



God's Hidden Treasures  
 P.O. Box 4276  
 San Clemente, CA 92674  
 (949) 492-6814  
 www.godshiddentreasures.org

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# News From Nita



## Blessed to Be a Blessing 10 Years of Ministry

**Who Knew? By Nita Hanson**

***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11***

Everywhere I go one of the most frequently asked questions is, "How do you know God's will for you or His purpose for your life?" My answer is that God has a plan and a purpose for each life He created. Our job is not to figure out what that purpose is - our job is to surrender all to Him and the rest will become abundantly clear.

When I finally surrendered my life to Christ in September 1990, I wanted to serve Him with all my heart. I immediately became part of a church family (Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Thousand Oaks, CA), and began to get involved, first of all in a Renovare Group with three other women. A Renovare Group seeks to grow closer to God and practice the spiritual disciplines. Then I became involved in the Prayer Ministry at Emmanuel and later became a Stephen minister. I was sure that I was where the Lord wanted me to be.

I remember attending a conference in October 1993 where we were asked to sign up for a short-term mission trip. At the end of the conference the people I knew came up and asked me where I had signed up to go to. I emphatically told them, "I am part of the Prayer Ministry and I'm a Stephen minister. I don't do missions!" Well, I'm sure the Lord had a good chuckle over that statement! For you see I know now that being a missionary was God's plan for me all along.

About this same time, I began to find myself praying the verses:

***"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'  
 And I said, 'Here am I, send me!'"  
 Isaiah 6:8, NIV***

And

***"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your  
 tent curtains wide, do not hold back;  
 lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."  
 Isaiah 54:2, NIV***



Some of God's Hidden Treasures

### Opportunities for Involvement

I would like to:

- Join the prayer team. Put me on the e-mail list to receive requests.
- Make a monthly contribution.
- Make a special donation.
- Invite Nita to speak in Jan/Feb 2007.
- Receive my News From Nita by e-mail
- Sponsor a Family

Please mail to: GHT  
 P.O. Box 4276  
 San Clemente, CA 92674

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact info \_\_\_\_\_  
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Blessed To Be a Blessing, continued

Little did I know what God was preparing me for! To be honest, if I had known I might have run as fast as I could have in the opposite direction. But God is so gracious to bring us to His plan step by step and I am so thankful to Him for His loving kindness.

In 1996 I signed up with the Co-Mission to come to Ukraine to teach the Bible for one year. Making that commitment was scary, but as God raised the support I needed for that year, I had no doubt it was His plan. Shortly after coming to Ukraine in July 1996, the Lord began sending me to the orphanages where He broke my heart for the children of this country—children too often abandoned because of physical or mental disabilities. Next, He began to show me many sick and disabled people who were treated as if they didn't exist.

I knew then that God wanted me to return to Ukraine and stay as long as He desired. But, how would I return? I couldn't find an organization whose heart was for long term relational ministry to the orphans and handicapped. Still, I knew without a doubt that this was God's plan. And if it was His plan, He would find a way for me to return.

I came home in July 1997 and talked to my church, asking if I could raise funds under their umbrella until I could find an organization to send me. My Pastor, Tim Beal, added, "Or until you start a new organization." Emmanuel agreed to my proposal and on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1997 I returned to Bila Tserkva to begin the ministry now known as God's Hidden Treasures.

What began in a small one-bedroom apartment with just myself and an interpreter has grown beyond my wildest dreams.

**"....."stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back"....."**

- Our Ukrainian staff now numbers 15 full-time employees and we already need to add more people. The small apartment has become a 6,500 square foot building, complete with our own Wheelchair Repair Center and Medical Clinic.
- The latest medical shipment has been distributed to four hospitals and numerous clinics in the Kiev Region, bringing the total amount distributed to well over \$1,000,000.
- The 59 villages in the Bila Tserkva District have become part of our outreach with our "Mobile Medical Clinic."
- The Stroke Rehabilitation Program has over 80 active patients at any given time. Since its inception well over 150 patients have been helped, with more than one-third of them walking.
- The Diabetic Program is reaching hundreds of victims of this terrible disease. Test strips, glucometers, diabetic syringes, diet plans, monthly seminars and more are offered to the community.
- Over 2,000 wheelchairs and other mobility aids have been brought to Ukraine through this ministry.

So, I will be here ready to help you:

- Sign up to be a prayer partner
- Make a donation
- Change your address
- Schedule a speaking engagement with Nita
- Plan a mission trip to Ukraine
- Etc.

Please don't hesitate to let me know how I can help build our partnership with God's Hidden Treasures!



