



DECEMBER 2019

A PUBLICATION TO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF GOD'S HIDDEN TREASURES

News From GHT

Carrying God's Love

to the Least of These . . .

*"And **the** King will answer and say to **them**, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one **of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'** (Matthew 25:40)*



By Nita Hanson

If one thing characterizes God's Hidden Treasures, it's that we go to those who everyone else seems to have forgotten. God seems to have a particularly tender place in His heart for them, and Scripture tells us over and over to help the poor, orphaned and oppressed!

In our December newsletter, I normally give a recap of all that has happened throughout the year. Of course, everything not only continues, but is growing! However, in this newsletter I wanted to let some of GHT's "front line" people tell what this ministry is about and why they have such a passion for it. The rest of this newsletter will be dedicated to their stories.

As I read and edited them, I was in tears over and over as I was reminded what a precious gift God has put in our hands . . . to be able to bring the message of a Savior who loves them when all others in their lives have turned their backs on them . . . bringing hope to those who are hopeless and feel like there is nothing left to live for . . . inspiring them to believe that life holds more than sitting in the dark looking at four walls . . . leading them to an eternal destination with the living God. Oh what an unbelievable privilege!



This summer I went out with our Tonya on a number of home visits. This, along with the prayer and healing ministry, is her main job. One visit in particular touched my heart. We went into a home that was so broken down and awful, it was hard to imagine that someone lived in it! The house was dark inside but as we entered, I saw a woman sitting there who looked like she was barely alive.

Her whole face lit up when she saw Tonya walk in. And Tonya's face just shown with love when she smiled at her. Tonya went over and sat down next to her on a bed that probably hadn't been changed for a long, long time. She put her arm around her and said, "This is my best friend". And love and light came into that small, dark, broken house. Jesus came in and you could feel His presence. This is the work that we at GHT have the privilege to do every day. And our staff do it with all the love and care anyone could ask for! How blessed I am to be a part of this.

All of you make this ministry possible – your prayers and your faithful giving over the last 23 years have made the stories you will read possible. And keep in mind that these are only a few of the thousands we could tell you.



◆ Those on the Front Line ◆

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Pastor Scott's Story: YAHN

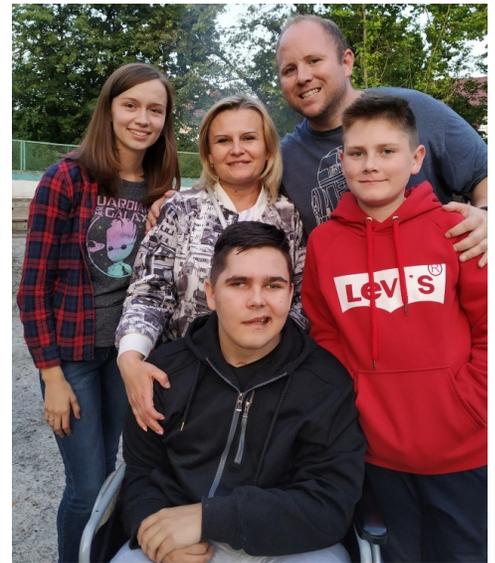
God *is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2a)*

In life there are many storms and hardships, especially for our Ukrainian moms of children with special needs. Many of our moms have been through a lot in their life. A week of camp with their children can be a refuge -- a safe place of respite, and a place of healing. We saw God work in a special way in the life of one of the families who came to our camp for the very first time.

Yahn is a special young man who is 18 years old. He cannot speak, but he can shout for joy, give big smiles, and a big thumbs up. Our camp counselors, most of whom are former campers themselves, grew very close to Yahn during our second camp this summer. They were heartbroken to hear his story.

At 16 Yahn, a very healthy young teenager, was shot in the head by a friend. Miraculously he survived. However, Yahn can no longer walk or speak. At times, you can see his frustration as he tries so hard to communicate with you. But when you give him a hug and smile, and let him know how much you love him, and how much God loves him, he lights up!

