

.....continued from inside.....

It is precisely to the fire station those come who need help, and want to get into direct contact with Maj-Lis. This is an agreement she has with the station.



The day before, a six year old boy from Guinea-Bissau was brought to the station. Maj-Lis arranged a temporary foster family, as the mother works and not has time to take care of the boy, who has been taken by the police several times.

For this kind of work, Maj-Lis has only to walk some hundred meters from her office and storage rooms.

We walk to her office/ storage premises, today called Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal, with an official postal giro number, starting with 90. A couple of female volunteers are there in the well filled storage rooms, to assort and pack. This is where, among other things, the lorries arrive, principally from Sweden and England.

The day we visited them, an american minister and his wife had come to help They got the contact of a different kind. An american warship, returning from Irak, stopped in Lisbon and chose to give the Foundation lots of remaining provisions and sanitary articles. The minister, his wife and his children help to assort the contents of the delivery from the warship.

The activity of the Foundation consists mainly of reception and distribution of gifts, such as clothing and food. The direct distribution to the needy takes place at distribution centers in warias places in the country, and is mainly distributed by a chuch. Others articles go to institutions and prisons. The whole financing of the activity of the Foundation depends on voluntary gifts

Layout: Samuel Johansson
Translation: Inga Gullander

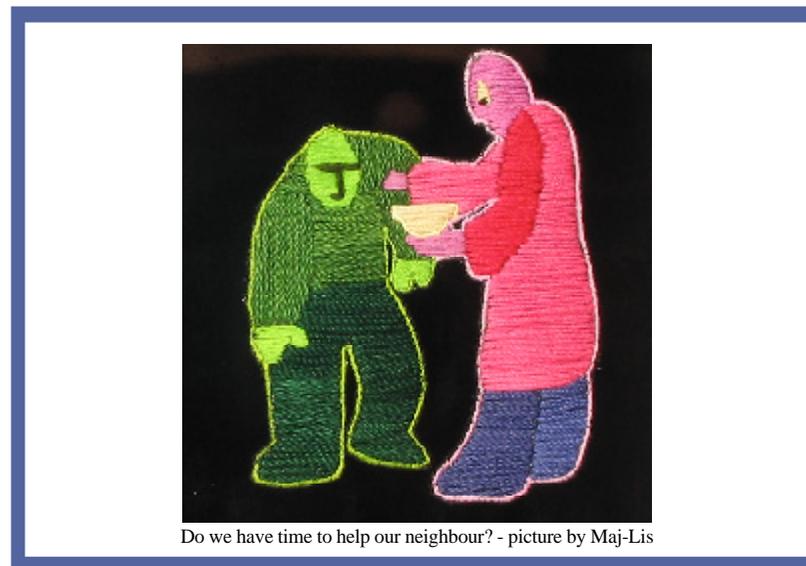
A Hope in the Dark



A Newsletter From

Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal

September - November 2004



Do we have time to help our neighbour? - picture by Maj-Lis

Portugal is still grappling with the effects from the times of dictatorship

Dear friends,

Carcavelos, August 2004

The warm summer months are turning into autumn. While other countries have suffered from torrential rains and inundations, hurricanes or enormous waves, we here in Portugal have had the usual summer with total draught and many fires. August is the classical vacation month in Portugal, for those who are lucky enough to have a job.

Billions of TV-viewers got a glimpse of Portugal through the about 200 TV-stations present during the European Football Championship. At least half a million persons chose to come to Portugal in order to be personally present at the games.

To us, **our summer camps are very important** during the period. There are children with no social standing whatsoever where they live, because of their parents who are poor, and because of all the things we have and they don't. These children are very much exposed. Many of them express their gratitude for being among those who spent time at a summer camp;

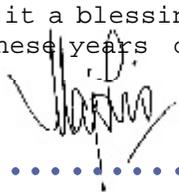
"In this camp I have been safe. I have learnt about Jesus. I have very much enjoyed the games with my friends who taught me many things. All the teachers were good and I actually liked everything. I was very sad the last day when I saw all my friends leave." Julieta, 10

"The camp have been very important to me, as I learnt to know Jesus like I had not known him before. I feel loved. From now on I shall be a faithful person." Maria-José, 13

We have also **celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Portuguese revolution**. After the revolution Portugal gave up its colonies all over the world. One of the consequences is that out of 10 citizens in Portugal, 1 is now of African origin, and not easily assimilated in a new Europe.

It is essentially among these people we work, mediating and supporting.

I am grateful and consider it a blessing to be able to dedicate them these years of my life here in Portugal.



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

Portugal is still grappling with the effects from the times of dictatorship.

Text Torsten Arpi, photo

Excerpt from *Omvårdaren* Nr 4/2003, and *Nya Dagen* 22.8.2003

Portugal is known for many things. Many people spend their vacation here, particularly in the southern part, Algarve. Others come here to play golf during their holidays. According to statistics from the Swedish Foreign Office, about 150 000 Swedes visit Portugal every year. It is not known how many of them see the misery that Maj-Lis Johansson keeps before her sight ...

Measured by the European standard, Portugal is on a low level in many ways, among others in the educational sector.



Summer camp is a recurring blessing for the children from the shanty towns

Portugal is still grappling with the defects from the times of dictatorship, 1932-1974. When the dictatorship ended after the interference of the army, Portugal gave up its colonies. About one million refugees from the war-ravaged former colonies of Angola and Mozambique streamed into the country in the middle of the seventies.

Today Maj-Lis' work can be described as that of a social worker. As the nurse she is, she can give advice when such is wanted. With her experience and her long stay in Portugal – 34 years – she considers herself the spider in a big web. She herself has initiated many of the activities to where she can lead those who are in need, such as old-age care, medical care, detoxication homes for alcoholics and drug addicts, and also foster homes for orphans.

We visited the local fire station, met the staff and looked at some of the fire vehicles Maj-Lis has arranged from Årjäng, Bengtsfors and Huskvarna.

Address to Foundation:

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

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