

News From GHT



By Nita Hanson

PERSPECTIVE

There is so much I want to tell you about our year. Like most of yours, it has been difficult –faith-building– stretching! I have been told before that I need to let all of you know when we are in need. I admit I'm not good at doing that. Yes, we are in need – of money, of wheelchairs, of adult diapers, medical equipment and much more.

As I've reviewed the year and seen the growing need, I have been tempted to worry and fret over the paradox that when times are the toughest, the needs increase but giving decreases. However, I know that the Lord has always taken care of us and that is where I want my focus to be. I know that if you can help, you will – enough said!

What the Lord has been impressing on me is the word “perspective” and that is what I want to share with you today. I've watched my staff “step up to the plate” and really give of themselves. They are growing spiritually – what more could I ask for? My greatest hope is that this ministry grows so large in their hearts, that it will continue when I am no longer here. As such, my job is to teach them and give them as much hands-on experience as I can.

And so I thought I'd share a few stories with you about the staff of God's Hidden Treasures, Ukraine.



Valentina is our Manager of Special Projects. She is the one who always gets the job done when no one else can! She is in charge of all the shipments we receive from America, Norway, and Germany. In a country notorious for its corruption and bribery, GHT has never lost anything shipped to us or paid a bribe. Thanks to Valentina's outstanding work, GHT has won the respect of the government officials and has an excellent reputation for honesty and for helping the helpless. **I have actually seen a custom's official reduced to stuttering when he tried to interfere with what belonged to GHT!** Valentina is a force to be reckoned with! She is the one who interfaces with all levels of government in Ukraine.



Valentina was in charge of our building project several years ago and actually brought it in at budget – a feat unheard of in Ukraine (and U.S.). And since our finances have become so tight, Valentina has been put in charge of the budgeting and administration of GHT's funds in Ukraine. She has managed to lower our operating budget at a time when inflation is rampant. I think **“excellence”** must be her middle name.

Lillya, a beautiful, soft spoken, intelligent woman who is our Office Manager is my next story.



Lillya may be small in stature but she has the biggest heart of anyone I know. Over the years since I first met her, I've seen her grow into a deep and mature faith. When I am in the States, it is Lillya who leads the weekly Bible study/church service at the office. When I dream up a new “growth experience” for her, she always says, “No, I can't do that. Find someone else.” But when I give her a little nudge, she agrees to try. Every time she exceeds my hopes and expectations.

Lillya has led the Caregiver's Support Group since its inception. It started out small because Ukrainians are not used to such a concept. It has grown to the place where we had to split it into two groups and is almost ready to split into a third one. The first group is so well-grounded in the hope they have in Jesus Christ that now, when someone is really hurting, they reach across the table, take the person's hand, and tell them, "You can't do this by yourself. You know you need Jesus to help you." What a joy and privilege to witness this.



The second group is still exploring their need for Jesus. Recently they asked Lillya if I could come next time and tell them how I came to be in Ukraine or in other words, "whatever possessed her to leave America and come here?" They want to understand the faith I have that brought me here to establish GHT.

Lillya also leads our "Young Camper's Group" which is composed of the children who have attended our annual camp for disabled children and their moms. She has been faithfully shepherding these young people for five years now. AND, she teaches the Bible every week to children at the Boy's House and Veloska Orphanages.

Luba is another gift from God to us! She is passionate about her work and cares deeply for those she ministers to. She lights up the room just by walking into it. Luba was hired to make home visits to our disabled families; and I would quickly run out of adjectives to describe the depth of her love for “the least of these.”



When we began the “Volunteer Program”, Luba was put in charge of it. She knows how many visits each volunteer has made and she shepherds them tenderly but with a firm hand. Luba’s name means “**love**” and she personifies the true definition of this word.

Thanks to her sensitivity and wisdom, we were able to intervene in two potential suicide incidents. One of them gave his life to Christ as a result of her insight and personal witness.

Luba also teaches the Bible at the Boy’s House and Veloska Orphanages and is loved by all the kids!



