

News From GHT



Beginning the Village Dream

By Nita Hanson

In August, I wrote to you about God reviving the Village Dream and the many miracles that happened over the summer regarding it. One of the questions I have been asked is: “Why do you want to build a Village for the children – it’s so expensive”? I’m going to try to answer by sharing what God put in my heart that has burned so strongly that after more than 20 years the intensity has not lessened.



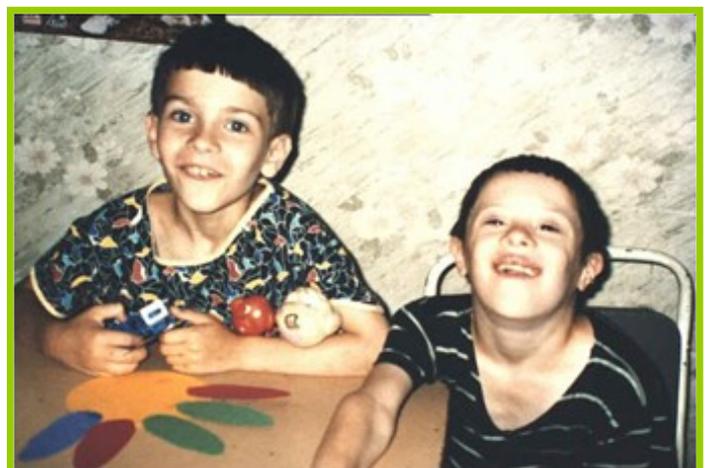
Veloska Orphanage 1996



Baby House early 2000's



Baby House Orphanage 2002



Boy's House Orphanage 1997

Beginning the Village Dream, continued

NEWS FROM GHT

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Statistics from the former Soviet Union about children placed in orphanages show that over 80% of the kids who have been termed “normal” will end up as drug addicts, habitual criminals, prostitutes, or a combination of all of these. Many of them will become “street children” joined to gangs – most of them will end up in prison or die an early death.

THAT’S ALL OF THE KIDS YOU SEE PICTURED ON PAGE 1 EXCEPT 3!

And for those who are mentally or physically disabled – 100% of them will be placed in institutions until they die.

So my question is: **which of the kids you see pictured on page 1 do you think were the lucky ones?** Now, think of the fate of the others. That is beyond tragic – beyond heart-breaking – it is such an awful waste of precious lives - lives that God intended to be beautiful and filled with love and hope. What makes it even more tragic is that 92% of these kids have parents who have placed their kids in orphanages because they are disabled or due to economic needs or because the kids have been taken by the government due to abuse. Another heartbreaking situation that must be changed.

Going to these orphanages and seeing these kids – even if only one time – will absolutely break your heart. I began going to all three orphanages in 1996 and God broke my heart over and over. The more I went the more I knew that God was telling me to do something. Then, one morning in prayer, God placed a dream in my heart. “What if. . . what if you built homes for these kids – homes with moms and dads – homes where they will be loved, cherished, protected, and taught about Me and how to live in normal society??” And I began to see a series of homes with kids of all kinds – some younger, some older, some “normal”, and some with special needs, but all of them with hurting hearts; and all the homes in that place were filled with love and joy and hope for a future.

While I was in Ukraine in October and November, I had many meetings with Ukrainian officials – mainly the mayor of Forcee (where the Village will be located), and representatives from Kiev, including a lawyer and architectural/engineering firm). They were intense and long – my head hurt after they were over from all the information, laws, rules and regulations involved. But, we have a very good team and everyone wants this Village and wants it done right.

What will be in the Village? The dream includes: 14 individual homes, 4 group homes (for adult orphans with special needs), a school and social center, church, small shops, and some buildings for assembling and/or manufacturing wheelchairs and repairing them.

Each of the homes will have house parents and a minimum of four kids with a maximum of eight. The group homes will house 10 adults, plus caregivers assigned to each home. The social center will not only be a school for kids with special needs, but a place for Village meetings, with rooms set aside for job training. The small shops will include a Village clinic and grocery store. The assembling and/or manufacturing building will be where wheelchairs are either built or assembled to be marketed throughout Ukraine and the former Soviet Union, along with a Repair Center to fix or refurbish used wheelchairs. All of this will encompass approximately 15 acres. The other 15 acres will be used for a village agricultural project, also to provide jobs and money for the Village.

