



Dear Friends,

20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

As 2013 is coming to an end, and we are now approaching the Festive season, I have put some thoughts on paper.

I am often wondering if I have done enough in 2013 to help those, who through the current economic climate have lost their job, home and sometimes family and friends along the way.

Closer to home, a new Food bank was opened this year in Perth, and Stornoway and other parts in Scotland have also opened one. According to reports and newsletters received, more Food banks will be needed, not only in Scotland, but in many parts of the UK.

As Christmas is approaching, shoebox appeals have started, and many of us, are supporting this appeal each year. The fact is, this is once a year, while 365 days a year, many folk are in need of food. My view is that the shoebox appeal should be 365 days a year, and not only at Christmas.

Our charity has been studying the shipment and logistics as well as the rising costs involved for overseas aid from Scotland, and are considering the following options:

- Instead of shipping goods and shoeboxes from Scotland, why not donate to the local charities and churches overseas and other partners we are working with e.g. a monthly sum of monies, so they can do what is necessary in their community.
- On our last overseas visit, we were informed by several charities and churches, that monies would be more welcome than goods, as everything could be purchased locally, and more jobs could be created, as well as support to the local economy.

This all makes sense, and our charity is now considering making these changes in 2014, which would be a better way in supporting overseas projects.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for supporting us this year, and wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a good start in the New Year

Kind regards,

*Billy*

Director / Founder

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