



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

July 2007 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

This month I will add a new section to the Newsletter. It will be a regular series. I call it "Ira's Insights." My assistant, Ira, will write something each month from her perspective of the activities that occur through MUCH in Illichevsk and Marganets. She has a lot share this month. Here is her first contribution.

Ira's Insights

A year ago God put a desire to Mark's heart to have some activities in a park situated next to the local Baptist church in Illichevsk, for the children from the clinic. In the beginning it was strange for some people who visited this park to see an American who came to clean the park every day. People can't find the trash cans that are located throughout the park, so they leave their bottles and food wrappers where they sit. It seemed that it was not possible to pull out all of the weeds and to keep the grass cut. But today the result is evident. The park looks very nice and it is ready to accept our children from the clinic. The local authority is very interested in holding a "Day in the Park." They say that these children are given little attention and that it would be wonderful to organize something nice for them. We anticipate that the "Day in the Park" will be held this summer and bring some joy to the hearts of these children.

Also Mark is planning to have a camp for children with disabilities. Probably it will be in the beginning of September. Seven children and their parents will be able to attend the camp by the Black Sea. Some of the children who will attend this camp participated at this camp last year. It was our first experience and we called it a "Pilot program". Children and their parents liked it very much. One of the boys who has Cerebral Palsy visited the camp last year. He is a painter. During the camp he had a great inspiration that caused him to work on two pictures. When I met his grandmother in the street she asked me to thank people who organized such a wonderful time for her and her grandchild.

The Massage clinic in Illichevsk has a lot of progress also. One young little girl who is 3 1/2 years old has great results from massage. Her name is Nastya. She is the child who asked if Mark was Santa. Nastya has Cerebral Palsy. One month ago she could only walk with help of her mother. Today Nastya can do it by herself. Isn't it great progress? God is amazing!

*Until next time,
Ira*

I am thrilled to anticipate my journey to Marganets on the 9th of August. I look forward to experiencing Vacation Bible School and other activities for our children. Also, I will encounter other children of Marganets for a first time through Pastor Vasiliy's church. I will be most excited to share about this, after the fact, in my August newsletter.

On another note, I have a group of young people who meet at my house for conversation in English. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that two of them have been working with short term missionary teams this summer as translators. A third went to Marganets with me in June and will go again in August. Not that I taught them anything, but rather, they are motivated to come to my home and learn through conversation. If not learn, brush up on their speaking skills in English. And Ira was thrilled to have been the lead translator for the group that visited the church in the village of Big Valley. God's blessings are falling upon the children as well as the teams.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

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