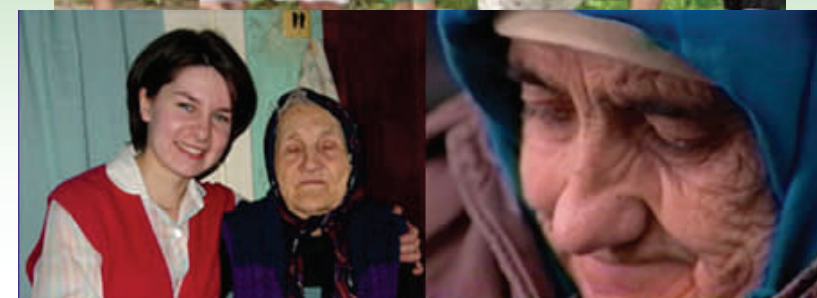
Connie Veldkamp  
P.O. Box 4276  
San Clemente, CA 92674  
(949) 492-6814  
Connie.Veldkamp@cox.net

P.S. A humorous footnote:

Another friend asked, "What would the Scripture have been if you'd decided it was the 5<sup>th</sup> Book of the **New King James, 4** you, chapter **7**, verse **3**?" In other words, Deuteronomy 7:3. It said, "Do not intermarry with them..."

**www.godshiddentreasures.com**

Check out our awesome new Website!



## Spotlight On: Connie

By Connie Veldkamp

It felt as if I were on the Tilt-o-Whirl and the floor suddenly dropped. The announcement came at an ominous meeting—The JESUS Film Project (where I had worked for almost nine years) would be relocating from Southern California to Orlando, Florida. I was invited to move with them, and while I loved this ministry, my boss and co-workers, could I leave my family, friends, home, church and everything familiar?

After wrestling with the options, I managed to say, “Okay, Lord, I’ll go if you show me CLEARLY that it’s Your will. Not knowing that I was at a crossroads, Nita called a short time later to ask if I would pray about coming to Ukraine on a long-term basis to help with God’s Hidden Treasures. A week before I wouldn’t have considered such a move, but I reasoned that if I was willing to move to Orlando, then why not Ukraine? After all, I could come home several times a year so that my two grandkids wouldn’t forget me. I could think of nothing more exciting or rewarding than working alongside Nita and the staff of God’s Hidden Treasures. I had already made four trips to Bila Tserkva, experiencing the ministry first-hand, helping put on the first summer camp, assisting at the yearly picnic, riding along on wheelchair deliveries, accompanying Dr. Tamara to visit stroke patients, and meeting many of the people and groups who partner with Nita in ministry. I knew the tremendous contributions GHT was making to the poor and disabled of Ukraine, and I wanted to be a part of what God was doing there.

For several weeks I had been awaiting a new license plate for my car and I had asked the Lord for a Scripture verse for my plate. In the mail the answer came, a shiny new plate “5NJK473.” Now what could that mean?!? A co-worker and I decided that it was the 5<sup>th</sup> book of the New Testament of James the King 4 me, chapter 7, verse 3. Looking up Acts 7:3, we gasped as we read, “And [God] said to him [okay, I changed it to her], ‘Get out of your country and from your kindred and come into the land which I shall show you.’” It sounded like Ukraine to me so I set about making plans to move. (Please don’t think this is how I make my decisions—pointing a finger into Scripture. But there were several other confirmations simultaneously.)

I agreed to stay with my job until the office moved six months later. Nita then returned to the U.S. for a visit and greeted me with a startling request. She had come to the conclusion that it would be more beneficial for me to remain where I was and take over the various jobs which were scattered all over California and beyond. In other words, I would become the U.S. office of God’s Hidden Treasures.

Initial disappointment turned to acceptance and even relief as I realized I would probably need to be close to my mother, whose health was rapidly deteriorating. I don’t believe that I heard God wrong, only that He was challenging me to see if I was WILLING to go.

## Blessed To Be a Blessing, continued

- Somewhere around 20 mission teams have come to work alongside God’s Hidden Treasures and hundreds of orphans and handicapped people have been blessed by them.
- Three annual summer camps have been put on for handicapped children and their moms.
- Countless orphans have been taught the Bible through this ministry. Several of them have been adopted and are now living in loving homes.
- Three children were brought to Shriners’ Hospital where they received surgery, prostheses and, most of all, loving care.
- We have distributed wheelchairs in many cities and villages around Ukraine. We are able to keep our costs down by working with churches and Christian organizations in these cities. More than that, thousands of people are being ministered to in the name of Jesus as His love is taken into their homes.
- Our annual picnic for the handicapped people of Bila Tserkva has grown from 75 people the first year to more than 350. This last year four different churches helped us as we transported the people to and from the park and served them a warm and tasty meal.
- The Village Dream is alive and well. The 30 plus acres are there, waiting for the go ahead from the Lord to break ground. We dream of the many orphans whose lives will be changed when the village becomes a reality.

