

News From GHT



By Nita Hanson

SEASONS

Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; **Wait**, I say, **on the LORD**! Psalm 27:14

Just as the seasons change throughout the year, so the “seasons” in our lives change. Some seasons are wonderful and others can be extremely painful. Others are times of rapid growth, followed by a season of absorbing and “growing into” all that has happened. BUT, seasons come and go, just as surely as winter follows autumn! The good news is that God is in control (if we let Him)!

Sometimes God has us “wait” a long, long time and it seems like what we are dreaming of will never happen. I often wonder how Paul felt when Jesus filled His heart with the dream of going to the “gentiles” with the good news of the gospel only to make him wait over 13 years. Had he heard wrong? Did he miss God’s leading? Or was God teaching Him things he needed to learn before he went; or did things need to be prepared ahead of his coming?

Many years ago God put a big dream in my heart – a dream to build a Village for the orphaned and disabled children of Ukraine – a place where they would be loved within a family context – a place where they would discover that God has a plan for their lives and be encouraged to follow their dreams. I was so excited, **but then nothing happened.** Did I hear wrong? Did I miss God’s timing? God had put me in a time of waiting. During that time I was told that the government had confiscated our land (the 30 acres we had been given a 49-year lease on). Everyone in Ukraine told me to forget it because it was gone. My reply was always, “I haven’t lost it yet because God hasn’t told me I have.”

Last April I went to see the mayor of Forcee who had originally given us the lease on the land. I was hoping to convince him to get our land back! I didn’t get 10 words out of my mouth before he started telling me that he has been fighting for our land this whole time. Furthermore, he had just come from a meeting with the Regional Mayor for the Bila Tserkva District (over all cities and villages in the district), and the Regional Mayor was wanting to help in the fight to get the land back. They had even located another plot of land not too far away to try and trade with the man who received our land when it was confiscated.

Keep reading as there is so much more to the story of how God is moving toward getting the Village going. . . .



In May 2016, I received a message sent via our Website from a Cyndi Petrich, sharing that she and her husband had been to Ukraine and had their hearts broken by the children in the orphanages. After many conversations, I invited them to come to visit our office when they were in Ukraine over the summer.

Here is Kurt & Cyndi's story: **How God Has Kicked Opened Doors**



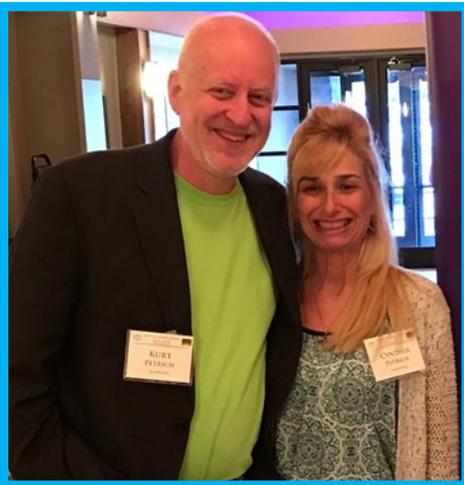
(Cyndi, Kurt and their daughter at the Wheelchair Center)

In May 2016, Cyndi was taking a Russian class and was assigned a project. Through research for the project, she found God's Hidden Treasures' Website and Nita Hanson where she learned about the great impact GHT and Nita have had in Ukraine and the important work that was being done. Before long the three of us connected over Skype. And the next thing we knew, Nita was on our radar and in our plans for our next Ukraine trip. This time we were looking for an orphanage director from a Baby House that would work with us.

After meeting with Nita at God's Hidden Treasures, Nita suggested that we meet with Steve Weber, Director of Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), Ukraine. And as it turned out, Nita and Steve have known each other a long time, so this just made sense -- maybe Steve might be able to assist us. Steve gladly offered an open door and in a few days we were sitting in his office sharing our heart for Ukraine's kids. In the middle of the conversation, Steve stops us and thinks for a moment. He had a friend that might be able to help us. Did we have a minute? He picked up his phone and dialed his friend. But unfortunately... his friend wasn't available. No answer. Hmmmm

Steve turned around and explained that his friend Mykola Kuleba was Ukraine's President Poroshenko's Ombudsman for Children's Affairs for Ukraine. He wasn't in...but would we like his personal phone number so that we could call him ourselves. We looked at each other, and our jaws almost dropped to the floor. We were looking for one orphanage director that might throw us an old bone, and here we were, being asked if we would like to talk with the man in charge of all of the orphanages and orphans of Ukraine!

Over the course of the next week, we made the call, and by God's grace, we found ourselves sitting across the table from Mykola Kuleba, listening to him share his vision for Ukraine's orphans. And one part of the vision was the idea of Regional Centers in each oblast which would provide care services to orphans. It was a strong vision. We returned to the U.S., and after a few months, we were sharing our trip notes with Nita Hanson, when she shared something with us -- that there is a 30-acre plot of land she has in Ukraine that she's had a vision of building a Village on for a long time. And the more we listened, the more it was clear that the two visions.... Overlapped. They were almost one and the same!!! *Somewhere, 1-2 hours south of Kyiv, is a plot of earth that is about to shift the lives of thousands and thousands of Ukrainian outcasts...orphans.*



