

## **Report for 2006 - 07**

### **Services provided and specific needs met:**

#### **Pleven Orphanage:**

White Cross funds have been used several times in this orphanage to purchase holiday gift bags for the children. The children in orphanages receive basic hot meals each day, but rarely receive special treats or gifts for Christmas. These Christmas and Easter gift bags have included stuffed animals, candy bars, a piece of fresh fruit, socks, juice boxes, shampoo, a toothbrush and toothpaste. The excitement on the children's faces when they receive their very own gift bag is so wonderful to see!

Medicines for the orphanage's nurse to have in her supply have also been bought with White Cross funds, as well as cleaning supplies for the staff. This includes floor cleaner, bleach, dish soap and napkins.

In 2006, White Cross funds purchased a lawnmower for the Pleven Orphanage. The children have a small area in which they can play outdoors, but no way to keep the grass and weeds from growing tall except cutting by hand, so the lawnmower will be a great asset and time-saver for the maintenance staff, and make the play area much more pleasant for the children.

#### **Sofia Baptist Church:**

White Cross funds have supplied items for the children and youth of the church during holiday times. At Easter and Christmas the children and teens present a musical drama, and gift bags are given to each participant after the program. There are always several children who do not participate in the program, but do come to church occasionally and they receive a bag too. These bags contain food items like the orphanage bags, but also usually have an item of clothing such as a t-shirt, underclothing, or a hat and scarf.

#### ***Outreaches of Sofia Baptist Church helped by White Cross grant:***

**Orphanages:** White Cross monies have purchased additional items such as fresh fruit and juice boxes for the bags. In December 2007, eight orphanages were visited, reaching a total of about 500 children, teens and disabled people.

**Literacy Program:** White Cross has helped to fund materials such as notebooks, pencils/pens, books, as well as a nutritious snack for the hungry children. Most of the children live in very crude homes without running water, so those who choose can shower and launder their clothes at the church. White Cross money keeps a supply of shampoo, soap and laundry powder the children can use, as well as some used clothes for replacement. Two ladies from the church help as tutors for the children in reading and math, and any expenses they incur are reimbursed.

### **Guliantsi Baptist Church:**

This small church in north-central Bulgaria is pastored by Ivan Vassilev, with the help of his wife, Tedi, and their children. White Cross money has helped this church reach out into the community through various programs. White Cross supplied all the funds in December 2006 to give a gift bag to all the children from disadvantaged families in the town. The children came to the church (many for the first time) and heard a Bible story, had some fellowship and received their own gift bag, filled with candies, chocolates, crackers and other foodstuffs, and a stuffed animal. For most of these children, this was the only Christmas present they would receive. White Cross certainly makes Christmas merry for children in Bulgaria who would not otherwise receive a gift, whether in the churches or in orphanages!

Summer 2007 brought a three-day Vacation Bible School to the town of Guliantsi. It was a great outreach and advertisement for this small church to undertake such a large project. Children came from all over the town, and by the third day there were over 50 children in attendance. White Cross purchased craft supplies so the children could make a take-home craft project each day, and also bought a snack and juice box for the kids each day.