

# News From GHT

By Nita Hanson

## Who Could Have Imagined?



Ephesians 3:20 “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.”

I have this picture in my mind of God hovering around us with excitement, just waiting for us to step out in Him -- He is waiting to show us how He will turn “our” puny efforts into wondrous works way beyond anything we could have imagined! I know that I have seen over and over how God never wastes anything; and how He works in such mysterious ways that we stand back in awe and say, “How did He orchestrate that??!!” or “I never would have dreamed that one!”

This year the team from The Sending Place came faithfully once again to put on the annual camp for the disabled kids and their moms. It is such a precious time for all involved and one where God showers multiple blessings on all the participants.



All of us who serve the Lord know that you can't out give God -- we all know that when we step out, we will receive much more than we can give. And this year was no exception as the kids and their moms lavished love on the team and filled them to overflowing with their laughter, hugs and tears.

It was a wonderful time of teaching the Bible, playing games, doing crafts together, having afternoon tea with the moms, and sharing their joy and pain. It was also a time of watching these kids blossom like buds finally opening to share their rich color and fragrance. (Pastor Scott has a lot more to say about this in his article on pages 4 & 5.)



But the Lord had an additional surprise in store this year. In the building adjoining ours a team of young people were staying who had been awarded a couple of weeks at camp free because of their academic excellence. And as part of their time at camp, they were creating a video to enter into a national contest in Ukraine.

As these young, “normal,” highly achieving kids saw our camp, they became intrigued – they’d never had a chance to interact or even observe children who are disabled. After a couple of days, they asked the team, “Why did you come from America to do this?” And of course the team had to share how they came because the Lord asked them to go and tell the kids and their moms about how much He loved them!

After another day of watching, a couple of them came and said, “You all are having more fun than we are! Why?” And the Lord provided another opportunity for the team to share about the joy of the Lord and His healing love.

The next day some of the kids came and shared how they wanted to make a video to enter into a national contest and asked permission to make a video comparing the two groups. Here are their own words:

"We could observe two worlds together – two very different worlds which seemed to be poles of the same planet. There was an invisible barrier between those poles: one world where every step could easily become an achievement; *and the other world where every tiny step was an achievement* – one world where all the doors and possibilities are open; *and the other world where every door could only be opened with the key of courage and overcoming.*"

As the days went by, these students found that their hopes and desires, and the hopes and desires of our kids are much the same. Again in their words:

"In the process of opening these two worlds we found out that it is the same world. These kids have the same dreams, intentions, hopes and worries as we do. Yes, these are two poles, but the planet is the same. Yes, they have different abilities, but the achievements are the same."

At the end of their time with our kids their conclusion was (again in their words):

"What separates them? This is the barrier which looks like glass. We can see each other, but we don't hear. But with one slight movement, the glass goes down like dry sand. And there are people ready to make this movement. Even simple communication makes a lot of changes when it's communication on an equal footing. Then the wall of misunderstanding gets broken very easily. Love – simple love – is much stronger than this wall. Love is the only thing in life which is scary to lose. The people with limited abilities aren't those who can't walk or see, but those who can't love."

Who could have imagined that not only would God pour His abundance out on the camp –not only was it a wonderful and successful camp where the witness for Him was powerful – BUT God used the team's willingness to go and the love of the moms for their disabled kids to witness to a group of future leaders of Ukraine of the power of His love and also to plant seeds in their hungry hearts.

*Malachi 3:10: "....."Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*

# God's Amazing Ways

By Pastor Scott Yount

**2 Samuel 7:11** "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you."

"There's no place like home." King David saw the truth in those words long before Dorothy ever uttered them. As King David pondered the immaculate palace he called home, a conviction began to grow in his heart. Here he lived in splendor while the Ark of the Covenant dwelt in a simple tent. David's mind stirred as he contemplated the marvelous house he could build for the Lord to dwell amongst His people. As big as David's plans were, God had bigger plans in mind. David was not to build a house for the Lord; instead the Lord would build David a house! This house would not be made of stone or brick. The house of David would be a dynasty of descendants from among whom the Lord's own son, Jesus, would be born to bring salvation to this world. David wanted to build a house for God. God wanted to send Jesus who would die on the cross to make sure David and all believers would have a room in the Father's house.

In Scripture we often see how God's plans are far greater than our own. The Lord can accomplish more than we could ever hope or imagine. The same Lord who went above and beyond time and time again in the Bible continues to do so today. In June of this year I traveled to Ukraine for the 5<sup>th</sup> time to work with God's Hidden Treasures. I spent a month in Ukraine working with the various ministries of GHT. Every time I've been there our camp for children with disabilities has been the highlight of my trip. Our team of eight put on a weeklong camp consisting of Bible studies, games, crafts, songs of worship and even a massive water fight! Our prayer has always been that during this week the kids would have a chance to hear the Gospel and know the love of Jesus Christ.



The Lord worked powerfully in the hearts of the children, but the story I want to share is how God is at work in the heart of one of the caregivers at the camp. Two beautiful sisters, Anya and Oxana, attended our camp this year. With them were their mother, Tanya, and their cousin, Alexei.

