

News from Portugal

We look forward to more initiatives like the food collection from the English School, where Victoria Pendlebury coordinated so the teachers Jan Abery and Tessa Bryant helped the pupils to collect food.



The Maj-Lis Foundation must be flexible, as everything in the world is changing so fast. We provide help and support in a Christian regime. Some of the urgent help we give today goes through other organisations that we help to support and fill up their supply of, for instance, toilet articles, towels, clothing and blankets. We also help the Homes to which we are passing the necessitous. They also get from everything we can share with them.

Being a small Foundation we depend entirely on volunteers for the **services**, and on people giving of their **economic resources** for the running of the Foundation. As soon as a project is carried out and somebody we have helped can stand on his own feet, the next project is already under way.

You can also participate.

Give a gift to the Maj-Lis Foundation!

The Foundation thanks for the gifts received. The gifts are used to help more people.

Foundations Gift Account:

IBAN: SE1395000099602609004995

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If you send an email to maj-lis@johansson.com we can make sure you keep receiving the Newsletter about how the Foundations work proceeds, thanks to your help.

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Translation: Inga Gullander

A Hope in the Dark



A Newsletter From

Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal

March - May 2010



Poverty rife in Portugal

I would never have imagined that common people in Portugal who seemed to have whatever they needed, now all of a sudden would tell that they cry themselves to sleep and that they don't have anything more to sell from their homes. Many, who lost their work after the financial crisis stroke Portugal, now apply to the social services for help, hoping to get food for the day. It was difficult to imagine that Portugal would change so for the worse. Media mention however that already two million people today are considered poor.

Dear friends, Carcavelos February 2010

Over and over again our feelings are thoroughly shaken. The attention of the whole universe was recently drawn to Haiti that needed immediate help. A number of organisations entered quickly into action to save lives. Even those who do not normally act in catastrophes were this time ready to change their aims. - Yes, here is really a matter of saving lives, they all seemed to think. To save lives, yes. It became an important goal, to see to the well being of the body. But also the soul and spirit are important.

After the earthquake on the major television stations showed programs with mutilated persons, stretching their arms towards the sky, praying. In distress, one's assault's God, not caring what others might think. One simply turns towards God. Some might be believers, for others this could have been like a last straw. "In your strength I can", writes King David about God, in Psalm 18:29. In your strength I can ... even in the middle of crisis, when my dreams ruins, when what is dear to me is taken away, even though only life itself remains. "In your strength I can."

God offers his help. Just like he did, when he said to Isaiah: "The Lord of Hosts says it -, I am the First and the last; there is no other God." "Who else can tell you what is going to happen in the days ahead?" God announces the end before it comes. Hundreds of predictions have already come true. The prophecies of the Bible are history before they happen. Therefore we can believe God. Isaiah 44:6-7.

When we die, we doe's not get anything with us. "Store your treasures in heaven..." Jesus advises. He himself without sin, he said: "Love your enemies! Come to terms with them! 'Don't even swear. Say just a simple; 'Yes, I will' or: 'No, I won't. 'Don't meet violence with violence!'" And finally a proverb: A good man's mind is filled with honest thoughts. Matt. 6:20, 44, and 5:36-37, 39,



Maj-Lis Johansson
Av. Anibal F da Silva 319, R/C
P-2775-692 CARCAVELOS, Portugal

Tel +351 214 560 147
Fax 0014127743763
Maj-Lis@Johansson.com

The last days of the year we arranged a Christmas party for about forty helpers and others involved.



The need outside our door

All problems seem small when we remember the catastrophe of Haiti, but unfortunately nor we are free from misery. An article in "The Portugal News" from Dec. 2009 speaks about poverty strikes 18% of its population, equivalent to around 2 million people, but that number could more than double if the State aids were cut, according to Henrique Pinto, Executive Director of CAIS, a social care association.

Speaking before the "March Against Poverty", Pinto revealed that if Government did not help struggling families, the number could reach up to 41 percent, almost half the population, as a result of the actual crisis, now getting bigger through the declining world economy. He believes there is a "lack of political willingness" to resolve the problem of poverty. He also admits that the social exclusion is due to most of the population's indifference to the matter, which gives continuation to the cycle of families living in poverty for generations.

The newspaper N.A. published in Dec. 2009 a study by Nuno Alves from the Bank of Portugal; "The more educated a person is, the smaller the risk that he will become poor." Too little studies, or none, are "a factor that can explain the poverty of the country." The banker says that a fourth of the population are workers judged as needed due to poor knowledge. (Statistics show that hundreds of thousands of Portuguese cannot read, in a country belonging to the EU.)

Address to Foundation:

Gunnel & Roland Sjöholm
Andréevägen 33
S-554 66 Jönköping, Sweden

Tel +46 36 - 14 03 60
gunnelochroland@glocalnet.net