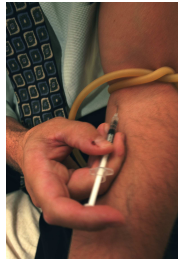


### Curing drug abuse / SvD February 24th

An issue that always upsets us is that people always must “stun” themselves in order to be able to live. They drink for so long and in such quantity that they can hardly get themselves home. They mix powders and take pills and need more and more ...



#### Do we choose not to see and look in a different direction?

When “high”, you do as everybody else and all of a sudden, you are there, addicted, dependent on something that you in the beginning did not mean.

Portugal no longer punishes someone caught with drugs in their pocket, and as the news paper wrote on February 24<sup>th</sup> this year, it is not possible to arrest a seller, as the “dose” is not determined. The user gets, free of charge, a medicine that calms the urge ... in other words, another vicious circle is created, difficult to overcome. The title of the article in the newspaper was, “Drug addiction is cured with medical care”.

We, all the others, must care, and we do. We support the daily work of the ACRA, by motivating the users to seek help, as Erik Edin said: “Trade the bottle for Jesus”.

Join us in helping to liberate “free” prisoners. So let us not get tired of doing the good. Gal. 6:9. Our voices must not become silent. Let us speak out our minds and dare.

### 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

BIC/SWIFT: NDEASESS

Bankadress: Nordeabank Sweden, SE 105 73 Stockholm

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

# A Hope in the Dark



A Newsletter From

**Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal**

May - Juli 2010



*Maria da Luz and Carlos*

## Summer camp

Today I met Maria da Luz. She recognizes me and comes straight up to me and kisses me. After looking a little more at her, I think I recognize her. In my mind's eye, I see her mother Maria de Pires. The Angolan refugee, who was so energetic and used to stop me when I walked on the muddy streets between the ramshackle houses, pleading for her children to be sent to summer camp.

- Me and my siblings had such a happy childhood, says Maria with eyes radiant with joy. We always got summer camp.

- So, you remember the summers then?

- Oh, yes! We could come along too to Foz do Arelho and Campo Bíblico. When the slums were removed from Carcavelos, we were not allowed to stay either. Now I am married and have three children, tells Maria, while her three-year-old keeps jumping around trying to hit the balloon he got at the Medical Centre.

- Do the rest of your family also live somewhere in Sintra?

Dear friends,  
I had planned to write a more personal letter, last year, when God and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, but as my husband then had recently been called home, I did not want to focus on anything else. **But now I must tell.**

August 22<sup>nd</sup> is for me a greater day than April 25<sup>th</sup>. My birthday with God is greater than the day I was born in Frösön. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> I made my decision to believe in God and stand up for it. I was prepared to do anything - for God and for his cause.

That decision has formed the rest of my life and given so very much! Even now, at over 70, God gives me every day zest for life. During my teen years for a while I felt embarrassed when we went to church, but now I can say, after fifty years with God, I feel absolutely no embarrassment, but I realize the incredible privilege of having grown up in a believing family, and learnt to naturally share life with God and being able to pray, both late and early and in all different situations of life.

I believe in God and I believe in Jesus. I was 19 when I made my decision and said "yes" to God. To be converted is totally revolutionary. My interests and my world were turned from everything around me, to be able to see with God's eyes. All over the world I have seen how people become "turned right". It has been, and is, an amazing trip. In many countries, we are free to raise high our banner. Some people are believers in their heart, but do not exhibit their "secret". To show fully our position, makes the whole difference. It means really that the ego yields, when God makes his DNA-implant in us.

Celebrating 51 years with God is not inferior to celebrating 70 years! The decision was for life. And for that He gives a whole eternity!  
*He laid in my mouth a new song ... Ps 40:4*



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## Summer camp

cont. from the front page

- No, they live in other places allocated to us. The cheapest was to live as far as possible outside the town, so we decided on that. But when our family meets, we sing the songs we learnt in the summers.
- But that was long ago!
- I remember I was twelve when we went to Caldas da Rainha.
- Do you remember Soraya? She lives in the other direction. I don't have her telephone number with me, but if Madame, sorry I do not know any other name for you, wants to see her too, I can call and give Madame the number. She also has three children.
- But how is it that you can remember things we did at the camps?
- I remember everything! I got such a happy childhood!

Today, thanks to new gifts from you givers, the Foundation continues to support summer camps, we continue to receive confirmation that these have made a great difference in many lives.

## The Board

The Board are involved persons, who freely give of their time. We particularly want to mention Roland Sjöholm, who was part of the Board since the beginning of the Foundation in 1988 and was engaged in the mission in Portugal years before.



### The Board thanked Roland

**Sjöholm** during the annual meeting in March 2010, when for health reasons he gave up the chairmanship he had held for 10 years, and for all the initiatives and the work he did together with his wife Gunnel. Just ten days later, the Lord called his servant home. He held his post until his death.

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