

Link to Hope: shoebox delivery story



It was dark, but only about 6.30pm when we pulled up outside a small ramshackle house, where there were no signs of life except a barking dog in the muddy yard outside.

Out of the house slowly appeared an elderly man who seemed surprised at our presence, his wife shuffled out behind him, leaning heavily on two walking sticks. They invited us into their home which was in utter darkness, apart from a tiny glow of light which was coming from the small wood fire underneath the simple stove.

By the light of Cornel's torch we were able to see the inside of their gloomy home, even though they just had a few meagre possessions they took a great pride in them. They asked Cornel why we were visiting, and said they were very happy to be visited, but were not used to guests, and firstly felt afraid, which soon turned to excitement. They apologised for not being dressed well and said if we returned in the summer maybe they could warm some milk for us.

The elderly husband had recently spent three weeks in hospital for an operation for cancer in his mouth, during that time his wife has really struggled as she could not bring in any wood for the fire.

This couple were so touched by the gifts inside the elderly shoebox, Cornel carefully put a necklace from the box around the lady's neck and she teased her husband that he could not eat the sweets now as it meant they had some for Christmas. Truly a time when the gift of a shoebox brought happiness into difficult lives.