When our Ukrainian camp counselors, Nastya, Anya and Misha, talked with Yahn's mom, Svetlana, and saw photos of him before the accident, they broke down in tears. Ministering to Yahn during the week of camp really stretched them and helped them to grow.



Yahn was blessed to have so many new friends who poured out their love on him. Svetlana was so thankful to have a week of being with other moms who came alongside her, supported her and prayed for her. Yahn's younger brother, Artem, also joined us at camp, and was a big helper in our crafts and skits.

Ultimately, the message of our camp is that each and every child and parent are treasures to God, worth so much that He would give His only son for them. This good news made a big impact on Yahn and his family. We are so thankful to have them, and so many others who have been forgotten and left behind by society, as members of God's Hidden Treasures family.



If you would like to receive Pastor Scott's monthly Blogs on what is happening at GHT, please send your email address to Pastor Scott at:

ukrainepastor@gmail.com

If you would like to receive your GHT Newsletter via email, please send your email address to Connie Veldkamp at:

connie.veldkamp@cox.net

◆ Those on the Front Line ◆

Luba's stories: EPHROSYNIA KLYMENKO



I have worked at God's Hidden Treasures (GHT) for 12 years and I am blessed with the job of making home visits to the people we have brought mobility aids to over the last 23 years. Each week I call and schedule my visits. I want to share with you why I am blessed to serve God through God's Hidden Treasures, and how important this work is.

While scheduling my visits, I called Ephrosynia and told her that I would like to come and see her. As we talked, she kept asking me over and over, "Luba, are you sure you will come"? When I asked her why she kept asking me, she told me that she was planning to commit suicide the next day. She told me that nobody loves or needs her. For

sure this was an appointment to be covered in prayer!

When I got there, she was a little surprised as she didn't really believe that I would come just to see her. We talked for a long time that day. I told her about God's love -- that He loves her very much and wants to help her if she would trust her life to Him. By the end of our visit, we prayed together and she fell on my shoulder and cried so much that my clothes were wet!

During that visit, I saw what a mess her house was in, and her clothes looked wrinkled and not very clean. As we talked that day I told her that we need to not only keep our heart in order, but also the place where we live. I saw that she was really in need and gave her one of our food packets.

When I left, I promised that I would visit her the next week. And when I came, I found her house all cleaned and she was dressed very nice! The first words she said to me were, "Luba, God can hear my prayers. He makes miracles! But, we have to trust in Him!"



and OLEKSANDRA YATSENKO

I want to tell you a little bit about Oleksandra, and how God showed her His love and care for her through one of my home visits. Oleksandra is one of many of our people who have very isolated and lonely lives. She lives alone and has only one child, a son. He was drafted to serve in the army and sent to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. When he came back home, he had many physical and emotional problems due to the war. Not long after returning home, he left to live far away. Now, she has no one who helps take care of her on a regular basis which is especially hard because she can no longer walk. That, along with her many health problems, makes life very hard. You see, she is suffering from cancer. Thankfully, her neighbors help her a little.

During our visit, I shared the good news about God's love. After seeing how bad her circumstances were, I gave her one of our food packages containing enough staples for 1 month. When she saw it,



she said, "It's God's gift Luba". She told me to go open her refrigerator. When I did, I saw that there was nothing there! Then I opened her shelves and saw that they too were bare. The kitchen was empty. When she looked inside the food package and saw that there were cereals, oil, flour, rice, sugar, canned fish, tea and more, she was overwhelmed.

It's such a joy that in my daily work with God's Hidden Treasures I get to help our sick people, particularly those who are alone. Every day I give thanks to all the people who donate money for food! Because of you, we have such stories to share and many people get to truly see God's personal love and care for them.



