



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

May 2006 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

As spring progresses toward summer, the children of Marganets are meeting life with enthusiasm. Ira, my translator, accompanied me to Marganets last week for a short but most productive visit. Ira has been working with me for three years. Her excellent translation of my America English, (she learned British English), allowed me to have great conversations with the children and staff of the orphanage.

Last month I recognized Richard and Nicki Marshall for their generous contribution of Legos to the children in Marganets. The Legos arrived ahead of my visit, but they waited for me to give the Legos to the children. I told the story about where the Legos came from. About 30 of the children were present and were organized into groups of five. As each group received something to play with, a hush fell upon the room. Busy creating with Legos, coloring the coloring books or working on the picture puzzles that also had arrived from the states, the children were overwhelmed with their new toys.

Speaking with the manager of the orphanage a few days before, I was informed of the few toys that they have. Immediately, Anatoliy, (our good friend and seeker of bargains) and Ira began to think of a solution for the problem. We have a great team. Their hearts are so caring for the needs of the children. We are overcoming the extreme poverty of the children one step at a time.

In Illichevsk, the Free Clinic is in full swing. Our focus is on early intervention, although we treat children of all ages. Here is a brief report of one of the younger children. Vitalik C. is four years old. He has diplegia cerebral palsy. This affects only his legs, causing them to draw together at the knees and making it difficult for him to straighten his legs at the knees. He receives a 20 day massage treatment every other month. In the early stages of his treatments, he would not show positive results until the end of the 20 days. During his April treatment, he showed results after the fourth day of treatment. With his mother supporting him, he can take steps straightening his legs as he steps. Vitalik is only one of the stories that I could tell you from our work at the clinic in April.

As I look at the name of our organization, I can honestly say that I do experience the hope of the children here in Ukraine. At the clinic, we see parents with hope in their eyes for the future of their children. In Marganets, as I talk with the children, I feel the hope of their hearts. The clothes and toys are very nice to have. Their new beds and bedding are wonderful (See update below). But it is their hope that they would experience a relationship with the givers of the gifts. I feel this when the children talk with me. Our ultimate goal is to introduce them to the True Giver of their gifts, and to show them the relationship that they truly desire.

As I write each newsletter, I wish that I could share with you the faces of these children. I want to pass on the impact that they have upon me. As Ira accompanied me to Marganets, she saw the faces and felt their hunger for relationships. Thank you for your interest in reading about what God has called me and my teams to do in Ukraine.

Blessings of love and healing,
Mark

Sweet Dreams II Update

The response to the Sweet Dreams II project has been terrific. Our goal is to outfit 142 beds. So far, we've bought 100 mattresses @ \$20 each, 118 pillows @ \$5 each, 110 blankets @\$10 each and 113 sheet sets @ \$10 each. If you're interested in helping us reach our goal, please note "Sweet Dreams II" on your check and send it to the address below. MUCH thanks to all of our supporters for making this dream a reality.

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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