His prompting, supporting the ministry and praying for lives to be changed in Eastern Europe. Without your partnership, this work could not have happened. “Thank you” echoes among those whose lives have been transformed across the region.

We are grateful to the Lord for the leadership of Stephen Young as our Chief Executive for over seven years, and we give thanks for his strong leadership, wishing him every blessing in his retirement. We rejoice that the Lord has provided Rev Hans van Baaren to lead us into the next chapter, having joined us at the year end. We warmly welcome Hans. During the year, we also marked the retirement of several long-serving colleagues, to whom we express our sincere gratitude.

Many lives have been changed during the year across the six countries in which we serve. Mothers, fathers, children and elderly people have encountered God’s abundant grace. I had the privilege of meeting pizza makers, car washers, furniture restorers, bakers, tailors and many others who have started micro-businesses, and who are now also worshipping Jesus. I also saw children taking part in holiday clubs, Bible Correspondence Courses, extracurricular classes, and receiving support to grow. Once again, we have witnessed abundant grace in transformed lives.

It is our prayer for you that the grace the Lord gives to each of us will be your portion as, together, we follow His leading into the future. Our heartfelt thanks go to our Saviour, and to you for your faithful encouragement and support.

Thank you.

**Michael Thomas,
Chairman of Mission Without Borders’
International Board**





A BEACON OF HOPE IN DARKNESS

Maksym, displaced person and now Mission volunteer, Ukraine

Across western Ukraine, families face daily challenges – the rising cost of living, scarce resources, and the devastation of ongoing war. Yet even here, God’s grace flows abundantly. Through our family sponsorship programme, Mission Without Borders walks alongside families, providing regular material support, emotional encouragement, and spiritual guidance. This ongoing care helps families not only survive but begin to build a more stable and hopeful future.

In times of extreme hardship, God’s provision becomes even more evident. Winter is brutal, and the ongoing conflict has damaged infrastructure, leaving many without heat, electricity, or water. The Mission provides firewood, food, and essential supplies, helping families survive freezing temperatures. Staff and volunteers deliver aid mostly in Rivne, where the Mission is based, but also to other parts of Ukraine, extending God’s grace far beyond the west.

Children remain central to the Mission’s work. After school clubs offer safe spaces to learn, play, and grow, while summer camps provide joy, encouragement, and spiritual nurture. Coordinators walk alongside each child, showing that even in uncertain times, they are loved, valued, and supported.

Thousands of families have been displaced by the war, losing homes and security. Maksym, a Mission volunteer who fled Lysychansk himself, reflected, “The war has been going on for four years, and people are exhausted, both morally and physically. When I saw the pain and despair of our people, I couldn’t turn away. Our strength as Christians is our unity and our testimony of Christ. This is what helps people to have hope and to find the strength to keep living, even when they’ve lost everything.” Mission staff and volunteers embody this grace, distributing food and hygiene parcels, supporting partner churches, and offering comfort to displaced families starting over in western Ukraine and beyond.

Reflecting on 2025, Mission director in Ukraine, Volodymyr Brychuk, said, “We continue to share the Word of Hope in Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for Ukraine, and especially that Mission Without Borders may remain a beacon of hope for those who have lost theirs.”

Through the generosity of donors and the dedication of staff and volunteers, hundreds of families, children, and elderly people experienced God’s abundant grace last year. Together, we bring warmth, care, and hope, demonstrating that even in the darkest times, lives can be transformed and faith restored.

HOPE AMIDST THE TRAUMA

“Life will never be the same as before the war. Too much has been lost.”

On 3 May 2022, Valentyna’s life changed forever. She lived with her family in a small village in eastern Ukraine, near the Russian border. When the war began, fighting quickly intensified. Shells flew overhead, homes burned, and neighbours were killed. Still, like many families, they stayed, hoping it would soon end.

One afternoon, during a rare moment of quiet, Valentyna sat outside with her husband and godfather, drinking tea.

“We were talking about how strange the silence felt,” she said.

Moments later, everything changed.

“Something made me send the children inside. A few minutes later, there was an explosion.”

Valentyna survived – but her husband and godfather did not.

The next day, she buried her husband. Soon after, volunteers evacuated the family, and just ten days later, their village was occupied. Valentyna fled with her two young sons and extended family across Ukraine. They were eventually settled in a small village in the west, in an abandoned house without water, heating, or basic amenities.

“We had nothing,” she said.

Life remained harsh even after moving into rented accommodation. Today, the family lives in two small apartments on the edge of a city. Though safer, the impact of war is ever-present.

Her eldest son is settling into school, but her youngest, six-year-old Mykola, stopped speaking properly after the attack and now needs ongoing therapy. Other children in the family suffer from nightmares and fear. Even at home, phones are kept on silent.

About a year ago, the family began receiving support from Mission Without Borders. Monthly food parcels, hygiene supplies, and practical help now sustain them, but the care goes beyond material needs.

