



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

June 2008 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

I hope that your summer has begun with great plans for relaxation and excitement. Illichevsk children are out of school and happily playing by the sea. It is a wonderful time after nine months of working diligently at school; it is now time to play exhaustively for the summer.

As I have said in previous newsletters, the purpose of MUCH is to help the people of Ukraine help themselves. I am constantly asking myself, "Are we accomplishing this task?" Here is one example that answers this question in the affirmative. In a meeting that I had with the pastor of the Baptist church, we discussed the camp program that MUCH has been providing for children with disabilities. He said that since we had made his church aware of the "children in hiding," they were taking steps to work with people with disabilities. I asked if his church wanted to be involved with the MUCH camp program in September. His reply was most interesting. He said, "Thank you for opening our eyes to the needs of these people. We will reach out to them on our own. As a church, we will reach out to our community."

As Ira stated in *Ira's Insights* last month, the church planned to provide a camp program for children and adults with disabilities and family members. They have done just that this month at Sanzjaka Church Camp. Three women from the church cooked all week and other church people came to provide for different needs. Surprisingly, much of the funding came from outside of the church, from the local community. It appears that MUCH has succeeded in its original goal. A spark has been lit within the Baptist church, and the community at large is responding to the needs of their people. Television reporters came to capture the event on film and even interviewed Ira and some of the campers

I went to the sea yesterday to gather seashells for art projects for the children at the Transition Home. Seashells are most abundant on the southwest side of the beach. After collecting a bag of shells, I walked along the beach wall that parallels the sea. I was surprised to see a number of new upgrades. Most amazing was a concrete ramp that went from the road right down to the sea wall. It is perfect for wheel chairs, strollers, and baby buggies. In the past three years, Illichevsk has been making great strides to promote itself as an accessible resort city. It appears that God is smiling on Illichevsk.

Ira's Insights

A spontaneous event was held by the local Baptist church from June, 9-13. The camp for the disabled was uncertain until the last minute. This camp brought a lot of pleasant surprises to me. I was very glad to see some of the smallest patients of the massage clinic attending this camp. I hadn't seen them for a long time! Their progress overwhelmed me!

Every day when I came to the camp I liked to speak to the mothers and their children. Once when Mark and I visited the camp we were invited to the room where three mothers and their children were staying. There, Mark had a huge opportunity for taking pictures! Ann S., Kirill Y., and Jean S. demonstrated their progress with a great desire.

Little Ann S. has changed a lot. I remember the first time when I saw her at the clinic. She looked like 5 or 6 months old. But actually she was 1 year and 5 months old. She couldn't walk or keep her balance. Because of the birth trauma Ann couldn't hold her head up. It was awful to think what the future of this child would be. Today Ann is 5. She is a quite different child than she was 4 years ago. She looks like a girl of 5 or 6 year old. She can't walk by herself but she can walk when her mother holds her under her arms. With a great desire she likes to move her legs, trying to walk. She has much progress in holding her head up. When I visited the camp I enjoyed speaking to her. She smiled at me in her way. She didn't speak much but her big brown eyes could express her feelings much more than any words.

Kirill Y., who is a twin, age 6, liked to go to the beach with his mother and his twin brother, Nikita. I have known this child for a long time. He was born missing 5 lower vertebrae. When Kirill came to the massage clinic he didn't have any feelings in his legs. Now he can walk with the help of a full length orthopedic leg shell and a walker. I liked watching how he skillfully manipulated with his walker. It was another amazing thing that I saw at the camp.

Jean S. also was a pleasant surprise for me. Instead of using a walker she brought her stroller and her doll with her to the camp. The whole day she was walking with her stroller and her doll. Sometimes she asked some one to watch her doll while she went to her mother. It was so cute to see her as a little mother of her doll!

Four years ago a handful of mothers met at Mark's home to talk about the massage clinic. They were distraught and full of hopelessness about their children. Today the mothers are seeing so much progress; and they themselves have changed.

Until Next Time,

Ira

All of God's children are waiting for His love. MUCH is one of God's vessels that is actively bringing His love to the children of Ukraine. Please pray that MUCH will continue to envision God's plan for each group of children. Thank you for your interest in our children.

Blessings of love and healing,

Mark

**Illichevsk Massage Therapy Clinic Marganets Orphanage
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If you would like to support this ministry financially,

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Your gift may be mailed to:

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