◆ Those on the Front Line ◆

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Tanya's Story: TADEI



Tanya has worked at God's Hidden Treasures for 11 years and has the dual roles of being our interpreter and the Manager of the Wheelchair Ministry. Every week, she is out in the city of Bila Tserkva and the surrounding villages delivering mobility aids to new members of GHT's ever growing family. As the one who makes the initial contact, Tanya tells them about GHT, and finds out about their living situation and physical problems. She is the one who notifies our staff if the person is interested in our Stroke Rehab, Diabetic Program, or our prayer and healing team. Following is one of her stories about a young man she met.

I first met Tadei when we delivered some canes to him. During our first visit he told us that he had become a drug addict when he was a teenager. Now at the age of 30, he was suffering from brain damage and HIV as a result of using drugs for many years. At that time, he told us that if he had his life to live over again, he would still do drugs. His condition continued to deteriorate and several years later we had to bring him a wheelchair.

Growing up, Tadei's home life was very difficult. His father was in prison and he was raised by a single mom who struggled to keep the family together.

God's love began to pierce his heart ...

At that first visit, we asked him if our prayer and healing team could come see him. Although he was negative about this idea, he reluctantly agreed. When the team came, he told them he was not a Christian and acted as if he was not interested in becoming one.

But, our prayer team kept coming to see him. Little by little, he began to change, asking for books to read and sites he could visit on the web, and God's love began to pierce his heart. After 5 years, Tadei gave his life to Jesus, asking forgiveness for everything he had done.



Tadei has become a part of the God's Hidden Treasures family as does everyone we visit. Our ministry is modeled after God's faithfulness in His relationship with us; and just as He persists with us, so we persist with our GHT family! Today, Tadei has a reason to live and joy in his heart!



◆ Those on the Front Line ◆

Tonya's story: OLENA

Tonya, like many of us at GHT, wears many hats. She is in charge of our prayer and healing ministry, leads our worship during our Bible studies, and does home visits 3 or more days a week. God's love shines through her so brightly. The following is a story of one of her home visits.



This is a story of God's kindness to each and every one of us. I went to visit a woman named Olena. At 80 years of age, she is one of our many older people. All her life she was an atheist, raised during the Soviet times. She was the wife of a Soviet pilot, and had 2 sons, both of whom died when they were young. Later her husband died and she was left completely alone. She also suffered terribly from pain in her chest and rib area. At least 2 times a week, the ambulance was at her house.

I asked her if she would be interested in having our prayer team come to her and pray for healing. She politely agreed, but I could see that she was really skeptical about the whole idea of a God who might care about her and heal her. I scheduled a visit and our prayer team came and laid hands on her and prayed for God to heal this terrible pain. And in God's mercy and grace, she was healed! She had no more painful attacks after that day.

Several months later, she told me that it was a great witness to her that day – a witness that there really is a God and He loves her and cares for her. Because of that witness, she asked Jesus to be her Savior! This is one of the many joys I get to experience in this ministry and I thank God for being a part of it. *(Olena passed away shortly after giving her life to Jesus.)*



◆ GoFundMe Campaign ◆

This year we are having a campaign to replace our old van. As you will read in the link our van is getting very old (over 250,000 miles) and needs to be replaced before we have some major expenses for repairs. Thus, our GoFundMe campaign. The link is:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/replace-old-blue-new-van-for-ght>

or you can donate directly to God's Hidden Treasures.

We are also asking you to send the above link to everyone you know and post on your Facebook page so the word can get around. With your help, the new van will be here in January!

Old faithful Blue!

New van 1/3 bigger!





GOD'S HIDDEN TREASURES
31631 Crystal Sands Drive
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
www.godshiddentreasures.org

Return Service Requested

Opportunities for Involvement

I would like to:

- Join the prayer team. Put me on the e-mail list to receive prayer requests
- Make a monthly contribution
- Make a special donation
- Receive my News From G.H.T. by email. My email is _____
- Sponsor a Family
- Donation for new van

Name _____

Contact info _____

Send Donations to:
GHT
3321 SW 39th Street
Ocala, FL 34474

Child Sponsor Funds to:
Kimberly Kulp
9386 Rampton Court
Sacramento, CA 95829

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