



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

September 2008 Newsletter

Hello family and friends,

I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and happiness. On Wednesday, I returned from a very wet week in Marganets. The streets were flooded on Monday, but it didn't keep us from the children. The big news in Marganets is that I have two new team members for MUCH. Enna, an English teacher in a nearby village, has offered her gift of translating. She did a great job for me and has a passion for the children. Olga began her lessons for the pilot Drug and Alcohol Program at the orphanage on Monday. She did a great job in her first presentation to about 15 children ages 11 to 13. Olga has a gentle way and a pleasant personality. I believe that she will weave the love of God into the hearts of the children as she helps them build new character.

Enna and I visited the transition home to meet a new group of children entering the orphanage system. Anatoliy has bought the needed clothing and shoes for them. I brought some seashells from the Black Sea for them to work with in art activities. Our work with these children is limited at this time, but we are meeting their most basic needs of shoes and clothing. The director was out, but we will visit with her in January.

On Sunday, we visited the youth of the Baptist church and shared a message with them. I heard that eight children had been baptized recently. These youth are looking for answers, so I will share a part of my life experience with them each time that I visit Marganets. We also gave a short talk at the Charismatic Church service. I reminded them that I had spoken to them about 4 years ago. I shared about my work with the children in the orphanage and Olga's work there, inviting them to become involved.

Eight years ago, God called me to Ukraine. Six years ago, I began my journey into the second half of my life. During those 6 years, I have used 8 different translators in Marganets. God has been preparing Enna during that time. Now she is part of the team in Marganets! God continues to introduce me to different nationals and Americans, but I will not be surprised where future friends may come from. My journey has shown me that my imagination will always be too small to guess what God will do next.

Ira's Insight

This time I'd like to write and tell you something about Emmaus. Sometimes it seems to me that this club is one of the children of MUCH. For me, it is a kind angel for those who attended or attend the club.

I remember the day when Mark started to come to Emmaus and to be interested in the lives of the children and programs. At that time, I was one of the staff of Emmaus. I taught the sewing class. The help of MUCH with sewing machines and other things was great for the club. Thanks to this organization, I was able to get material for the girls to make different clothes. The girls who attended the sewing class at that time are young adults now. They were from poor and difficult families. Some of them didn't have hot water in their homes to have a shower. MUCH helped the club to remodel a pantry to be a shower room. It was a real present for the children of Emmaus. I remember that girls were in line to take a hot shower.

Time has passed and different groups of children attend Emmaus and prepare for their future life. It's interesting to see how God has blessed Emmaus. I am very appreciative to the Board of Directors of MUCH who oversee the needs of children. I always say that God is a great Provider Who acts through people and circumstances. Now MUCH is actively involved not only in the life of Emmaus but also in the lives of children who are graduates of Emmaus.

I am sure that you, my friends, have read about the computer program that has started at Emmaus and about the transportation scholarship program. These are two big programs that can change the lives of our children. Thanks to these programs, the children will have the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

I am sure that in my articles I have mentioned about some other programs that MUCH has initiated for the club. But I want to tell you that, thanks to MUCH, the lives of children have changed a lot and I have a great hope that it will continue. Many other children who now attend the club look at their friends who attended the club in the past and want to be like them, successful in their lives. Looking at the changes in the lives of many children of Emmaus my heart wants to say, "May God bless those people who participate in the lives of our children."

Until later,

Ira

In October we will begin our Christmas fund raiser for 2009. This year has been difficult for everyone. For the last quarter of 2008, MUCH has had to cut all overseas ministry support by 5%. We hope that this will be a temporary situation, but the root of the problem is the weaker dollar overseas. We hope to find more support for our three basic outreach ministries listed below. We are also looking for money to touch the education and health needs of the children through our pilot projects that we support on a year-to-year basis. I will outline everything in the October newsletter.

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

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