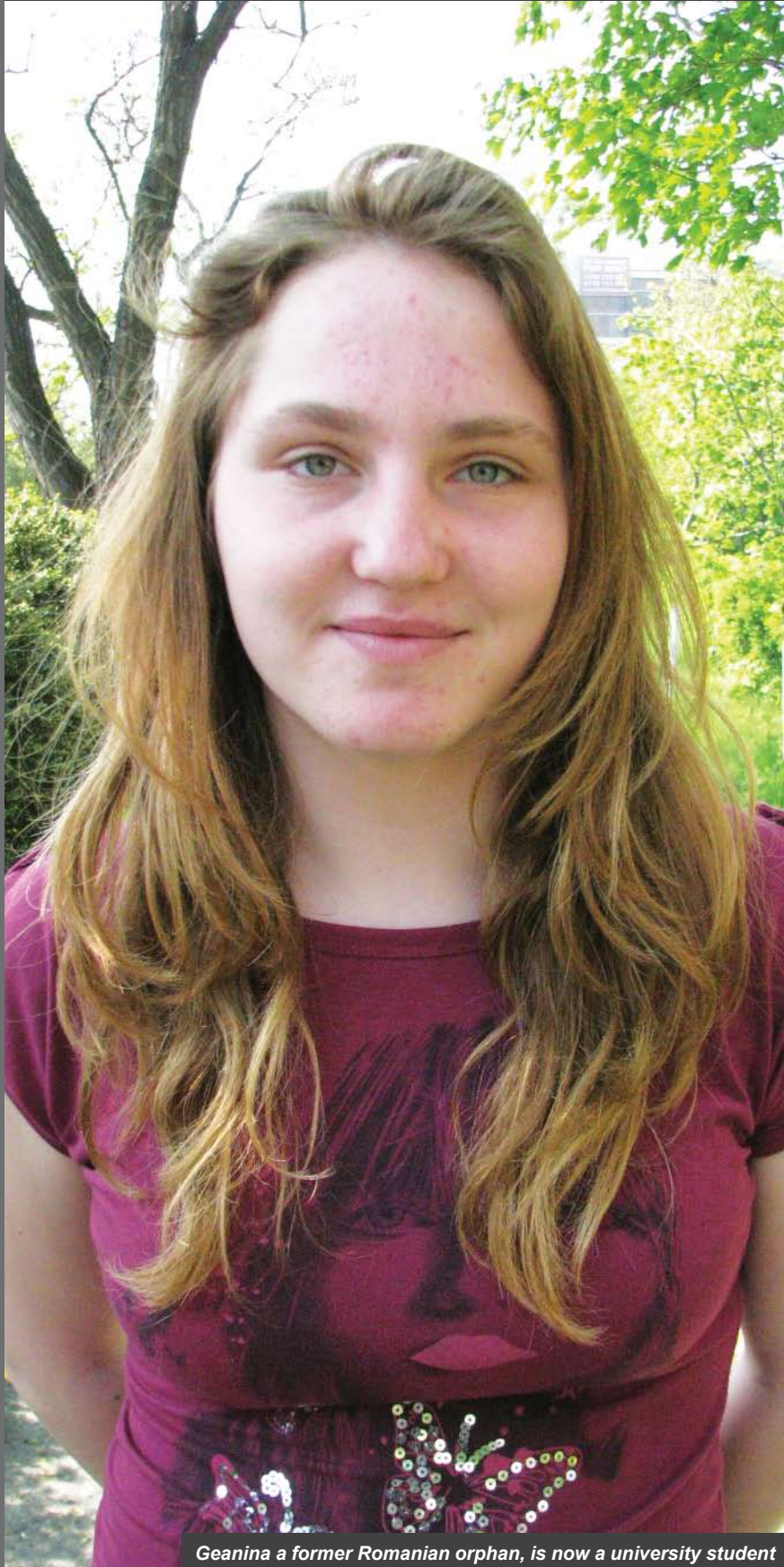


in FOCUS

February 2012



Geanina a former Romanian orphan, is now a university student

Mission Without Borders has been working in State orphanages in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine since the fall of Soviet Communism in the early 1990s. Many of these children are “economic orphans” – put into State care by their parents who do not have the resources to care for them properly. Despite the negative aspects of institutional upbringings, through the Mission’s work, and with the help of local church volunteers, many children find faith and have life-transforming experiences that give them hope for the future. One such young person is Geanina, now living in Iași, north-east Romania. Here is her story.

No longer forsaken

Geanina and her brother Mircea grew up in orphanages. Her mother was a physics teacher and her father a university graduate. Her parents didn’t marry, and soon after her birth, they separated.

Geanina’s mother had no choice but to put them in a Placement Centre (orphanage), as their father was unwilling to contribute to their upkeep. Geanina was only five years old.

Once, her mother took Geanina and her brother home for the weekend without permission. After a few days of being

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latest news



Two of the Vasiu children (Romania) enjoying some "Winter Rescue" knitting that arrived with their family's Christmas Love parcels (thanks to Operation Cover Up NZ)

WARMTH FOR THE WINTER

We have had generous support for our Operation Winter Rescue project that takes warm clothing, blankets, food and firewood to those struggling in the cruel cold of an East European winter.

