

Guitar Aid



NEWSLETTER

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Hi There!

We have just returned from the Ukraine, where they have had the worst snow in 20yrs! It's nice to be back in a warmer climate, planning our next trip to Cambodia. For the last couple of years, we have received a grant from the Alcoa foundation. I have included a feature that appeared in their magazine (see over). This was sent to many countries.

UKRAINE AT MINUS 16!



In spite of flying to Kiev, we still managed to clock up over 2500 miles on this trip! Driving from Kiev in thick snow was quite an experience. Then traveling for a few hours to some smaller towns and villages, on roads that were barely visible. Our journey to one particular church ended with us having to leave our vehicle and walk the rest of the way. I thought of the scripture, go into all the World. This seemed like one of earth's extremities to me, and by far the coldest!

The lad featured right, came from a youth group that was equally remote. As we gave the guitar, the Pastor called him out. I saw such potential! For 2yrs he has been praying for his own instrument, thanks to your support we made his dream come true. As I listened to him sing and play I was inspired. Surely we are raising up a new generation of worship leaders, that will have an impact on their nations. This scene is repeated in many of the countries we visit.



Our travels took us the length and breadth of the country, from the border with Belarus in the north, to Odessa in the south. As we passed through one town, our friend Sasha said he knew a pastor there, but didn't know where he lived. We decided to stop and ring him. To our surprise, and his, we were parked exactly opposite his block of flats! Many times we have had meetings like this, which are truly by divine appointment, providing others with what they need.

We are now preparing to visit Cambodia in a few weeks. Thank you for your support.

Dave Sumner

Dave Sumner.

A Little Hope Amongst Unbelievable Destruction

Alcoa Foundation Helps Deliver Music to War-Torn Regions

It's not much, really: some wood, glue, metal and strings. But for thousands around the globe, it helps bring voice to their hearts and hope to their world.

And, for Dave Sumner, it's a great way to sow peace in war-ravaged regions wherever they may be. The Alcoa Foundation agrees.



Dave Sumner, in front, with Young Life group in Cambodia.

Lifting Spirits

A CAD/CAM toolmaker at Howmet UK, Sumner has been delivering guitars to people in need for more than a decade. He believes that the people in war-torn areas like Croatia need more than straightforward humanitarian aid—they need something that can lift their spirits, as well.

"Rather than say 'I've got this old coat that I don't need any more, I'll send it to Romania,' my idea was to give something of real quality that could help raise hope and help people express what they've experienced," Sumner explains. "These people need a way to vocalize their despair and get some hope in the process. Music is such a good way to do that—it offers rhythm, melody and harmony. Those are the elements you need for music to work, and with a guitar, one person can do all three."

As a result of that thinking, Sumner built upon his earlier charity work and took a couple of guitars with him on a humanitarian visit to Romania. "I couldn't believe the reaction," Sumner recalls. "This young man had literally nothing, and after playing it for 10 minutes he had 20 people around him, excited and smiling. It was great to see all of these people benefiting from just one guitar."

Personal Mission

Soon, Sumner was buying damaged guitars from anywhere he could, repairing them and taking them on his post-war charity concern visits. That work has now become its own mission—Guitar Aid—made possible, Sumner points out, by the people working alongside him, making money available to buy the guitars and transport them.

"I think I've cornered the market in damaged guitars," Sumner smiles. "In 13 years, we've given away more than 1500 of them! We're now at the point where we've just bought our first shipment of guitars with the Guitar Aid logo on them."

Those labels are familiar to many at Howmet, he points out. Each guitar has an Alcoa label inside, as well as an Alcoa logo on the headstock of the instrument. The UK committee of the Alcoa Foundation chose to offer financial support to Guitar Aid by taking the instruments to individuals who couldn't obtain them or afford them on their own.

Global Guitar Aid

The success of Guitar Aid has been so significant that Sumner now sources guitars specifically for Guitar

ALCOA FOUNDATION

Aid shipments. "What I look for is a good, basic electro-acoustic guitar," he said. "And to survive where we're taking them, they must be low maintenance, robust and durable!" He often promotes a "band" approach to his donations, supplying a group with a bass, a lead guitar and an electro-acoustic guitar.

His musical evangelism is spreading out to new countries, and new continents, with Africa already in his sights. "We've now been to Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania," Sumner said, "taking 16 guitars on each trip. We've also been to Cuba, Armenia and Turkey."

Bearing Fruit

The results are gratifying, Sumner points out. "One lad who received one of our first guitars in 1990 was 10-year old Chi Chi. Now 13 years later, he's traveling throughout Romania with his rock band, and is Director of the Treasure House Orphanage."

Having seen the fruit of what Guitar Aid is doing, Sumner says it's exciting to realize how much these instruments are helping in many areas of the world. "The reaction to these guitars is always impressive, telling us we've delivered a little hope amongst unbelievable levels of destruction," he adds.

For information on Guitar Aid, contact Dave Sumner at dsumner@howmet.com.

Guitar Aid instruments are now in 65 different countries including:

Albania	Hungary	Cambodia
Macedonia	Romania	Slovakia
Croatia	Bosnia	Ghana
Kenya	Tanzania	Cuba
Yaravan	Armenia	Turkey
Latvia	Nigeria	