

SPREADING CHRIST'S ABUNDANT LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

As Agneta and I decorate our home with festive lights for the holidays and make plans for family gatherings, I am reminded that Christmas is an extraordinary time of year, especially for Christians.

It is a time when we prepare our hearts in thankfulness for God's greatest gift to mankind – Jesus, the Savior of the world.

It is also a time to generously give to those who are less fortunate.



Mitko

The son of a street sweeper in Bulgaria, Mitko knows what it means to be grateful for the little things in life.

Often dressed in dirty, raggedy clothes, Mitko never expects too much from his parents. Together, they live in one room of an abandoned building in the Roma (Gypsy) ghetto. Cooking hot food is difficult. There is no running water at home. Taking a bath or washing clothes remains a luxury.

Last Christmas was a very special day for Mitko. He had been prepared to not celebrate the holiday or receive any gifts like other kids receive. Christmas would be just a regular day as it always was before. His young boy's heart was simply hoping that he would at least have enough food to eat!

But God had a surprise waiting for Mitko.

At our annual Christmas program, Mitko received a gift bag. Outside the bag hung a gift tag personally signed by someone he didn't know. The card read, "Jesus loves you. He has not forgotten you!"

Tears welled in Mitko's eyes. How did the stranger know his hurts and pains? Then he peeked into the gift bag. The excitement on Mitko's face was priceless! Later that evening as we finished distributing all the gifts to the children, he shared with us,

"I can't believe Jesus loves me that much!"

That gift Mitko received came from you, our DOHI family. It was the only present he had ever received for Christmas.

Looking back at my own childhood, I know the joy and overwhelming feeling of love Mitko felt. I remember growing up in communist Bulgaria and being hungry at Christmas after my father was arrested. I remember too my first gift from someone far away and the beautiful words written on a card that said, "Dear Paul, Jesus loves you."

One thing stands out clearly to me: God always used Godly people to provide food, warm clothing, toys and even a home for us. **He loved us that much!**

Today, **the words of Apostle Paul, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."** continue to ring true. I find great joy in giving. And that's why I continue to make Christmas a special time for hurting children.

As we prepare to share the story of Jesus with gifts for children suffering the traumas of war, persecution, and extreme poverty, I pray, you too will share with me the immense joy of giving.

Will you make this Christmas a little bit merrier and brighter for a child who has nothing, no delicious meal, and no presents? I want the faces of children like Mitko to light up knowing that they are loved and special in the eyes of God.

Hurting children need to know that Jesus loves them. Will you tell them?

With your help, each child will receive a special Christmas gift signed with a gift tag from you! Each family will receive a food package with extra treats to make Christmas a special time to remember Christ's birth.

As we prepare to reach these children, please be as generous as you can:

- \$30 ensures that one child receives a toy and warm clothing for the winter.
- \$50 will provide one child's family with special food for the Christmas holidays.

May your heart be filled like mine with the joy of giving!

Merry Christmas from my family to yours!

Paul, Agneta, Stefan, Christopher, Christina, and all of our DOHI staff

P.S. Many of these children will hear the Christmas story and receive a gift for the first time ever! I believe there is no greater day than Christmas to show a child that Jesus loves them.



YES PAUL, I want to plant seeds of HOPE in the lives of hurting children and their families this Christmas.

- Please use my gift where most needed.*
 - Here is my gift so that every child attending DOHI's Christmas programs can experience JOY this year.*
 - \$30 will gift one child a toy and warm winter clothing*
 - \$50 will provide each child and family with a Christmas food parcel*
- \$30 \$50 \$300 \$500 Other _____



*Yes! I want to make a contribution to
Door of Hope International to help those in need around the world.*

www.dohi.org/donate/



info@dohi.org • www.dohi.org

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Account Type *Visa* *Mastercard* *AMEX*

Cardholder Name _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date (MMYY) _____ *CVV Code* _____

Signature _____ *Date* _____

