



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

July 2006 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

My translator and I have just returned from two days in the Kiev area. We walked through a number of doors of opportunity that will guide us in our future outreach. American friends, Buddy and Janada of Ukraine Challenge shared what they are doing across the northern part of the country, particularly in the Chernobyl relocation villages.

We met a number of pastors, church members, and visiting American teams during these two short days. The most exciting event was our visit to the church in Voronkiv. They were holding their second week of camp for children with disabilities. It was so exciting to experience this first hand. We have a camp facility in the nearby village of Sanzjaka, eight kilometers from Illichevsk, where we could provide similar opportunities for our children from the massage clinic. We will be in communication with the director of the camp program in Voronkiv for guidance in pursuing this possibility.

As we begin to develop a network of groups who work with children, our opportunities to provide a camp program for the children of Marganets orphanage are increasing. In May we met the pastor of the Baptist Church in Marganets. While in Kiev, we discussed the possibilities of a visiting American team providing a camp for the children. As God continues to open doors, we continue to walk through them.

I believe that I have reported on Kirill a time or two in past news letters. Kirill is a twin, three-years-old and counting. During pregnancy, his vertebrae did not all form. He is missing the lower five. When he first began receiving treatments at the clinic, he had no feeling in his legs, bowel and bladder. In spite of that, he dragged himself around the one-room apartment on his hands. During these past two years, we have seen improvements in his condition. He has received other related treatments, but I understand that massage has made a significant contribution to his improvement. (It is evident in all the children.) As of the June report, Kirill has feeling in his feet. He is developing the ability to bend his leg at the knee on command. He is learning to crawl, putting his knees in the correct positions. I saw his mother strolling him on the sidewalk the other day. He is a happy, growing little boy. He gives his twin brother, Nikita, a challenge in everything.

Sweet Dreams update! I'm so thankful for the generous response of so many to this project. We need only 12 more complete bed sets at \$45 per set to have provided all of the beds at the orphanage with new mattresses, sheets, blankets and pillows. That's a total of 142 beds that are clean and comfortable. What a gift, especially to have this work completed before winter sets in.

As God continues to provide for His children, we continue to acknowledge His loving hands at work, guiding the MUCH team and blessing the children. It continues to be a pleasure for me to have found the purpose for my existence on this earth.

Blessings of love and healing,
Mark

Illichevsk Free Clinic Marganets Orphanage
Emmaus Children's Food Program

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