



# A Hope in the Dark

A Newsletter From  
**Maj-Lis Humanitarian Foundation in Portugal**

December 2008 - February 2009

## News from Portugal

Cont. from FrontPage.

### The Very First Christmas

The baby Jesus in the manger, yes. That was in those days, we might think. But only the timing has become an event as a reference everywhere. Our calendar is divided in **before** and **after**. Everything about Messiah, is essential and worth research. More details, more about the origin, about life, about revelations after the death, about the Ascension and a lot of things happening this year, two thousands year **after**. Thus, He is alive. The same source that foretold how he should come, says **that he will come back**, not as a baby but as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. (See the illustration on the FrontPage.)

**The message of Christmas Night** came **directly from Heaven**. What can it have to tell us, two thousand years later? There is a plan. The Lord's strategy lasts into eternity. The fight between good and evil is not over, but God has promised to be the winner. It is the eternal prospect that makes our life so exciting. Nothing is any longer meaningless. The day the body dies, the soul lives on. Our Foundation is philanthropic, which means that **both body and soul** are included. Death is not the end.

### We are preparing for Christmas outreach

While we are hoping for more means to work with, we go through what we have available. So far, we have family parcels with; rice, spaghetti, curtains, Christmas decorations, knitted sweaters, baby clothes, handmade dolls, toys, rolls of cloths, a small Christmas book ... but **we hope to be able to give more grocery**.

Join us satisfy the need of a hungry family this Christmas!

### Give a gift to the Maj-Lis Foundation!

The Foundation thanks for the gifts received in memory of Eskil. He would have been pleased if he had known that he was so remembered! The gifts are used to help more people.

### Foundations Gift Account:

IBAN: SE1395000099602609004995

BIC/SWIFT: NDEASESS

Bankadress: Nordeabank Sweden, SE 105 73 Stockholm

If you send an email to [maj-lis@johansson.com](mailto:maj-lis@johansson.com) we can make sure you keep receiving the Newsletter about how the Foundations work proceeds, thanks to your help.

Interview: Karin Johansson  
Translation: Inga Gullander  
Illustration: Maj-Lis Johansson



## Christmas Gospel 2008

**The message in the Very First Christmas Night, direct from Heaven.**

Luke 2; 8-14: In the countryside (where Jesus was born), were some shepherds...An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glorious Presence shone around them, and said to them; "Don't be afraid, because I am here announcing to you Good News that will bring great joy to all the people. This very day, in the town of David, there was born for you a Deliverer **who is the Messiah, the Lord**. Here is how you will know; you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and laying in a feeding trough." *Suddenly, along with the angel was a vast army from heaven praising God: "In the highest heaven, glory to God! And on earth, peace among people of good will!"*

Cont. on last page.

Christmas 2008

Dear friends,

In Portugal, I often meet **people that we helped with a new start in life, who now are able to support themselves.** It is absolutely fascinating to hear their stories, even though we have followed them all the way. They tell how they left the slums and how they got both home and work, thanks to our maybe small, but indefatigable and repeated words and acts. They had been helped to a school and learned to read, or they had been admitted to a detoxication institution and got rid of their addiction, or had come to a family that took care of them when they were orphans ...

**Out of nothing or as little as possible, we try to achieve a good result. We can only work with the means we get,** and we therefore ask everybody to give a hand to reach as many as possible. For instance we can mention the optician, Mr Sá. If somebody has a problem with his eyesight, we send used glasses with them, and sometimes he can use the lenses or sometimes the frames, and sometimes both.

**How are people getting along in Portugal nowadays?** The country has developed considerably since EU came here. The consequences from the arrival of hundreds of thousands of emigrants from the former colonies have diminished. This little country in the south-western part of Europe got a new start with good infrastructures and international investors, and could begin to receive tourists again.



Family photo taken at the funeral of Eskil.  
Photo: Rune Olsson

Today, the unemployment is increasing, starting a few years back. It is evident that **big parts of the population will have lack of food,** exactly as in many other countries. There is a risk even in Portugal, although it is a European nation, that food might become a scarcity even there (**reported by Portuguese TV newscast**).

A Merry Christmas  
from the whole family!

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## **Interview with a Voluntary Worker**

Many volunteers have been faithful to the Foundation during the years. They come happily and help wherever it's needed. We want you, who have helped us during the years, to see an interview with one of them: António Santos:

**How many years have you assisted the Foundation?**



If I go back and check books and records

from the social work in our churches, it could be quite many. Long before the start of ACRA, the social arm of our churches and before the legalisation of the Foundation, I was participating. Thus, from the seventies.

**What have you done in the Foundation in order to help others?**

One might say that my tasks are limited to two different things. As a technical professional I repair and adjust gadgets and machines that we receive as gifts. On the other hand I am an intermediary between the social work of the churches and the Foundation. I am in the board and committees where I see and hear about enormous need and take that to the Foundation.

**What kind of result has that work brought?**

Through that many institutions have been helped. We can see great results today with new organisations, through the Homes, and through direct contacts among the people. The ministry of the Foundation is not only limited to this nation, but reaches also far out to other countries, all the way to Africa.

**How do you think we could be able to help as many as possible this Christmas?** Looking at the situation, both in an international and worldwide perspective, help in the provision of food is the most elementary.

**Which is your opinion the best way to motivate others to help the poor of Portugal?** I believe that we should let others know about the needs in the country, about the summer camps, about all that is done, not only here, but also about all the arms stretching out in international contexts. About everything done in such a love. That is really worth to be supported.

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