



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

January 2008 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

Congratulations to Ira and Platon Kolosova, my assistant and her husband, upon the December 27th birth of their baby girl, Sofia. Ira is very busy with Sofia and her 8 year old son, who is in the second grade. We will be hearing from her next month in *Ira's Insights*.

Thank you to all of the contributors who made our Christmas Fund Raiser very successful. This month I will report on the children of the Transition Home. I met with the director while I was in Marganets in December. She filled me in on how things happen there. She introduced me to her staff and some of the children. Let me share some of our conversation with you. The transition home has been in operation at this location for the past 10 years. Previously, this building was a kindergarten. To adapt this building for use as a transition house, many changes had to take place. It would now be used to house children 6 to 18 years old. Also, it would be for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, occupancy. The home is now a very pleasant facility, still receiving some facelifts. The government is not very interested financially in improving this facility. The staff has wonderful hearts for the well-being of the children. We have officially begun our program with them. Anatoliy, my manager for the orphanage in Marganets, (and now the Transition Home) has received the quarterly gift from the Christmas Fund Raiser and will purchase underclothes, socks, slippers, and other basic needs for the children.

Anatoliy has built a great relationship with the children of the orphanage over the years, but he doesn't record the different stories. This visit he did share a story with me. Let me pass it on to you that you may see how contributions to MUCH are changing the lives of the children and making an impact upon the community.

Anatoliy is a retired Russian about 70 years old. Aside from a smoking habit and failing vision, he is a very healthy man. He worked in Magadan, by the east coast of Russia. I don't know how long he has lived in Marganets. God has given him a great heart for children. That is how we met. For the past 5 years he has been managing our outreach to one particular orphanage in his city.

In December, I had sent him money for pleasure reading books for the children. He found a store that could order the books that the manager of the orphanage was interested in having for the children. Because of the quantity, the orphanage was given a discount. Also during this visit, new coats were bought for some of the children.

On one of Anatoliy's visits to the bookstore, the clerk told him this story. One of the children from the orphanage came to the book store. As the child was looking at the different books, the clerk asked where she was from. She said that she was living in the orphanage, and had no parents. The clerk further asked, "If you have no parents, where did you get that beautiful new coat?" With a touch of pride in her voice she said, "We have an American sponsor who helps us. You should see what he has done for us." It is, in fact, what you have done for them.

I have written time and again about one particular result of our work with the children in my thank you letters to contributors. That result is improved self-image. In each of the outreach ministries, we focus upon a different physical need: food, rehabilitation, or clothing. In the process of meeting some very basic needs, the children realize a new value within themselves. They feel loved. They are becoming integrated into society, in their own minds, as equals, or as good as the other children of the city. The doctor at the orphanage has begun a massage program for a few of the children. She tells me the same. "Yes," she said, "the children are receiving physical results. But what is really exciting is the change in their emotional self- image. I am seeing great results."



Massage recipient in costume
for New Years Concert and Performance



She received a new coat.

As God continues to guide and provide, MUCH moves forward. Each of the individuals on the team uses their gifts to bless the children in their own special way. Each team member is equally important to make the end result successful. I am grateful to each one, for alone I can do nothing.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

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

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www.muchhope.org**

OR

**Your gift may be mailed to:
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