



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

September 2005 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

I recently returned from my September visit to Marganets. Ukraine is changing! The new government is checking up on how government money is being distributed. In my ball park that means that the Marganets orphanage is now receiving more of the money that they are supposed to receive. I was told that it is not much, but I see results that show that it is making a difference.

Some time ago, the orphanage administrators asked if we could fund an inhalation therapy project. The children suffer during the cold months with respiratory illnesses, and medication is seldom available. The First Presbyterian Church in Pompano Beach, Florida provided a generous grant that my board of directors in America approved for funding for the inhalation clinic. The work has begun on the project! The administrators are very pleased that the children will be healthier this year.

You may remember that the 2003-2004 Sweet Dreams project replaced 142 old metal beds at the orphanage. Since my visit in January of 2005, the administration has been asking if we could provide funding for new mattresses. I saw that the mattresses were very old, soiled and falling apart. I took this request to America with me in February. During a board meeting, one of the directors asked if they needed blankets, which led to further discussion. I learned that they also needed pillows, sheet sets, and blankets. (They are careful not to ask for too much and are truly grateful for all that we do for them.) As a result, MUCH is launching the Sweet Dreams II project in this Newsletter. This will be a long term project similar to the original Sweet Dreams project. As funds are received, these items will be purchased in Marganets.

If God is calling you to reach out to these children through Sweet Dreams II, here is what we want to provide and the costs: a mattress \$20; a bed set \$10 (2 pillow cases, a mattress sheet, and a pocket sheet that encloses a blanket); a blanket \$10; and a pillow \$5. Consider a gift in an amount for one or more of the above items or \$45 for the complete bedding set.

The latest about Karina is that she has been sent back to Saki for treatment at the spinal rehabilitation facility. She will be there for at least 26 days. Today while out walking, one of her friends stopped me to ask about her. It is nice to know that her friends haven't forgotten her. As I learn more I'll pass it on.

Last September in Odessa, I met a team from Wheels for the World, a ministry of Joni Eareckson Tada. They deliver and fit wheelchairs for people in need all around the world. (See www.joniandfriends.org.) I told them about the work that I do in Illichevsk. This year they included Illichevsk in their distribution from Odessa. While I was in Marganets, my assistant Ira, helped organize and carry out the distribution. Thirteen children and 20 adults received wheelchairs. Wow, what a great blessing! I want to extend a special thank you to Gary De Velder and his team who share the love of Christ through their compassion and long term commitment. My team has been blessed with a great example by Gary and his team. The children say "THANK YOU GARY."

The wheelchairs were distributed at the local Baptist Church, and Ira told me that the local people who assisted the Wheels for the World team were amazed to see the disabled children and adults that have been living among them but they had never seen. One child who received a wheelchair was eleven-year-old

Vova, one of our Free Clinic clients. His mother has carried him everywhere because they couldn't afford a wheelchair. He is the child who spoke his first word after Free Clinic therapy.

There is still a need for wheelchairs, and I am hopeful that we can navigate the red tape and get the wheelchairs that are available to us in Rybnik, Poland.

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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