



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

October 2007 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

In September I spoke about expansion of the boundaries of MUCH. This month I was in Ternopil and L'viv, renewing old friendships and starting new ones. Let me focus on L'viv. I met some people from a church in L'viv who have a passion for outreach to the poor. Two or three are particularly interested in reaching out to children in one of the twenty orphanages in L'viv. As powerfully as God led me to begin outreach in Marganets 5 years ago, He is leading me to involve MUCH in similar outreach in L'viv. As for now, I will make personal investments as I see the needs.

A second outreach where MUCH will expand its borders is in Marganets. During the Vacation Bible School week in August, I met the children from the "transition house" for a second time. These are children from very bad home situations who are going to be placed in orphanages somewhere in the Dnepropetrovsk Region. They are in transition for about 3 months, a maximum of 20 children in this setting. The director would like them to stay for 9 months, but the government will decide. In the meantime, these children have the clothes on their backs, but not much else. It is an emotionally difficult time for them. MUCH has begun with an initial financial gift of \$100 to buy underclothes, socks, tights, and slippers. We would like to provide a quarterly gift, as they receive new children every three months.

Our third expansion is for the camp for our children from the massage clinic. Camp has been well received during these first two years. We would like to send more children to camp. This year we used about \$1000 to send 14 people to camp; half are parents, a requirement for the child to attend. Next year we would like to double that figure.

Our Christmas fund raiser this year will focus on these three outreach ministries. We want to raise \$500 for clothes and some toys for the children at the transition house in Marganets. This amount would cover the year of 2008. . We want to raise \$2000 for the camp program for our children of the massage clinic. Finally, we would like to raise \$2000 to cover a year of purchases of clothing, shoes, and winter wear for the children of an orphanage in L'viv. I will have more information about this new outreach in the *November newsletter*. This is our Christmas fund raiser as God has guided me. If God is touching your heart about our children, please share the Christmas Spirit with them.

Ira's Insights

Autumn has come and with this season we can see what progress we have for this year. I know that the holiday that is celebrated in America in autumn, "Thanksgiving", is a very special time among Americans. It helps people to remember what God has given them, how He has blessed them during the last year.

In Ukraine we have a holyday similar to "Thanksgiving", but this holyday in Ukraine is celebrated mostly only in protestant churches. We call it "Harvest". We don't have a set date for this Holyday, because it is not a national celebration. So, in churches we celebrate "Harvest" in any Sunday of September or October. This holyday reminds us again and again what fruits or what progress we have had. For me it gives a special feeling about what progress we have in ministries

that are run by MUCH. I think that these ministries have brought a lot of fruits and benefit to Ukrainian children this year.

Today I'd like to tell you about one of the fruits that the Massage clinic has brought. Nastya P. has been having treatment at this clinic since 2004. She was one of the first patients of the clinic. She lives with her grandmother. Her parents died soon after the Chernobyl accident where they lived. Nastya was born with some problems. She has Cerebral Palsy and right side Hemiplegia due to a tumor in her brain. Her right leg is shorter than the left leg. Today she is 15 years old. She can walk by herself. Thanks to the Massage clinic Nastya has constant maintaining treatment. After each massage treatment her balance is better and she doesn't experience pain in her neck and back. Nastya studies at a regular school. For her to have a massage treatment is a real celebration. She understands that thanks to this clinic she can improve some of her physical problems. Every time when Mark or I meet her grandmother in the street she thanks us for helping her granddaughter.

*Until next time,
Ira*

Kristina, our first Emmaus scholarship student, has been very busy with her studies. I hope to have her story for the November newsletter. In the meantime, let me tell you something about her. I met her at the Emmaus Food Program when she was 12 years old. At that time she lived in the village with her mother. She didn't know, or wouldn't tell, much about her father. He was absent in her life. She had a number of dogs and cats, some chickens, and a pet ferret, I think. Her life was simple. Her passion was to read books. She interacted very well with the other children at Emmaus. She participated in all of the activities. Then, two years ago her mother died of brain cancer. Kristina is now categorized as an orphan, but she lives with her grandmother. As she has entered the University in Odessa, she has great dreams for her future.



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
MUCH is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization