# The Need

The need is overwhelming. For over 70 years, the truth of Christ and His Word was silenced as Communism brought disillusionment and despair to the former Soviet Union. An aimless generation abandoned the traditional family, leaving many children neglected and left to fend for themselves. Many of the children living in orphanages, on the street, refugee camps or in war torn cities have never heard of God's love in sending Jesus for them on that first Christmas Day.

#### The History

Since 1998 SOAR has partnered with churches in Russia to share the hope of Christ with children who are living in and through some very difficult life situations. SOAR began its Stuff a Stocking project in 2002. It has since expanded into Abkhazia, Moldova & Ukraine.

100% of funds raised for the SAS project are sent to SOAR's ministry partners. This gives the the pastors the opportunity to purchase items that they personally know are needed by the children that will be receiving them. Each stocking is filled with personal care items, a sweet, gift, a children's Bible in their own language (and age group), and a personal letter. During SOAR's Stuff a Stocking distribution at each orphanage, church, village or refugee camp, the true Christmas story and Gospel message is presented to the children.

## The Impact

Since its inception, Stuff a Stocking has now expanded into Abkhazia, Moldova & Ukraine. Stuff a Stocking has been a powerful tool of evangelism to reach thousands of precious, needy children throughout these countries. The project has also touched government officials, social department workers, and orphanage directors with the love of Christ and the truth of the Gospel message. It's exciting to partner with local pastors who work with SOAR in the stocking distributions. Long-standing relationships and friendships have developed over the years. After Stuff a Stocking the pastors often continue to visit the orphanages and other children, providing ongoing discipleship with the children. Praise the Lord!

## **Get Involved!**

#### www.stuffastocking.org

Sponsor a stocking while encouraging your church, school, small group, friends, etc. to support this exciting & meaningful project as well.

Write a personal letter to the child who will receive your sponsored stocking.

Volunteer to go on a short-term mission Stuff a Stocking distribution trip to help distribute stockings and love on children each January during the Orthodox Christmas season.

Pray for the children who will hear the Gospel message & for the SOAR team as we travel to Moldova to minister in January.

