



A Hope in the Dark

Newsletter

Maj-Lis Philanthropic Foundation

August - September 2014

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All help reaches its destination.
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- Page 2 ... like a love story, but without effect
... putting out his arms saying: I'm alive and I am strong

A large white silhouette of a hand with fingers spread, positioned behind the central text.

Your
help
is
for many
decisive



At camp we learn a bit of everything.

Dear friends,

Portugal August 2014

If you do not know another person's language, you can easily remain strangers, but it is not as difficult to understand God's language as you might think. Have you read the Bible? More pitiful are those who do not want to read the Bible, than those who cannot, those who are illiterate. You cannot inherit somebody else's faith, so better you investigate on your own.

Moses's successors *heard* God say and we can *read it* in Joshua 1:8: Remind the people in the same way as you yourself must remember both day and night my laws so that you really obey them! Only in that way will you succeed. And the psalmist *wrote* : When your commandments are opened, they give light and understanding. Psalm 119:30. Findings (at Kis and Ur) from 5000 BC show that the written language existed before the Flood and give credibility to the historiography already reproduced in the Genesis.

And what does God say? Here are some excerpts from the Old Testament in Hosea's book, which is **a love story** with God's people, Israel, in which he offers reconciliation. There is no truth or fidelity, no mercy and no knowledge of God in your country. You swear and lie and are unfaithful in your marriages.... Hosea 4:1-6 ... plenty of liars, thieves and bandits ... drink until they are drunk ...Hosea 7:1-7 **none among them calls to me for help**, v.16, they look around in all directions except towards heaven, to the Almighty. The only friends she gets are those who can be bought for money. H 8:8 I remember so well ...your love, it was so genuine and pure! Shortly after you lived in the same impurity as the others. Hos 9:10. **God's love overflows, but without effect.**

But God's love is eternal, and it is written: Plough up your hard hearts! ... it is time to seek the Lord. H 10:12. God opens his arms and says that it hurts him to have to speak so harshly. I'm alive and I am strong, he says, and the wise listen to these words and choose, but the rebellious stumble and fall; ends the book of Hosea.



101, A Psalm for David;
v.2 I will try to walk a flawless
path, but how I need your help,
especially in my own home,
to be as you want me to be.



News from Portugal

Faith and hope ... in abundance and need

Education alone is not enough. We must see a meaning in our life.

Yesterday, two of our voluntary workers were 45 minutes late.

“The train has stopped because of an accident” they texted. When they arrived they told us that a woman had been picked up. Life was not worth living...

Others join protest marches in the streets...

We believe that everybody needs something meaningful to live for. You, who makes it possible for us to help people wherever they are in life's journey, are a part of our work.

Some have illnesses caused by the poor food they eat and they need both food and help. Others, who have got everything, numb themselves with drugs and need to be freed. Others need both clothes and maybe teeth before they dare go to a job interview. And innocent little children need to learn how to experience life differently to those adults around them. Your gift makes it possible for us to reach out a helping hand. Faith and hope help people and the community to manage both abundance and shortage.



Thankful for teeth



The food is wonderful at camp



Some of the helpers

All help reaches its destination

We are very grateful for having been able to participate in the work of the Foundation. In May, it was 35 years since we, Gunnel and Roland Sjöholm, came to Portugal with the Bankeryd brass band.

After that trip, when we became aware of the enormous need, we sent our first “banana box” with clothes, by mail from Jönköping. Since that day, several tons have gone to the needy in Portugal. Our whole family has been involved, our children Anneli and Magnus and other relatives and friends. We were with you from the start of the Foundation and Roland was able to participate until his last day of life.

Clothes collections have been made from several places. Many people have been involved who saw there were no intermediaries and that – **all help reached its destination** – and so *we also organised lotteries, flea markets and other events* in order to help raise money.

Wishing you continued blessings!

Gunnel Sjöholm and family

Camps

Children and youngsters still appear who for various reasons have never had the opportunity to go to school. If nobody can read, maybe they just do not think about schools. Portugal has the least educated in the whole of Europe. One in four leaves school before the statutory school leaving age, according to statistics, 10.04.2013. Those children who have the opportunity to come to camp learn the value of education and become enthusiastic to learn and less easily give up even with no support from anyone around them.



- Camps require a lot of preparation. Best results, although more costly, come when staying over a period of time in a real camp situation. Otherwise* we organise “camps” in the middle of the slums, for a few days, where adults can also get involved. Another way is to travel to isolated areas and work a whole day every week over a long period. Whichever method we choose depends on which partner we collaborate with and what we receive in donations. We are a network of different partners. Some pay for the camp, others organise them, some donate clothes / food and others provide follow-up care. The Foundation is comparatively cost effective; **much is done with little.**
- We are thankful that you understand the value of the Foundation and help us.

*Marvila is a new name for the area, Chelas, where there will be a camp also this year. This part of Lisbon had a bad reputation but now it is called Marvila (maravila is something that causes admiration).



Hoping you saw the video:
This became my life

www.maj-lis.org



My grandchildren and the family's
at the 200 year celebration.



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