



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

## **June 2007 Newsletter**

Hello family and friends,

We hit the bricks running in June. First, I traveled to the orphanage at Marganets to visit with the children for a week. Summer is always the most difficult time for the orphaned children; they have no families to go home to. We went before graduation, unfortunately. A new translator, Alina, helped me during this trip. She brought games and ideas to share with the children. They all seemed to be happy to see us; but sad to see us leave. Through a friend, Ukraine Challenge will bring a team to the orphanage to do children's ministries in August, so I will return to help them as they need. This will be the first opportunity for the children to receive anything in the spiritual form.

Back in Illichevsk, Ira and I met with the city Sports and Recreation Director and the director of one of the colleges in Illichevsk to discuss the park for the disabled. Some previously unknown facts were shared. Because the church has permission and plans to build on the park grounds, the city will not invest any money to make physical changes in the park. If they did, the park would then become city property, and the church could not build on this land. However, MUCH is allowed to put recreation equipment in the park; and citizens are allowed to make contribution to do the same.

The money that the Director of Sports and Recreation offered us is still available, but for programs rather than equipment. We discussed the "Day in the Park," and the July date was moved forward to June 23rd. As the wheels began to turn and reality became clearer, we changed the date for "Day in the Park" to September. Instead, on June 22nd, we created a "Day in the Garden." On that day, three of the young adults with disabilities from our community and three mothers came to the park. They cleared and planted flowers in a 4x4 meter area. It was so good to see people with disabilities stepping out into society and claiming what is theirs. As we continue our programs in the park, I believe that the families of our children will build attitudes that will merge their families into our society in Illichevsk.

I met Veronika S. in May, as she was walking from her massage treatment at our clinic. I asked the therapist to ask her to stop so I could say hello. She is very a very pleasant seven- year-old but a little surprised that a stranger would speak to her. After our brief chat, she and her father walked down the corridor together. Vika, short for Veronika, has a contracture in her left leg. Also, her left leg is shorter than her right leg by 2 cm. As a result, she has developed a curve in her spine (scoliosis). She has difficulty manipulating her foot at the ankle. In March of this year her ankle was operated on at the hospital in Kiev. After her 20 day massage treatment at our clinic, Vika was no longer complaining of pain in her spine. The muscles in her back were strengthened. It has been recommended that she receive massage treatments quarterly. Also, exercises have been suggested between treatments. At age 7, Vika has a long life ahead of her. She is one of the many children whose lives God is changing through the efforts of MUCH.

Let's watch together to see what God will do for His children in greatest need.

As MUCH touches the lives of more than 200 children, the needs are constantly growing. Our biggest need is prayer. When you talk with God this evening, please remember the needs of our children. Aside from clothes, food, and rehabilitation; we are entering into social intervention (the park for the disabled program), higher education (transportation scholarships), recreation (Day in the Park), and spiritual understanding (Ukraine Challenge team visits). I have mentioned each of these areas in previous newsletters. Our task is bigger than we are, but it is not too big for God. After all, it was He who called us to this mission.

Blessings of love and healing,

*Mark*

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

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