



"...serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13

July 2005 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

As July wraps up, the peak of summer is passing. August will bring cooler weather and visions of school in the near future.

First a brief word about Karina. She is in the Kiev hospital. She was to have surgery today, but we have not heard anything at this point. We should have a report tomorrow. I'm sorry I don't have more to share at this time.

For me, July has begun a greater time commitment to meeting with the parents of children that are served at the Free Clinic. Our new therapist, Galina, has been working with three children. They are all previous patients of the clinic. The big news is that Kirill, the twin born missing 5 vertebrae, now has movement in his legs. He is about 2 years old. When we started with him last year, he could only drag his legs behind him as he crawled on his arms. Now there is a reason to expect that he might walk in the future. This early intervention provides great hope for his parents. His brother, Nakita, is doing well. He will continue to receive quarterly treatments to maintain his progress during his developmental years.

Vladic, about 8 years old, also received treatment last year. I see that, as he is growing, the muscle strength imbalance between his two legs will continue to challenge him. I watched him run the other day. I see that the imbalance makes it difficult for his legs to move in a parallel plane. I haven't gotten a report on his progress yet, but his parents are very happy that he is receiving therapy at the Free Clinic – the only treatment available for him.

As of August 1st, Natalya and Galina will be treating a total of 7 children a day with a 20 day treatment program. Last year we brought the vision of the Free Clinic to life. These next twelve months our vision is to strengthen our service to the children and our relationship with the parents. Also, it is my personal commitment to my teams here to better document and share the wonderful things that are happening at the Free Clinic.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

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