



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

February 2006 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

I greet you from the warmth of my Illichevsk apartment. The weather here has been as cold as -4F. But that was only for a week or so. Our temperatures fluctuate between 32F and 15F. Even Marganets did not receive the bitter cold temperatures that were reported in Russia, further north and east. I appreciate all who asked about my situation.

The Sweet Dreams II project is progressing ahead of schedule. So many compassionate hearts have reached out to our children to keep them warm this winter. I was so happy to see the children snuggled up in their warm bed sets with smiles of thanks. Soon we will have pictures on the website of the children in their beds. At this time we have totals of 100 mattresses, 110 blankets, 100 pillows, and 52 sheet sets in place at the orphanage. Our adjusted goal is 152 of each. Originally, we set our figures according to the 141 beds that we replaced. The beds for the littlest children didn't need to be replaced, but they do need all of the above items.

Finally, I want to give you an update on Karina, who broke her neck a year and a half ago. She is now 14. After about 4 ½ months in the Saki sanatorium for spinal injuries, Karina has returned to Illichevsk. The court system is concerned about the health and safety of Karina and her little sister who are living with their alcoholic mother in their one room in a dormitory-style building. The community bathroom and kitchen are down the hall on each floor of the building, similar to a college dormitory. Much of the time Karina is left alone, only her sister being with her during the night. This is very difficult to share with you. Karina still uses disposable diapers and has no control of her bowel or bladder. She has a small wheelchair that fits her well, but her 5-floor building has no elevator. (She lives on the 5th floor) She has no use of her legs and limited use of her arms and hands. But she is a strong willed teenager. She is a survivor.

I can not tell you all of the details, but I want you to know that some of the people in the local government are as concerned about Karina as we are. We have done all that we can do, so we watch and keep in touch with the authorities about Karina. Through the director of Little Star, we put Karina's story on the Internet for people in Ukraine to read. We are looking for a family to care for her. We have had a number of responses. God is alive in the hearts of many Ukrainian people. They are reaching out to their own. Please pray for Karina.

For me, the most difficult part of being a missionary is to know my place. It is so desirable to want to fix whatever I see that appears to be in need of fixing. As I seek to see things through God's eyes, I realize that He is working in the lives of many people to change their hearts in the process of helping one person in need, such as Karina. A friend of mine told me that if she had a million dollars she would give it all to missions. And God would make that work. But it might limit Him from working through so many other

people who would be vessels for God. Had God shown me my mission three years forward, I would have thought, "I can't do that, I don't know how." He would have told me that He would provide, (as He has), all of the people that He has prepared to do all that He would show me. I think that it would have taken more faith for me to believe that, than it did to go without the knowledge of His plan and just my small vision for the homeless children. I thank all who do their part to help each of our children in need. God is working through you to change the lives of these children.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

Illichevsk Free Clinic Marganets Orphanage
Emmaus Children's Food Program

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, 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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