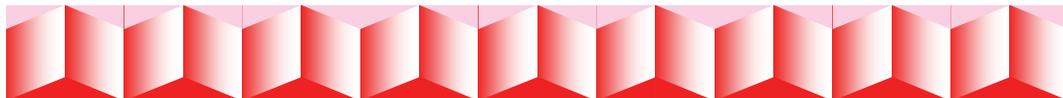
“Be full of joy all the time. Never stop praying. In everything give thanks. This is what God wants you to do because of Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Tanya came to GHT three years ago as an interpreter. I have nicknamed her the “movie star” because of her willowy good looks which she seems to be totally unaware of. Since coming to us, Tanya has given her life to Christ and is an enthusiastic and dedicated follower of our Lord.



Now Tanya is not only interpreting for GHT, she is also teaching the Bible at the Boy’s House Orphanage, making home visits to our invalids, and helping with the monthly phone calls to the families.

There are many more stories I can tell of how our staff members touch the lives of many people on a daily basis, but I guess that will have to wait for another newsletter! But when I realize how God has grown this ministry and the people involved in it, my whole perspective changes to one of thankfulness and awe.



Nita’s Speaking Schedule

JANUARY

- 2– St. Paul’s Lutheran
Tracy, CA
- 15-Presbytery Mission Conference
Santa Barbara, CA
- 16-Eastminster Presbyterian
Ventura, CA
- 23-Ojai Presbyterian Church
- 30-Community Presbyterian
Ventura, CA

FEBRUARY

- 4-14-Northern California
- 20– Emmanuel Presbyterian
Thousand Oaks, CA
- 27-Your Church?

Did you know that:

- We have close to 1,200 families in the local area that we work with on a regular basis?
That's like a congregation of several thousand we're bringing the love of Christ to - personally!
We're adding more than 300 new families each year?
Every person is offered a Bible free of charge?
- We've delivered over 2,400 wheelchairs and other mobility aids throughout Ukraine?
With over 1,650 in the Bila Tserkva Region alone? Each one delivered personally?
We've trained churches in more than 15 cities to do this ministry?
We have a waiting list of 3 more cities?
- GHT staff and volunteers from local churches make home visits to our families?
We have volunteers from 5 different denominations in Bila Tserkva?
- We've become advocates on behalf of our poor and disabled families, interceding with the local government in many cases?
- We provide financial assistance to three State-run orphanages, a Christian Drug Center and the Young Disabled People's Group on a monthly basis?
- We have sponsors for 32 families who are providing the financial means to buy their medicines?
- Our Stroke Rehabilitation Program is having a 40% success rate in getting people to walk again?
- We've given over 1.5 million in medical supplies to hospitals and clinics in Ukraine?
- Our Mobile Medical Clinics are in big demand?
- We host a monthly seminar to the diabetic community?
- We're working with a Christian organization in Norway which is sending us six to seven shipments annually of wheelchairs, clothing, furniture, bedding, adult diapers, and more?
With this, we are helping the orphanages, Christian Drug Centers, hospitals, poor and old people in several cities?
- We're made contact with organizations in Germany and Switzerland to help us get used wheelchairs?
- GHT recycles every wheelchair that is returned to us if someone no longer needs it or it is broken?
- The local Ukrainian government offices tell people to go to God's Hidden Treasures for help?
- The local hospitals send people who've had a stroke to us for therapy?
- We host two or more mission teams every year?

Milestones



Our young men from the Boy's House Orphanage for the Mentally Retarded just celebrated their 10th year in their house.

We now have four classes in the Boy's House and three at Veloska Orphanages which are teaching the Bible to children—all led by GHT Ukrainian staff.

We had our 11th annual Picnic for the disabled this year.

We're preparing for our 10th annual Christmas deliveries with Father Frost and his granddaughter.

We've had six annual camps for the disabled children.

We have sponsors for 32 families who provide the financial means to buy medication.



God's Hidden Treasures
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Opportunities for Involvement

I would like to:

- Join the prayer team. Put me on the e-mail list to receive prayerr requests.
- Make a monthly contribution.
- Make a special donation.
- Invite Nita to speak in Jan/Feb 2012.
- Receive my News From G.H.T. by e-mail
- Sponsor a Family

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

Name _____
Contact info _____

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.