Beginning the Village Dream, continued

Since the land is located just outside of Forcee, we will have to build a connecting road, and put in all the utilities for a sizeable village – a daunting project just by itself. Due to the size of the project, it will be divided up into phases, taking place over a period of 6 to 10 years, depending on funding.

Simultaneous to the construction, a training program will be taking place, a program where everyone involved will be specifically trained how to work with children who have been traumatized. (And, believe me, all kids who have been placed in an institution are traumatized in one form or another.) The house parents will be provided by local churches who will then be responsible for oversight of that home. The training will involve the house parents and the churches. Two homes will be set aside for kids who have been taken by the government because of abuse in the family. One of the conditions we will require is that the birth parents be involved with the training program and the church assigned to that house, and have supervised time with their children each week.

Right now what I have is a rough estimate of the overall cost of the Village which is approximately \$5.5 million. Phase One of the project will be one of the more expensive because of all that will be involved in starting such as Project Costs (architects, lawyers, and government expenses), a connecting road and the roads inside the actual Village, the grading, and preparatory work for the whole Village, and all of the utilities for the whole Village which also includes putting in an electrical grid (required by law), electricity for all the structures, heating systems, sewer and/or septic systems for the Village, drilling the well for water and fire protection, etc; and lastly the first three homes. This phase will cost approximately \$1.5 million. We are hoping to begin the initial phase by early 2018 which is the first step in beginning. As funds come in, we will begin the grading, preparatory work and the intermediate road, along with all utilities mentioned above. Lastly will be the first three homes.

. . .“assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”
Matthew 17:20

To say that this is stretching my faith is putting it mildly! Just the sheer immensity of it is intimidating. After waiting so many years, I had started to believe that I was the one God gave the dream to, but I wouldn't be the one to see it actually happen. And I had come to terms with that and it was okay. But when all of it started up again, I said to God, “Now?!? Do you know my age?” (as if God wouldn't know that!). And God said to me, “You're not as old as Moses was so just get over it and get going.” So, here I am sharing this amazing and awesome dream and asking for your help. Please, please be praying for God to bless this abundantly – only He knows where all the money is going to come from – I surely don't. And if God lays it on your heart to help, please send any donations clearly marked “Village.”

You all have been a part of this journey for a long time, many of you from the beginning, more than 21 years ago. Together we have seen Him do miracle after miracle for this little ministry. Please join me in blessing this one! And thank you with all my heart for helping us help the children.

A DREAM COME TRUE



October 29th, 2017 marked a very special day for God’s Hidden Treasures. It was the first worship service at our very own “Church of Hope.” Our goal has always been that a wheelchair, walker, or any aid given to a person or family, would be just the first step in our being involved in their lives. Having a church where we can continue to minister to and disciple these families is a dream come true.

During the service we sang worship songs in Russian and Ukrainian, heard some Bible lessons as well as a sermon from the text of Matthew 14 about Jesus walking on the water. Following the sermon we joined in the Apostle’s Creed and the Lord’s Prayer and held an offering to raise support for food packets for families in need.



It was so great to see many families who attend our summer camps for children. Following the service we had fellowship time with tea and a cake commemorating our first service and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



Please be praying for our church. God's Hidden Treasures has been bringing hope to the forgotten of Ukraine for more than 20 years, and now we will bring hope every Sunday through preaching Jesus Christ. In Him we have hope that can overcome anything we face.

Our second service was held the following Sunday, on the 5th of November. Here is Nita sharing a message about building your life on the rock, Jesus Christ.



A Dream Come True, continued

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Our church meetings are held at the Cerebral Palsy Center “Chance” in Bila Tserkva. However, we are already looking for land near public transportation with the hopes of building a church facility that is completely handicap accessible. We are including an invitation to all the families we’ve helped in our annual Christmas letter. We’re also considering adapting our van with a wheelchair ramp so we can bring more people with disabilities to church.

The thing that has struck Nita and I the most about our new congregation is the absolute joy they show during worship. The moms and children sing with all their hearts and are very excited to have a church family. I wish we could put the videos right here in the newsletter, but you’ll have to settle for some screenshots. We love seeing the joy on their faces.



And there is nothing like seeing Andrei's face when he is giving his all in worship while playing his air guitar.



Please be praying that the Lord of the Harvest will bless our congregation, strengthen all the families who attend, and use them to reach Ukraine with the good news of Jesus Christ.



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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.