I could go on and on, but I’m not ready to write a book – yet!

*.....enlarge the place of your tent”.....*

I was reminded of this verse again as I just returned from a trip to the Crimea where we distributed over 40 mobility aids around the city of Simferopol. While we were there, I was asked to come to Sevastopol to meet with a young pastor who wants to work with our wheelchair ministry. Just prior to this trip, I was in the city of Vinnitsa distributing mobility aids throughout their region.

I remembered the first wheelchair distribution in Bila Tserkva in April 1999. We distributed 40 wheelchairs over a one-week period and were amazed at this miracle God had done.

What will God do in the next 10 years? I’m not even going to venture a guess. But whatever it is, I know it will be wonderful, amazing and unbelievable. **Who Knows?**



↑ Wheelchair Center Staff

← Office Staff

## Living Water

By Maureen Feaster

Nita asked me to write an article about my trip this summer to the God's Hidden Treasures camp for kids with diabetes and physical disabilities. So, I reflected on the people we worked with, the challenges we faced, and the incredible ways God worked in our midst. And as those reflections tumultuously poured out, I struggled with what to write.



Some reflections were joyous: getting to see many of the kids and parents I had met before on my 2004 trip. Meeting new kids and their parents. Getting to minister this time, not only to the kids, but also to their parents. Seeing the newly refurbished headquarters of God's Hidden Treasures, and spending time with Nita and her staff, who are the dearest people you could ever want to know. (In my mind, they are heroes!) Visiting a special new kind of school for disabled kids who can go home every night to their own families. Spending time again with our dear hosts, the Gumenyuks; even being invited to witness the river baptism of a young Gumenyuk grandson named Bogdan. Eating lunch on Fourth of July, in Kiev, at McDonald's, with American and Ukrainian friends together. What a thrill all of these were!

Some reflections were not so joyous: seeing the daily struggles and health issues of the kids we worked with and their parents. Hearing that the newly elected government leaders that showed promise for a bright Ukrainian future have not lived up to their potential for good. Spending time in orphanages with so many precious children who so desperately need loving, nurturing families and homes. Praying with elderly villagers whose health and general life struggles seem overwhelming. These were the hard things to see.

So, I asked myself...what should I write about? Coming up empty handed on my own, I prayed to God for inspiration, and within an hour, while driving to work, He gave me a theme around which to organize my reflections – water, the physical kind and the spiritual kind.

Water – the lack or abundance of it – was a thread that wove its way throughout my trip last summer. Obviously, we flew over some huge bodies of water on our way there and back.

There was a river at the camp that the kids and their parents loved, but that terrified me (I don't do wild water – only pools!). On any trip away from home, there is always the issue of drinking water, and our team positively craved the two bottles a day we were allotted.

There were the water issues at the camp. The showers didn't work well, and at one point before the camp started, the camp's water supply was shut off entirely! No showers. Worse yet, no flushing! I'll admit to having a few uncomfortable moments when that issue arose. But God provided. The water came back on, and we learned how to use our emptied drinking water bottles to take showers. We even had fun with this – inquiring of each other whether today was a normal two-bottle day or a luxurious four-bottle day!

When we readied to leave the camp, we joyfully anticipated regular showers at our host family's home, only to find out when we arrived that Bila Tserkva's annual "clean out the water system pipes" day was occurring, and, you guessed it...the water was turned off for much of the day. Again, no showers and no flushing. And now, no laundry. Yikes! Of course, the Gumenyuks, hosts extraordinaire that they are, had planned for us. They had several "Plan B" options in place that worked fine until the water was on and safe to use again.



The Gumenyuks

But in spite of the drippy H<sub>2</sub>O-types of issues, God reminded us daily of His presence. In fact, though the water issues were sometimes a distraction, in the end, what we all drank most – missionaries and those we came to serve – was living water.

Our relationships with each other, both new and rekindled, were life-giving and tear-drying. And for those who grew in their understanding and acceptance of Christ's gift of salvation, it was like finding perfect, pure spring water.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" Isaiah 12:3, NIV.

"For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" Revelation 7:17, NIV.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!**