



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

October 2006 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

October brings the full experience of fall in Ukraine. The beauty of the leaves changing colors and dropping to the ground is creating a tapestry of beauty. The temperature has turned colder. Today, October 23rd, the city has turned on the heat for winter.

Last year as Christmas approached, Anatoliy asked for some money to buy the children at the Marganets orphanage something for Christmas. We hadn't planned on this, but I sent him what he asked for, only \$40 for 150 children. I asked what he bought for them and he told me, "Candy." Anything is a treasure for these children, so they were satisfied. This year we would like to do something more for them. With this newsletter, we will begin the **"Give a Child a Gift"** Christmas project. For \$5.00 you can put a cuddly stuffed animal in the hands of a child. Even the older children are attracted to some of the comical animals. Our goal is to have one stuffed animal for each child by the time Christmas arrives. Please help us make this Christmas a memorable one for them. Information about how to contribute to MUCH is at the end of the newsletter. Please note Give a Child a Gift if your contribution is for that purpose.

There is a very nice park by the Baptist church in Illichevsk. Unfortunately, it does not receive the care or respect that it should. People come to sit and enjoy the shade of the trees and the peaceful atmosphere. When they leave, cigarette butts are everywhere. Alcohol and soda bottles are strewn through the park. Food wrappers float across the grass as the gentle wind blows. The grass doesn't get cut very often and the leaves suffocate the grass. As I sat in this park one day talking with Sasha, my "English student," I received a directive from above. "Clean this park." So I began. I learned how to use a long handled sickle to cut grass. I bought a leaf rake at one shop and the pole for it at another shop. With a roll of trash bags I collected trash. This is the fourth month that I have been working in the park. As I enjoy the good exercise and fresh air, I have visions of a future use for this park. I will be sharing these visions with the MUCH board of directors in the coming months.

During one of our chats, Ira, my translator, told me that people in her church (the Baptist church by the park) ask her who I am. They know that she works with me, they see me out and about in Illichevsk, but they don't know what I'm about. They know that I've been in the city for three-and-a-half years but have no idea what I do. I never considered this possibility. Illichevsk is a city of about 62,000, but is small in physical size. Locals refer to Illichevsk as a big village, where everybody knows everything about everybody, more or less.

I first spoke to this church in June of 2002, when I was freshly transplanted into Ukraine. Last Thursday I was given the opportunity to introduce myself once again to this Baptist church during their evening service. With Ira translating, I told my story. Using a Power Point presentation, I showed about 25 slides to illustrate my story, leaving many picturesque images in

their minds. I shared about the Marganets orphanage, the Massage Clinic, and my involvement with their Emmaus Food Program.

In a previous newsletter, I shared with you that we were going to shift our focus in the Massage Clinic. Katya K. is one of the children who will benefit from this fine tuning. She is autistic. She doesn't speak and her behavior is somewhat aggressive. Because of her displaced hips, she was in stirrups for two years. She can walk by herself, but her muscles are very weak. She is also very small because of a hormone abnormality. After her 20 day massage treatment, she was less aggressive. Her muscles showed some signs of being strengthened. Her mother was taught how to administer passive exercises. These exercises will occur between treatments. Katya will receive 20 day massage treatments quarterly.

Through financial gifts, prayer support, and other means of involvement, MUCH is helping the people of Ukraine help themselves. God has provided teams of Ukrainian people to reach out to their own people and care for them. I thank everyone who has made it possible for me to move forward with the mission to which God has called me.

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

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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