Kurt and Cyndi



Cyndi at the Boys' House



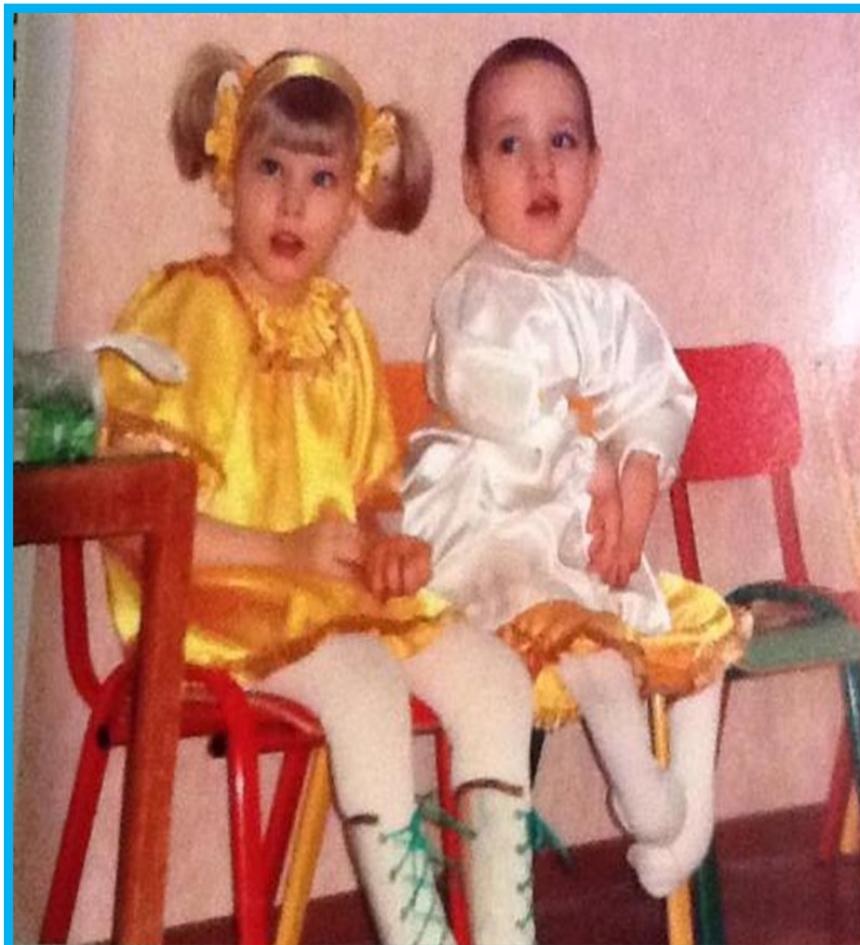
“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God” Psalm 20:7

“For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help” Psalm 22:24

“Your child has a rare disability; you need to have an abortion.” “Your son’s disability will be too difficult and too shameful for you and your family; you need to give him up to the state.” For years during the Soviet Union, this is what moms were told by doctors. Many moms of children with disabilities were pressured to have abortions, and even more were compelled to give their children to state orphanages to be raised.

Parents made these decisions with heavy hearts. Moms who gave their children to the orphanage did so because they thought it was best for their child. Every week we minister to children who have grown up in the orphanage system in Ukraine. Five of our office staff go every week to different orphanages to teach the Bible, play games, do crafts, sing worship songs, and love the children.

Most of these children will spend their whole lives in institutions, but every now and then, we are blessed to see a child leave the institution, to become part of a family. Many years ago, a young boy, Michael, was adopted from the Baby House orphanage in our city Bila Tserkva, by a family in Arkansas. Doctors told Michael’s parents he would be born with a rare condition known as Amyoplasia and that they should consider abortion. His mother chose life for Michael, but because of his severe medical needs, gave him up to the state orphanage, hoping he would receive the medical care he needed.



Michael in the US



When he was a little older, his U.S. parents told him something that was quite a shock to him. He had a twin brother, who still lives in Ukraine, with his birth parents. Ever since he found out he has a twin, Michael desired to meet him someday.

We later received a message on Facebook from Stacey, Michael's mom in the U.S., asking for our help in getting in contact with his birth parents. Stacey's heart broke when she saw a video online of two twins who grew up in different countries reunited for the first time on an American talk show.

She began praying about facilitating a meeting between Michael and his twin and eventually contacted us.

Follow Pastor Scott's Blog at:
<https://ukrainepastor.wordpress.com/>

Michael and his Sister, both adopted from Ukraine.



Our hope at God's Hidden Treasures is that every child in the orphanage would have a family—that Michael's story could be every child's story. Our dream is of a village for the children, where every orphan could live with host parents, and experience the love of a mom and dad. There is so much work to be done and many obstacles to overcome to make this dream come true, but with God all things are possible. The God who found a loving home for Michael can find a home for all His children. Please pray for the village, that God would open all the right doors, and stir in the right people's hearts, so that we can make a difference in these children's lives, for they are God's family. I'll leave you with Michael's recap of his first conversation with his birth mom. While there were many questions asked (Michael prepared a whole list), these are the things that stood out to him the most.

"I was nervous while waiting to talk to my birth mom. If you're wondering if I have a birth mom, yes I'm adopted. I was scared to talk to her but I prayed to God and he gave me courage to say the right words I had to say to her. The first word I said to her was "hi" and she said back to me, "Do

you have good grades?". I said back to her "Yes, I have good grades." I asked her if my brothers know that I'm their brother. She said, "No. Are you mad at me?" I responded to her, "No. What does your house look like?" She said it is small."

Luke 18:16 "But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Please "like" us on our Facebook page "God's Hidden Treasures" There is a link on our Website "godshiddentreasures.org" that will take you directly to the Facebook page.



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- Make a special donation.
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God's Hidden Treasures is a ministry that serves the needs of the poor, the disabled and the orphaned of Ukraine and brings God's love through personal relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.