



A Hope in the Dark

A Newsletter From
Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal

March-May 2008

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The Empowerment Service at the NAVSTA Rota, carried out a mission in support of the Foundation



Picture in front of the Retirement Home Bicesse.

The NAVSTA fire-fighters stored all the donations and loaded several vans with tons of clothes, hundreds of pairs of shoes, personnel hygiene articles, bicycles, prams and toys. Of the donated dry goods and tinned provisions, family bags were prepared.

Excerpts from an article that Tania Dickson on the NAVSTA team wrote:

- Christmas bring blessings and gifts to many of us, but there are countless of people who are not as fortunate and who have left their homes and countries in hope and pursuit of freedom and happiness. Let's not forget how fortunate and blessed we are.



Layout: Samuel Johansson
Translation: Inga Gullander

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Sixteen members from the American Armed Forces took their free time and came over from Rota, Spain. They organized and prepared for a long period and various organizations on the base joined in collecting and packing. It turned out to be a much larger project than they had thought from the beginning. The mission was headed by Enochia Anderson.

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February 2008

Dear friends,

Everything that belongs to Christmas, with a special encouragement for both volunteers and needed, already seem rather distant. January 2008 has also passed. Work has been dedicated to statements of accounts and annual report and planning for the New Year.

We really want to thank all the faithful and constant givers. And we are happy about a number of new givers. Many people have during the past years got an opportunity to start a new and better life, but there still remains a lot that can be resolved if there only are means. **So we want to encourage you to continue to support the work of the Foundation.**

It is so easy that we in our selfishness and self-centeredness, ignore others, but God wants us to share with those without means, so they do not suffer either. Such rules were established already in the time of Moses. So for instance, a person was expected leave some fruit on the trees for those who passed by and were hungry.

-When you harvest your land, don't harvest right up to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings from the harvest. Don't strip your vineyard bare or go back and pick up the fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am GOD, your God. Leviticus 19:9-10

Today media moves from information and digging towards superficiality. It gets more evident to despise God's Commandments and to live to please oneself. It even become popular entertainment, to ridicule God. But, no one makes a fool of God. **What a person plants, he will harvest**, good or bad, says the Word of God, so let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.

Let's not compromise to get accepted. Rom 8:5, Gal 6:7-9. Let's esteem our Christian values and fight for it in our everyday existence.



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Postcolonial problems continue in Portugal even today



New refugees and emigrants with children comes to Portugal continuously.

People who I meet in Sweden say, that they thought poverty did not exist any more in Portugal, and are surprised when they learn that Portugal still is one of the poorest countries of the European Union. Every day we help refugees who got into a scrape with the authorities and unscrupulous employers.

People in Portugal tell us that they cannot find a job, that big companies move to China and that well-educated unemployed refugees from East European countries get the jobs.

The truth is that thousands of people today in Portugal get food packets from the Food Bank, and hundreds of thousands of people can neither read nor write.

Portugal has already had the Presidency of the Union three times. They have treated all kind of problems such as: streams of refugees, economic agreements, environment problems and others, while the country itself is in the middle of postcolonial problems. Since the seventies, the immigration has flown steadily into Portugal, and the statistics are vague, as only those legally in the country are counted. The queues are long of people seeking legal status in Portugal. **The immigrants and refugees and their families live in tragical conditions and we help them one after another.**

We in the Foundation cannot stand watching the children suffer. Their struggling parents do not get a decent salary from the European employers who take advantage of the difficult situation of the employees, and they do not pay the salaries properly. The employees cannot go to court and demand their salary. The biggest foreign legal groups today come from Ukraine, Cape Verde, Brazil, Angola and Guinea-Bissau. The citizens with an African background have the biggest difficulties in the new Europe.

It is mainly among these people the Foundation works.

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