Immediately, I could see Alexei had a great heart for the kids. He was a wonderful helper for our team and all the kids. I will never forget watching him get down on his knees on the hard concrete to dance with his cousin, Anya. I could see his love for the kids and how gifted he is, and I knew that I wanted to speak to him about the camp and being more involved.



When camp finally ended and I returned to my host's home, I had a message already waiting for me. Alexei's message said that our camp was the best week of his life and that he wants to do more to help the kids. I was so excited. He already wanted to do more. We met a few times, and I asked him about his involvement with church. He told me he would go to church every now and then, and if he was in the area he would stop in and say a prayer for 15 minutes or so.

On my last Sunday in Ukraine I visited a church led by Pastor Kostya (who plays Father Frost in our annual Christmas visits.) As I was there

in the worship service I kept thinking how this would be a great place for Alexei and his cousin, Alyona, to get involved. As I was returning home, I began to strategize about how I might broach the subject with him. Well, sure enough, when I got back to the States I received another message from Alexei. He told me he had been invited to a Bible study and had met with a Pastor Kostya and he liked him and wanted to go again sometime. I was floored.

In just the one month that I've been back, Alexei has already volunteered at a VBS camp hosted at the CP center in Bila Tserkva. He attended the GHT annual picnic in the park for the disabled and took wonderful photos. He has even been planning other picnics with Pastor Kostya for some of the handicapped children. God has bigger plans for Alexei than I could have imagined. It is so exciting to see this transformation happen in his life as he becomes more and more involved in helping the children.

Sergei is another youth who has been coming to our camp for many years. Sergei is in a wheelchair and lives with his mother in a flat. Last year he gave me his address and told me I should come by and visit him since his home isn't far from my host's house. He is another kid who I hope to see become more involved in helping out.

As I talked with him about his experiences at our camp, he told me that prior to his first time at camp he had not been out of his home for two whole years, but through camp he has met many friends. Sergei, who is now in his early twenties, was a great helper for us in camp. He assisted all the kids with their crafts and even helped us out by interpreting. His English is so good that I hope he can be a full-time interpreter for us at camp next year. Sergei is another kid for whom God has great plans.

The Lord has blessed the ministry of our camp in ways beyond what I could ever imagine. This year there was even a film crew of students who decided to make a movie about our kids at camp which will be entered into a competition this fall. The Lord's plan to change the hearts of people toward the handicapped in Ukraine continues to amaze me, and I'm thankful the Lord is using GHT to share the good news of Jesus Christ, the one whose plan includes all of His children. He is the one who has made a home for us all and there is no place like home.



## Spreading Love in Ukraine

It is such a pleasure to write to you all after another amazing trip to Ukraine to work with Nita's ministry, God's Hidden Treasures! Our team of eight women embarked on this journey at the beginning of July through the Santa Barbara Presbytery's mission organization, IMPACT (International Missions Project And Cross-cultural Training). After a few days of team building activities and learning opportunities, we were commissioned and sent off!



The first week of our trip was primarily devoted to home visits. We visited families who are struggling with the effects of stroke and diabetes to spend time with them and deliver a mobility aid if they were in need of one. It was common to encounter people who had not left their homes in a while due to health concerns or the conditions of their homes. It was a great opportunity to bring hope to those who were feeling lonely and lost! We got to pray for them and be their friends, laughing and telling stories around a table full of delicious food- Ukrainians are so hospitable! God's Hidden Treasures wants to ensure that they sustain a relationship with all of the people that they encounter, demonstrating the love of Christ!

The second week we conducted a Vacation Bible School at the local Boys' House Orphanage for mentally disabled boys. These boys exude so much joy! It was such an encouragement to see them waiting eagerly at the gate as we pulled up each morning to help us carry our things!



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Our theme for the week revolved around the stories of King David and his heart for God, teaching them how God gives them strength to do anything, big or small! We sang songs, played games, made crafts, heard stories and shared endless laughs and smiles with each other throughout the week. This was definitely a highlight of the trip for me! It was so evident this year how much I have seen all the boys grow! That was a sweet blessing for me, and a reminder that God has allowed me to be a small part of their lives for the past 3 years! I loved being able to call them each by name, and essentially be able to pick up right where we left off last year. By the end of the first day we were joking and laughing all the way to the car! The week went by faster than ever, but it only meant we were having the time of our lives.



At the end of our visit, our team sponsored the annual God's Hidden Treasures picnic, which invites all of the people that the ministry reaches out to to enjoy an afternoon of food, music and fellowship in the park, celebrating the God that brought us all together!



As hard as it was to leave Ukraine, I was so encouraged by all that I had experienced this summer. This is only a glimpse of the amazing things that God is doing in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine!



God's Hidden Treasures  
P.O. Box 4276  
San Clemente, CA 92674  
[www.godshiddentreasures.org](http://www.godshiddentreasures.org)

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- Make a monthly contribution.
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Contact info \_\_\_\_\_  
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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.**