“We remind them they’re not alone,” said Sergey, a local coordinator.

This consistent presence has become a lifeline. Yet challenges remain: Valentyna is unemployed due to a severe skin condition, and work is scarce for displaced families. Housing is expensive, and government support is limited. Despite everything, the family continues to care for one another.

“We try to surround each other with love,” Valentyna said.

Tatiana, Valentyna’s mother, holds onto a simple hope: that her children and grandchildren will one day live in peace.

Every day, Mission Without Borders meets families like this – people carrying deep loss and trauma. Through patience, compassion, and faithful support, hope begins to grow again. God’s abundant grace is here, even in the midst of war.



Valentyna and Mykola

INTRODUCING OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL CEO: REV. JOHANNES (HANS) VAN BAAREN



Hans brings more than 35 years of experience in global missions and Christian leadership, having served in strategic roles within Operation Mobilization across Europe and the United States.

His journey in ministry began with transformative trips to Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, where he smuggled Bibles into Romania under Ceaușescu's regime and provided aid to local pastors — experiences that deeply shaped his lifelong calling.

Hans combines a pastoral heart with visionary leadership, overseeing more than 1,000 workers across 40 countries in his most recent role as European Director of OM.

With academic backgrounds in both Business Administration and Theology, he offers a rare blend of practical wisdom and spiritual discernment.

Hans is passionate about partnering with and supporting the local church to bring lasting Gospel transformation, a value that deeply resonates with the Mission.

An ordained Southern Baptist minister, Hans and his wife Rosalyn, originally from the UK, have three adult children spread across three continents, and as a family, they represent a wonderful mix of Dutch, British, and American backgrounds.

When he's not serving in ministry, Hans enjoys woodworking, hiking, and birdwatching.

“When Jesus walked the roads of Galilee, no one had to ask Him whether He was meeting needs or preaching truth. He did both — seamlessly, naturally, and powerfully.

“He fed the hungry and proclaimed the Kingdom. He healed the sick and restored souls. He lifted the broken and invited them into a new way of life, a new identity, a new hope. He never separated the physical from the spiritual. He never drew a line between compassion and transformation. And neither do we.”



Children enjoying activities at church

CHURCHES BRINGING HOPE TO TUZLA

Since 2015, Nives Pavic has coordinated family sponsorships in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, caring for 40 families as well as 10 elderly people in the Senior Care programme. But her journey of service began long before, when she arrived in postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998, bringing her theological training to support the Evangelical Church.

Nives said, "I was drawn to Mission Without Borders to meet new families, reach areas untouched, and bring God's love practically. Our church has always been involved in mercy ministries, helping the poor and bringing dignity. The church's vision aligns perfectly with this mission: bringing hope, truth, and love to those in need."

The partnership between Mission Without Borders and local churches is vital. Nives said, "Behind every event I organise, there is so much unseen work. Preparing the hall, cleaning up, planning activities... I can always count on our church volunteers. The cooperation between the Mission and the church is like two wheels that support each other to move forward. Church volunteers prepare events, lead workshops, pray for families, and provide practical support."

In 2023, the Mission expanded its ministry to a new area to serve Roma families, launching an after school programme to help children with homework, provide meals, and support parents.

Jasminka, a volunteer, said, "I am blessed to see how the church and the Mission help families across generations. One girl in our programme is now a mother, and I see how she is breaking the cycle her mother faced, setting an example for others. Seeing how she is as a mother today, it is a testimony to God's faithfulness."

In a region facing unemployment, migration, and poverty, your support helps the Mission and local churches share God's grace in abundance, bringing lasting transformation to families in Tuzla.



Nives (left) with ladies from the church



Mariyan and Emil

GRACE GIVEN, GRACE SHARED

“Life in an orphanage is not easy at all. I was a bit of a handful; I fought with the other children and I was always getting into trouble,” said Mariyan, now 21, who grew up in Bulgarian orphanages.

“Life in the orphanage was difficult because it’s a daily struggle for survival. Everything is the opposite of love, warmth and understanding. There were many fights and there was bullying,” Mariyan said.

At age six, he attended a summer camp run by Mission Without Borders, where staff member Emil and his wife Suzy showed him love and patience he had never known. “As I said, in the orphanage there is everything but love, so for me this feeling was something new and unfamiliar,” he recalled.

Through Bible meetings, prayer, and encouragement, Mariyan accepted Jesus as his Saviour. “He changed my life, my heart, He gave me a family and a hope for the future,” he said. Today, Mariyan volunteers with the Mission, sharing his faith and inspiring other children.

“What I like about volunteering for the Mission is the opportunity to help other people and see their lives change for the better.

“When I was a child, the people at the Mission helped me to find hope and meaning in life. Now, as a volunteer, I can return that kindness and be part of their journey to a better future.”

WWW.MWB.ORG