



Fortunate children had the chance to wonderful days in a camp.

Some of the current aid seekers:

- Emigrant deceived of both job and house
- A whole family homeless after a heavy incendiary
- Single mother disappeared and left her children behind
- Home for poor elderly needs a protective shelter gate
- Disabled needs a special chair for her shower
- A girl of 20 with one of her legs amputated after cancer, needs a sponsor to be able to study

**News-item from the Board:**

It was gratifying that quite a few have responded to the appeal of the Board for a gift to Maj-Lis 70, in appreciation of her work. These gifts go, like any other gifts, directly to the account of the Foundation to be used in its activities.

**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.

Layout: Samuel Johansson and photo: Hari Atamasov  
Illustration and photo: Inga Gullander

# A Hope in the Dark



A Newsletter From  
**Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal**

September - November 2009



Participants in a summer camp look out for their photo, a memory from the fine camp...

## Summer camp for children

This time they were not the children of wealthy people, but children from humble homes, where they had never seen a picture on the wall. The Christian artists Penka and Hari, arranged a camp for children from very poor homes. Thus the children got an exchange of milieu and had a trial at painting and got to see there exists more than the colourless slum. In other words, they saw something new, that they themselves can be a part of and create.

*More photos on the last page*

August 2009

Dear friends,

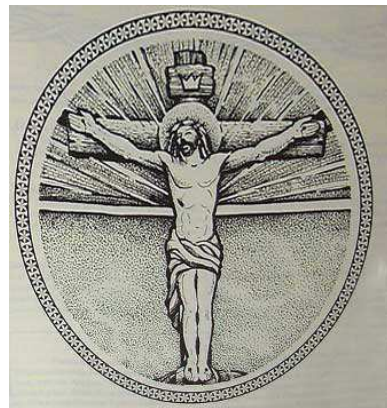
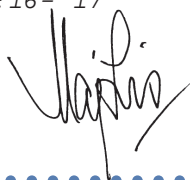
Nowadays it's popular to discover in second-hand. In the past it was somewhat condescending working with clothes. Here, where we work, a great part lives below the bare necessities of life and are very much helped by receiving a few nice clothing's, so they get courage to present themselves when applying for job or be spared from bullying when going to school.

**The gap between well-to-do and destitute is increasing** and sometimes the one with small means has to hide his social situation to get his chance in life. How does he not feel the day he must show his identity and be evaluated by others, exactly the way he is. He might be illiterate and homeless and disease carrier and without a residence permit.

Our country belongs to the rich and therefore we have second-hand shops, because people have almost too much of everything. Here, where we ministry, we don't just slightly feed the hungry and provide the poor with the necessary means in an urgent situation, but we bring about contacts and give the individe faith that with the help of God he can change his situation for the better. A short-term help can become a link in a long-range improvement.

In God's , the Eternal's eyes , the social category to which we belong to, is not the factor that enables or bars us from God's plan, but what is expected of us is simply that we accept God's Son. I quote Jesus' word, written with the old words;

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3:16- 17*



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- *Can God see everything?  
wonders the child.*

- *Yes, he gets as answer;  
God is so careful that he  
can't stop watching us.*

## Constituents in the same country

Today I take the writing pad and sit down on a park bench.

"I find it horrible that people are so lazy and do not want to work and make an effort. They just expect the Government to pay for them. I was in Southern Europe on my holiday," continues the lady that just bank herself beside me, and "there it was just the same", she sighs.

Even though Portugal and Bulgaria and Sweden are constituents in the same union now, there is an enormous difference in the daily life. If you cannot read nor write you own name, it's difficult to defend yourself.

In our country there are laws and rules that give protection in most cases – but probably it will take years before we get same conditions in the whole Union, just as it took generations from the popular movements put into practise God's laws about helping it's neighbour, until they the introduced as guilty rules in the communities and new laws were spread all over the country. Sweden has now for six months the presidency of European Union, and will try to introduce the same rules all over! There is how ever, so much more to desire, we say here in South. Through our Foundation we continue to support those who live where there are no subsidies and support for every situations.

We have every reason to be thankful for all those who volunteers. They often mention how their commitment makes them feel good. It's more difficult to find people who want to take on long-term, but someone must assume for the continuity and for organising those who make short commitments.

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