

Guitar Aid



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/WINTER 2003

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Hi There!

My favourite song at the moment is "Blessed be Your Name". It encourages us to praise God in the extremities of both Good and Bad circumstances. Our last trip to Eastern Europe took us on such a journey. We have much to thank God for, most of all for His protection and the life He has given us in which we can serve Him.

HINDERED BUT NOT DEFEATED



On our way to Romania, on the M4, our vehicle went out of control completely writing off both our Land Rover and Trailer. 4 Police Vehicles and 2 ambulances were quickly on the scene. They were so amazed that we had all survived with only minor injuries. I thought I was going to die, but somehow I felt a protection all around me. When the vehicle came to a halt, I stepped out of the front windscreen area without even a scratch. I saw total devastation; goods and smashed guitars lay on the side of the road. After being taken to

Swindon Hospital, the thought of continuing our mission was placed in our mind. After going to where our goods had been taken, we decided to hire another vehicle and continue. We eventually arrived in Romania only a few hours later than we originally planned. We now feel like Nehemiah, with the task of rebuilding the walls. The word God gave us amidst the devastation was "Out of the Ashes". We currently have no mission's vehicle, but we feel more than ever a sense of Divine Destiny in our quest to help the poor and release people into a greater level of worship.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Recently Guitar Aid was invited to display a stand at an Exeter Cathedral Worship day. Worshiping in such a setting helps you see more of the Majesty of God. Many topics were covered during the day, giving a choice of venues to the 600+ people that attended. It was great to meet up again with Matt Redman who gave inspired talks on song writing, and the 'Otherness of God'. Many of these practical tips will be passed on to others as we travel in the future. I first met Matt back in '95 when he expressed his support for Guitar Aid.



"Guitar Aid is a fresh, exciting initiative, which deserves much recognition. It is good to see such a practical response to an obvious need." **Matt Redman**

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP



Guitar Aid has just been given a grant by the Alcoa foundation to sponsor 20 guitars. ALCOA is the world's primary supplier of aluminium and employs 127,000 people in more than 40 countries worldwide. So far these guitars have gone to 11 different countries. Alex can be seen playing one of the Alcoa guitars. We first met Alex in 1992 when he was a little boy in the state orphanage in Lipova. Each Sunday he can now be seen playing in the worship band in the Gospel Tabernacle church. He has become a real asset to both the church and the Haven of Hope Orphanage in Romania.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Much time is spent at home preparing for another load of guitars to be taken on an aid trip (left). Little did we know that 24hrs after this photo was taken we would be involved in an accident.

After seeing 8 of our new guitars smashed on the hard shoulder of the motorway, it was great to see them being manufactured in large quantities in the factory (right). Each time we visit the factory we see an improvement in the quality of the instruments. On this visit the Director Nicolae Bâzgan (shown below left) took time out to show us how the production techniques are improving.

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This is a time for us to now reflect on God's protection and start to plan for the future. If you would like to help in the work of Guitar Aid, any donation would be very much appreciated.



Thank you very much for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Sumner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dave Sumner.