



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

## **February 2007 Newsletter**

Hello family and friends,

I will be in America during March and April. I will be in Pennsylvania March 2-14 and Florida March 24<sup>th</sup> through April 2. The rest of the time I will be in Greensboro, NC. I will be available to show PowerPoint presentations and share more personally what is happening with our children. If you would like me to meet with you or your church, please contact me by E-mail at your earliest convenience at [markk-ua@triad.rr.com](mailto:markk-ua@triad.rr.com).

About two years ago Maxim came into our lives. His father came to us to help him buy a walker so that his 9 year old son could go to school. Until we provided his walker, his mother had been home schooling him. His story was so inspiring that we feature him on the home page of our web site and the front page of our brochure. He has been receiving massage treatment at our clinic for more than a year. I would like to share about his progress recorded in his January report.

Maxim walks very well with the walker. He continues to need support, but now his balance is better and his legs are stronger. He can climb the ladder with his father's help. The massage treatments are relaxing his legs, allowing them to straighten. This helps him stand with a more firm posture. His personality is very positive and he has a lot of energy. I think that this young man will go far.

At the bottom of every progress report, one of the recommendations is to receive exercise so many times a week. There is a sports center in Illichevsk, but it is not equipped for the special needs of our children. Well, God is moving in the hearts of the local government officials to provide more for our children. Recently, Ira, my translator, and I spoke with Marina of Children's Social Services. She told us that there is a new idea that is developing. The Port of Illichevsk has a spa with different types of rehabilitation equipment available. The city, the port, the spa manager, and the chief doctor have discussed creating an organization within the spa that could provide exercise programs for our children. We have been talking about the need for rehabilitative exercise for our children for two years. This just may be the answer. If so, it will enrich all that is being accomplished through massage at our clinic. We will see even better results.

In our conversation with Marina, she thanked me for "pushing" the government to act. The reality is that I did nothing to "push" anything or anyone into action. What has happened is we have opened the eyes of the government to the needs of their people. We proposed our desire but had not asked for anything. We planted the seed. The people of Illichevsk took the initiative. The government leaders saw the need and responded to it. We will work together, but they will open the doors as God inspires their hearts.

I look forward to sharing the amazing experiences that I have had these past 5 years. Some people insist that the accomplishments are about my efforts. That may sound like the normal response to what has happened. But I know better than anyone that these are not my efforts. As Dennis Lennon suggested, "If I would make myself available, God would use me." He had the plan. I learned to hear His voice, then I did what He said. I have no more abilities than when I first came. What I have learned has been through experience and time. I remain amazed at what has happened and how it actually did occur.

Blessings of love and healing,

*Mark*

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