



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

## November 2006 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

Grandmother's summer (Indian summer) has visited us in mid November. As the temperatures begin to drop once again, we await winter by the Black Sea. The bitter cold that the wind will blow in from across the sea is a big contrast to the visual beauty of a freshly fallen snow in Ukraine.

Thanksgiving and Christmas remain more spiritual holidays in Ukraine. Instead of Thanksgiving, they have Harvest celebration. This is a time to thank God for a bountiful harvest and rejoice in life's other joys. The churches add the invitation of friends to join them at their church service. To my American friends, I wish you a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving experience.

The children of the Marganets orphanage have been blessed these past four years with comforts in life that many of us take for granted. This will be the first year that each of the children will have a warm bed to sleep in with new mattresses, pillows, sheet sets, and blankets. Thanks to all who made Sweet Dreams II a dream come true for these children.

When I was a child I had a stuffed animal, (a dog), that I held every night as I slept. I think that most people had a blanket or stuffed animal, or something that was a very personal part of their life. Wouldn't it be nice for our children at the orphanage to have that same personal experience? You can make that possible this year through the **"Give a Child a Gift" Christmas benefit**. For \$5.00 you can put a cuddly stuffed animal in the hands of a child. Our goal is to have one stuffed animal for each child by the time Ukrainian Christmas arrives, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please consider creating a Christmas memory for one or more of these children.

I arrived in Ukraine in May of 2002. My first outreach began in June at the Marganets orphanage. By the time I had been in the country only six weeks, God had directed me to a second outreach program, Emmaus Christian Club, the food program. July through November, I attended missionary school; lecture and practical experience. I returned to Illichevsk in December of 2002. Next month will be my 4<sup>th</sup> year living in Illichevsk, Ukraine. Looking back, I am overwhelmed at what God has accomplished through my teams: financial support team members, prayer support team members, the workers here in Ukraine, the MUCH team, and others. So MUCH has happened and so many children's lives have been changed. May we all give praise to God; for great things He has done.

Here is an example of how one child's life has changed. Jean S, who is 5 years old, has Cerebral Palsy. She receives massage therapy every other month at our Massage Therapy Clinic. The progress reports focus on her walking and her balance. At the beginning of this year, she had difficulty standing by herself without losing her balance. She could climb the ladder with some

assistance, but her feet were not straight in the process. She could walk some, but only with her mother holding her hand. As of October, she now can walk keeping her feet straight. She must concentrate. She gets excited when she sees her progress while walking. Sometimes this causes her to start to giggle, and she can lose her balance. She can run while holding her mother's hand. She can climb up and down the ladder keeping her feet straight, without her mother's help. What will next year bring for Jean? Can you imagine the joy that her mother must experience as she witnesses Jean's progress? The Massage Therapy Clinic is bringing new hope to this family.

I thank everyone who makes it possible to reach out with love to our children in need.

Blessings of love and healing,

*Mark*

**Illichevsk Massage Therapy Clinic    Marganets Orphanage  
Emmaus Children's Food Program**

**If you would like to support this ministry financially,  
You may contribute online from our website,**

[www.muchhope.org](http://www.muchhope.org)

**OR**

**Your gift 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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