

Snow in Portugal

In February there was a historical day in Lisbon. In 54 years there hasn't been any real snowfall. During the years there's fallen a few snowflakes now and then, but now several highways had to be shut down and there was a real chaos with many accidents in the traffic.



The joy is shining in their faces because of all the beautiful white that all of a sudden was within reach at the Mediterranean latitude.

Children in Bulgaria

Children in Bulgaria receive help from the Foundation. Imagine how much a small gift can do to change the grey ordinary life.



With the gift you sent we organized a feast for the kids in many places with presents to the children. Around 70 children came for the first time and they come from families who were formerly Muslims. Receive our gratitude!
With love, Penka and Hary

A Hope in the Dark



A Newsletter From
Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal

March - May 2006



The Foundation helps one of the poorest countries in the world

Portugal, once the country of the great navigators, but like some other empires they had to leave "their countries". Guinea Bissau was until 1974 a Portuguese colony. After having overthrown the government, political disturbances and a prolonged war, Guinea Bissau is today one of the poorest countries in the world. *A whole month's* salary there, on the west coast of Africa, is like *one single day's* pay in Portugal. Guinea Bissau:

- tropical country with 1.6 million inhabitants
- without a functioning educational system
- they circumcise 99% of the women
- 75% illiteracy
- 40% Muslims
- a few percent Christians

The Pentecostal churches in Portugal support the country in their reconstruction. The Foundation sends material that we receive, like schoolbooks, clothing and other things.

March 2006

Dear friends,

See what it says in the Bible... it gets darker and darker **until** the living and the dead get to see the eternal sunrise.

Consequently we can believe that the darkness and the evil will be defeated and come to an end and we can anticipate an eternal sunrise! Believe in something so interminable, wonderful and eternal - opposite of all we see and hear around us. Nowadays one hardly dare to believe in anybody or anything. One gets cheated, lied to, robbed and assaulted. The minds of people are false and dark.



Jesus taught his followers that they should go out and search for the perpetrators and the lost until they found them. Here we can take part and lend a helping hand through the challenges of the Foundation.

There is hope for the child that is assaulted and there is hope for the deserted parent and the alcoholic. There is hope for the worst! Nobody is bound to destiny. Nobody is programmed to a miserable life because of inheritance and environment. Everybody has a freedom of choice, to choose what is right and to not choose evil.

What happens in the future if humanity doesn't make better choices than up till now? The passage where it speaks about **the eternal sunrise** is from a time when "the drunkenness stun the decision making of our people" as the prophet says in the Bible. It is getting worse and worse. The man of destruction will come and it will get darker and darker **until the living and the dead will see the eternal sunrise.**



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How can you just give away your own child?

The love for your own child is something deeply humane and one of the strongest bonds that exists. Still some people can get so depressed and discouraged that they do not take care of the baby they gave birth to. Some don't even want to see it. Others give away their baby when it's so sick and undernourished that there is little hope of recovery. **Sometimes, they really don't want** to give away their child, but due to their circumstances, they can't see any other way out. It can as well be the partner that brings the child.



Here a boy is given up by his father, to find a new home

How can a human become so inhumane?

When a person is in constant lack of food, without education, disappointed, without resources or contacts, treated as a nobody in society, without a role model to look up to, the circumstances become a vicious circle. They themselves often think that fate is destined by God and you can't do anything about it.

Is it possible to come again?

What do we say when a person, that once was begging comes back to give. When the hopeless knocks on the door with a plastic bag with dried leaves of tea, or the one who with an empty jar of marmalade, filled it with olives he picked himself, or the one with a bouquet of red homemade plastic flowers.

The list could be made long. For example the man that opens his bag and out jumps a rabbit. Or the student in medicine with a leaflet in his hand where he won a reward for an essay about a person who was deeply troubled and today helps others. **It is possible to become humane and to stay humane, in the midst of inhumane circumstances.**

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