

# FOCUS NEWS



MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS | JULY 2011



Miglana at the hospital with F2F Coordinator Emil Metodiev

## Lifting Burdens: **Medical intervention brings hope**

For poor families in Eastern Europe, life is difficult enough. But add the burden of health issues, and the outlook can seem completely hopeless for some. Mission Without Borders works to facilitate health care for those we are helping, wherever we can. Here is an example where help came through Family to Family (F2F) sponsors to one poor family in Bulgaria.

Our F2F programme has been running for just over one year in the Krupnik community in Bulgaria. One of the 20 families we are helping came to our attention. Yosif and Miglena have three children aged 8, 3 and 1. They live in an unfinished two-roomed house which they themselves started to build after borrowing some money from the bank to buy the land. Yosif became unemployed two years ago and has not been able to find proper work since. They ran out of money. They do not have water, electricity or sewage facilities, which is common with most of the families we help.

*“Hope broke through during our darkest time.”*

Life for them has often meant living from one meal to the next. They receive welfare benefits, but how anyone can survive on \$100 (NZ) per month is beyond belief. Their eldest, daughter Anka, has special needs and suffers from asthma.

Imagine the bombshell that hit them a year ago when Miglena was diagnosed with diabetes and became insulin dependent. For some time, because they did not have medical insurance, Miglena tried to persevere, but the fainting spells increased and she was taken to hospital several times.



The family in front of their unfinished home

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- ▶ Their situation came to the attention of the Mission through our F2F coordinator. In this case, the family's sponsors stepped in and paid the required 36 months arrears of health insurance required by the government to become eligible for fully subsidised medical care. Miglena is now receiving her required insulin and testing equipment.

She told us, how it was for her, when help came: *"Hope broke through during our darkest time. The Mission Without Borders coordinator came to us and offered to enrol us in the F2F programme. Then came the news there were people who would support us with the insurance payments. You can't imagine what this meant to me and my husband. I no longer had to live with the fear and tension that any second, my health could suddenly deteriorate and I might not be lucky enough to survive the next time.*

*"Our sponsors changed our lives. Since our enrolment, we've been assured that there is someone we can trust during this difficult period. We have been calmer and happier. Your practical gifts and emotional support have made a tremendous difference in our circumstances. When all our hope was gone that things could ever change for the better, you brought us joy. I now have health insurance and I am eligible to receive insulin treatment for free. Thanks to you, we can again dream of improving our living conditions and a healthy and happy future for our children. Thank you for being by our side and supporting us during our time of need. May God bless you and grant you joy and happiness in return for the blessing you have been to us."*

So in this case, the Mission's help to the family came through their sponsors. In many cases, it is the Mission itself which provides emergency medical help in the form of "urgent needs" support. Mission also supplies vitamins, hygiene products (including soap, washing products and toothpaste) and other vital supplies to help families, as part of its regular deliveries of parcels to the enrolled families.♦



*The family appreciates the material aid provided to them, as well as the Christmas gifts they received;*

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## SUPPORTER TOUR NEWS

In late September 2011 (early autumn), Andrew Wilks will be taking a group of seven from all over NZ to see the Mission's work in Ukraine and Moldova and to visit sponsored children and families. The main part of the tour will be two weeks long. We hope to bring great stories back from the trip.

## Summer Camp



We thank all those who have contributed to help with Summer camps this year. Camps started in June and continue through to August across our six field countries. If you had intended to contribute to this effective and life-changing part of our work, and haven't already, there is still time. Please just indicate on the coupon that is with this newsletter. More news about camps will follow in a later Focus News.

## Radio Adverts

If you listen to Radio Rhema, you will hear us asking for people to take on child and family sponsorship in July-August. This is a growing part of what we do. It is a way for New Zealanders to become involved in a vital part of our work in Eastern Europe.

Please encourage family, friends and groups to become sponsors (\$40 a month). For more information, please call us 0800 469 269.



## MISSIONWITHOUTBORDERS (NZ)

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