



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

June 2005 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

Summer has arrived! I had thought so in the end of May, but June turned out to be cool and rainy. Summer is a time of fun by the sea, many business opportunities, and summer camps.

This morning I awakened early. My first thoughts were of Lina, my next door neighbor. She is 13. She is one of the children who eats at the Emmaus Food Program, which we support financially. It is run by the Evangelical Baptist Church. As I understand it, due to their limited funds and personnel, they close the food program in the summer so that they can run a summer camp program.

Lina's mother, uncle, and grandfather, are hopeless alcoholics. All of the burden lies upon her grandmother. She relies upon the Emmaus Food Program to feed Lina. When I have seen Lina recently, I recognized the hunger in her eyes. This is the most difficult part of my work here, seeing the hunger. We are doing what God has called us to do, but it doesn't solve this huge social problem.

The other evening Julia, age 12 or 13, and her friend asked me to take their pictures. In the process, Julia brought her little brother Sasha, age 4 or 5, to be included. Yesterday, I was walking on the other side of town and saw a little boy on the slide. Three mothers and other children were there. But this little boy looked familiar. It was Sasha. In the time that it took for me to recognize him, his mother brought him over to me. She stood about 3 or 4 feet away as she thanked me for the picture of Sasha. At that distance, I could smell the stench of alcohol. I would have been furious about this a few years ago, but my emotions have grown numb.

Because of my involvement with Karina during her surgery and rehabilitation, I have made new contacts with the local government. It is my goal to unite Emmaus and the social services department to fight this never ending battle of children going hungry because of alcoholism.

Karina is scheduled to go to Kiev for an operation to remove scar tissue from the site of her spinal injury. That may allow signals to be sent further down her spine, and she might recover some movement below the waist. Our translator, Ira, will go with her in the ambulance and arrange for someone to stay at the hospital with her. In ten days or so, Karina will return to the hospital in Odessa to recuperate further. Then it will be decided if she can return to the spinal clinic in Crimea for the rehabilitation program that was cut short when she developed a serious infection. We are hopeful. I'll continue to keep you informed. Please keep Karina and all the children in your prayers.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

Illichevsk Free Clinic Marganets Orphanage
Emmaus Children's Food Program

Gifts may be mailed to:

1 Kinbuck Point, Greensboro, NC 27410

Make checks payable to Mission Ukraine Children's Hope or MUCH

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