



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

December 2007 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

It is my wish for each of you to experience God's presence and His blessings during this holiday season. I am pleased to announce that the Christmas Fundraiser for the Camp Program, the Transition Home, and the L'viv Orphanage has been a roaring success. Because of the generosity of the matching funds contributor and each of our most generous contributors, we have the funds to meet the needs for each of the three outreach proposals for 2008. Any additional gifts will be distributed to these three outreach programs in 2009 proportionately. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude for your generous giving this Christmas Season.

In the October newsletter, I wrote a brief note about Kristina, our first Transportation Scholarship recipient. She is currently attending the university. This month she will share her story in depth.

Kristina

I was invited to "Emmaus" club by Karolina, my friend. I was 11 at that time. She told me how nice it was there and that the children who attended "Emmaus" Club studied the Bible. I was very interested to see what this club was. I was interested in it because at that moment I was looking for some Spiritual support or help and positive attitudes in people. From the stories of Karolina about that club I understood that I could get this support there. I told my Mammy about the club and she approved my desire to visit.

On my way to the club I was very afraid because I didn't know yet what that club was like. When I came to the club I saw Zoya. I was a little bit nervous, but it turned out that my anxiety was in vain. Zoya was a very kind person. When I was making the acquaintance of Zoya I realized that she liked children and that children liked her too. This comforted me very much.

So, I began to attend the club and I liked it very much. Every day I spent time with other children, I learned about God and I liked what I learned about Him. I became calmer, gentler, and I found unselfish friendship there. In due course my life began to change. It was very clear for me what was good and what was bad. My opinion about the life changed. But I still had some problems at home. There were quarrels. I had some problems at school also.

At that age (I was 12) I wasn't sure of myself, people saw my uncertainty and treated me badly and as consequences I retired into my shell. But some time later I found out that I could address to God and that He could help me to solve my problems. I began to pray every day. After each prayer I felt some relief. I knew that God would definitely hear me.

Soon my problems were solved. I was very glad. I thanked God that He answered my prayers. I felt some changes in my heart. But later a grief happened in my life: my mammy passed away. I had a fit of depression. I retired into my shell. Then I asked God to help me in my grief. Later, God gave

me some wisdom. I understood that my mammy wouldn't want to see me in such mood, she would want to see me smiling.

I understood that I shouldn't give up, though it seemed to me that my life stopped. I remembered that I had a wonderful grandmother and that I shouldn't leave her because she felt not better than me. I realized that at that moment we were the closest people in the world. I began to ask God to strengthen her and help me not to give up. God helped me. Of course my mental anguish didn't leave me at one moment and it will never leave me but it was abated and I felt much better. I thanked God for all that He had done for me.

I continued to attend the "Emmaus" club. I spent all my spare time there. I felt that there I was understood and loved. I felt sincerity from adults and children.

Now I am 17. The time I spent in "Emmaus" club I remember with the smile on my face. I remember people who helped me with love in my heart and sometimes I want to cry. I never thought that the time I spent in that club would pass so quickly. But I am sure that "Emmaus" played a very great role in my life and I still thank God that He brought me there once.

In my life I want to be a lawyer. I believe that this profession is very serious and interesting. This profession can give me an opportunity to help adults and children. Today there are a few good lawyers. In most cases lawyers work for money, but they should work for people. During all my life I saw a lot of injustice in relation to people. I experienced this injustice toward myself. For a long time I wanted to have a profession that could help others. When I found out that there was such a profession as a lawyer I decided to be a lawyer and defend people, especially children, from injustice that is in my country.

Kristina

Once again, I wish to thank all who made the Christmas Fundraiser a reality. May God bless each of you for sharing your love with our children this Christmas Season.

Ira's Insights will return in January with more good news about our children in the Massage Clinic.

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:
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Greensboro, NC 27410**

Make checks payable to Mission Ukraine Children's Hope or MUCH
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