



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

October 2005 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

As October comes to a close, we begin to prepare for the cold winter months by the sea. Thanks to the Wheels for the World wheelchair distribution in September, 33 recipients will be more mobile this winter.

In Marganets, Anatoliy and Galina have finished their gardening. As Galina continues to can and preserve their garden produce, Anatoliy is hard at work building the inhalation clinic for the children at the orphanage. We look forward to fewer colds this winter.

The Sweet Dreams II project for the orphanage at Marganets is off to a great start! We have received gifts for 6 complete bed sets, some of which were given in memory of my cousin, Nancy. She had a special relationship with three of the children we serve. Nancy's spirit will continue to touch children here because of these gifts given in her name.

Consider Sweet Dreams II when thinking about your holiday shopping. As described in last month's newsletter, mattresses cost \$20, blankets are \$10, pillows are \$5 and a set of sheets and pillowcases \$10. A gift in an amount for one or more of the above items would really be two gifts--one for your loved one or friend and one for a child in the orphanage. Forty-five dollars will buy a complete bedding set. We will send a gift card to the person you are honoring, announcing your gift in their name.

The Free Clinic is the focus for this newsletter. Last year I realized that, although all of the children we served were in need, some had more severe disabilities than others and needed more intense treatment. I will report on four of those children. We are seeing great progress in each of them.

When I first met four-year-old Kirill more than a year ago, he was only able to drag himself across the floor using his hands. From his waist down he had no movement, control or feeling. As of his September treatment, he can now feel that he needs to use the toilet and tell his mother. He is able to initiate pushing the pedals of a tricycle. Most of all, he is able to stand and take a few steps with the support of his mother. A major concern is that his spine and muscles grow at the same rate. We are monitoring this. I must say that his progress is amazing. We are very pleased.

When I first met Anya and her mother it was a very sad moment for me. This child was identified as having severe brain damage. I didn't have more details than that. At age one-and-a-half years, Anya could not support her head in an upright position. She also had no visual attention. One year later, after massage and other medical treatments, Anya can now hold up her head, smile, pronounce syllables of words that she wants to say, and respond to the command to put her hands on her knees. The spasticity in her body has been reduced by about 50 %.

Last year we reported that we paid \$8 for transportation for a 10 year old child whose family couldn't afford to bring her to the clinic for a series of 20 treatments. The family situation was very difficult at that time and remains so. In spite of all of the dissension within the family, Valya is making great progress. When she began to receive treatments, she was non verbal, had uncontrollable movements of arms and legs, could not walk, and had problems with sleep. The goal was to stimulate the motor and thought processing centers of the brain. The results have been very good. Valya is making new sounds in attempts

to become verbal. She is more relaxed and is not in constant motion. She can kneel and balance on her knees. She has successfully walked 6 steps and attempts to walk using the parallel bars. She is sleeping better.

Do you remember 10 year old Vova? He has very severe disabilities--cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus. In May 2004 we reported that he spoke his first word after constant stimulation during his fourth massage. Massage has lessened the frequency of his convulsions. Also, recently his drooling has stopped. He can turn himself from his side to his belly, and back again. His attention span has increased and he is not as over stimulated by his environment. In time, with continuous treatments, he may be able to stand. Vova was one of the children fitted for a wheelchair in the September distribution. His mother no longer needs to carry him everywhere.

These are only four of the thirty-three children who will receive services from our two therapists during the next 10 months, thanks to your continuing support. What a wonder to see the miracles of our God. Some may question my using the word miracle. I don't know if God is working through natural activity or supernatural activity. But I do know that He is working. That is enough for me to qualify the word miracle. In this post-Soviet country, the changes that are taking place are miraculous in my eyes.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

Illichevsk Free Clinic Marganets Orphanage
Emmaus Children's Food Program

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