

Dear Friends,

This Update is dedicated to our beloved, long-time friend, Margaret Smith 1948-2011. From our early beginnings, David and Margaret Smith have consistently supported and encouraged us. They've understood that God has no hands but ours with which to give to his children. Through the years, much as the feeding of the 5000, we've watched our efforts multiplied over and over.

Rajmonda Krasniqi

After two years of work to bring Rajmonda back to the States on an education visa, against all odds she came in February. She is now in level four English classes at Richland College. You may remember that we brought her here when she was eleven years old to be fitted with hearing aids. She had no language. One year later, thanks to Dr. Bob Peters, she received a Cochlear Implant and began Speech Therapy. I recently asked the Director of the Handicap Department at Richland College what she thought we could expect for Rajmonda given her circumstances. "There's no precedent for her situation," was her response. "Her accomplishments have already surpassed our expectations."

Zimbabwe

We continue to work with Zanda, the young man from Zimbabwe who found us in the Yellow Pages in 2003. He had come to this land of promise to wait out problems in his country at that time. He became homeless after an unforeseen sequence of events. We helped him return to Zimbabwe. He came again last year and we're helping him work through the immigration maze.

Palliative Patients

Bob Striler continues to work with the Parkland Palliative patients. When he arrives with his oxygen bottle in tow, the patients know he is not coming as a stranger to suffering. Bob said recently, "I'm having more fun now than I've ever had." That's hard to imagine knowing the difficulty he experiences with the simplest of tasks.

Aid to the Poor

Orley White continues to receive dental equipment and supplies that we donate to free clinics locally and ship beyond our borders. He also takes truckloads of furniture, household furnishings, toys, clothes, etc. to our co-worker in Garland and as needed to the Armstrong's in West Dallas.

HOPE

Mitch Albom, author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, spent years searching for his faith with the help of his old Rabbi and a drug addict turned preacher. He gave the eulogy for both. He said of his search, "God sings a song and we hum along. I'm in love with Hope."

What a striking statement! As I've reflected on those words, I'm aware that the greatest gift we give, no matter what the physical gift is, is hope. I remember Mable Armstrong saying many times, "When we give this food, it is not the most important thing we're giving." Hope is what

gives us the strength to make the next move when we have no idea how we are going to resolve the seemingly impossible situation we face.

When I went to Sarajevo in 1993, I was totally bewildered as to why I would be going there – a woman with limited resources, no position of importance and the ability to take in only what I could carry. It was the awareness that there was a Power greater than myself at work here that gave me the courage to move forward with what seemed foolish to any logical thinking person. There are many stories that came out of that journey. Maybe the most telling one occurred as I was leaving the hotel. There was a taxi driver who had always been in the lobby waiting in case someone might be willing to risk riding in a car. He seemed indifferent to my coming and going during that week but on this day, he rose to shake my hand. As he began to thank me for coming, he embraced my hand. “Please come back“, he said. “Your coming gives us Hope.“

Hope is such a small word but filled with meaning. The only way you can give it is if you possess it yourself.

Conclusion

“My dear Margaret, how we miss you! Your faith and the exuberance with which you lived it give us hope.“

Thank you friends for your support. May you enjoy this Blessed Season of Hope.

God bless,

Rae England