Thank you very much for supporting this project. More distributions will be made during the northern winter. Gifts of practical help give the recipients a sorely-needed "lift" during these cold, dark months.

ANNUAL DONATIONS SUMMARIES



You can claim from Inland Revenue a refund of 33 cents in the dollar against tax for donations that you have paid in the same year. Annual donations summaries are sent out in April of each year for this purpose. If you would like us to send you an annual donations summary (of all gifts that qualify for a tax rebate) for the tax year ending 31 March, and you think that you are not on our list already, please give us a call or drop us a line (or email).

If you would like to "re-invest" your refund in our work, you can nominate our account Mission Without Borders when you fill out the IR526 form. Please let us know if you do this so that we can record your further donation and personally thank you.

CAN YOU HELP?

We need to encourage new supporters to join our ranks. One way is to have copies of our publications available to others. For example, would you be willing to put some extra copies of our publication on your church's Missions table or notice board, if they don't already do that? We just need folk to help put them out and change old publications for new ones. If you can help us, please let us know by calling the office. Thank you!



Elderly Mr and Mrs Vintean— moved to tears by their timely parcel (Romania)

CHRISTMAS LOVE PARCELS TOUCH LIVES

Thank you to all those who have given so generously to support the Christmas Love project. We were able to distribute the parcels as planned, and many lives have been touched by this practical demonstration of love during the Christmas season.

CHANGE OF NAME

For 2012, we have changed the name of our "Focus News" publication to "InFocus". Keep an eye out for other changes to our regular mail during the year.

We will also be announcing new projects during the year. Our Overcomers 2012 magazine will be published and distributed from April onwards.



Geanina's baptism

► continued from page 1

hungry and begging out on the streets, the children were found by staff of the home, who knew that they were missing. They were in a really bad state. In order to make sure that this wouldn't happen again, the director decided to transfer the children to another Placement Centre the very next day. Geanina continues her story:

"I spent a big part of my childhood at the second Placement Centre. I had a great time here, because this was the place where I started to enjoy my studies and socialise more. While I was at this placement centre, Mr Nicu Condurache, Mission Without Border's coordinator in this area, invited me attend the Summer Camp that Mission Without Borders organised that year (2001). It was the first Christian camp I had participated in and it was totally different from the ones I had been to before. The people there showed the children only dedication and love and taught the children lots of Christian songs and stories. I didn't miss any of the next three camps. Then, my mother tried to stop me going by taking my brother and me to her home during the summer holidays. She treated us badly, beating us and making us beg on the streets. We didn't want to go to see her anymore.

This Placement Centre closed down and we were moved to yet another. At this new centre, I was able to go to the Summer Camp organised by Mission Without Borders Romania the following year. This

"If I hadn't been put in an orphanage, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to hear the Good News."

made me really happy! The leader of my group was a great lady and she taught me many wonderful things. She listened to all my problems and offered advice. God worked in my heart and I learnt more about Jesus, and suddenly everything looked different; the sky was bluer, the grass was greener and people seemed nicer.

My peers began to ask me what had happened to make me look so different. Of course, my negativity concerning Christians changed as they now became the people who were helping me overcome my fears and taught me about God and His Son who came into the world to save us. I am now God's child and I am happy to say it!

The teachers at this new placement centre knew that I was a Christian straightaway. I had other friends who were moved there too, and they were also Christians. The teachers would see us reading the Bible together and singing Christian songs – and they liked it!

After the holidays, I decided to start on the catechism course at the church because I wanted to get baptised. At first, I thought my mother would be happy for me, but then I realised she wasn't. Once, she came to the church where I was taking part in a course and everyone could see how much trouble I could get into just for going to church. After that, I thanked God for being able to grow up in orphanages. I know this might sound weird, but I am very sure that if I

hadn't been put in an orphanage, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to hear the Good News, as my mother would never have allowed it. As they say, everything happens for a reason. Even though I grew up without my mother's love and affection, which every child so badly needs, my Father in Heaven was a father and a mother to me.

When the time came for me to be baptised. I was very nervous, but happy, especially as I had all my friends with me. My big surprise came when

“Even though I grew up without my mother's love and affection... my Father in Heaven was a father and a mother to me.”

my mother turned up at the church that day. Although she was not really happy that I was getting baptised, I was happy that she came.

I am aware that only God gives me the strength not to think

negatively about my mum and why she abandoned me and my brother, but instead to pray for her so that she will come to know Christ one day.

I learnt that my father married again and that they have two children together. He is a paediatric doctor at a hospital in Iași, but he refuses to be in contact with my brother and me. We will continue to pray for him, too.

In conclusion, all I can say is that without Mission Without Border's coordinator and the dedicated people working for the Mission, my life wouldn't have been the same. Thanks to them, God is part of my life now and I would not like to do anything without Him. He is the one who gives me the strength to go on and He always takes good care of me. I am His daughter and He will never abandon me!" ♦



Geanina's mother and brother came to her baptism service



Friends and supporters at her church in Iași

DIRECT CREDIT PAYMENTS

06-0185-0122206-12

If you would like us to issue a receipt for tax rebate purposes, please include your name, supporter number (if you have one) and a reference code:

CRI: Child sponsorships **F2F:** Family sponsorships

Appeal: A donation to the current month's appeal

SP: Special project

For **Bibles**, please use account 06-0185-0122206-25

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