

# News From GHT

By Nita Hanson

## GIVING THANKS IN ALL THINGS



As I sat around the Thanksgiving table this year, surrounded by my Ukrainian family and co-workers in the kingdom, I was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the blessings God has poured out on me personally, and on God's Hidden Treasures. He continues to open up new areas of ministry for us – areas where we can comfort the sick and lost, help with their physical and spiritual needs, and grow ourselves as we touch “the least of these” for our Savior, Jesus.



This year has seen the advent of: Our feeding program for those in need. Over 600 food packages have been delivered as of the end of November (see Lillya's article on pages 4-5 for more).



A second camp for our special-needs kids and their moms. The second camp was run entirely by Ukrainians (except for Pastor Scott) and many of the teachers and volunteers were young adults with special needs who came to our camp when they were young children.

More special events for them (such as the Christmas dinner, trips to Kiev for some of the kids from the orphanages, Easter celebrations and more.

Expansion of our home visits to the disabled by our kids with special needs! How awesome is that! There is no greater joy than watching those you have ministered to begin to minister to others.



The opening of another city in Ukraine (Khmelnyskyi) which will begin to deliver mobility aids to the disabled in their community. This brings the total number of active cities we are working with to 5 plus Bila Tserkva.



Team at Khmelnytskyi



Rokitna coming for wheelchairs

The delivery of our 3,000<sup>th</sup> wheelchair in the Bila Tserkva Region. And we are rapidly closing in on the delivery of our 5,000<sup>th</sup> wheelchair in Ukraine! Just think, each one delivered personally into someone's home, along with the message of a Savior who loves them and will never leave them nor forsakes them.



Several miraculous healings have taken place after our healing/prayer team has prayed for someone. In two of their hospital visits scheduled amputation of a leg were cancelled because the legs were healed! But more importantly, many people are being healed spiritually through the prayers and witness of our team.



Baby Roma



Tonya, Nita & Vadim worshipping before going out to pray

The birth of a little boy to our Ruslan and his wife, Olya (we took Ruslan from the Boy's House Orphanage in October 2000).

I continue to give God thanks for the awesome privilege of serving Him in this ministry. I rejoice in the growth of my staff, many of whom came to the Lord after joining us. They are fervent in their love for Jesus and for those in need that God has put in our hearts.

And I especially give thanks for all of you. Your prayers breathe life into and empower this work. Your generous gifts provide for its ability to give to those too often forgotten. Your encouragement gives us the strength to go on when it feels impossible.

“  
*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*”  
*Galations 6:9*

# JOY OF DISCIPLING

PAGE 4

By Pastor Scott Yount

Sometimes we are in the dark about how all our work and efforts have impacted the lives of others. Yet, other times the Lord blesses us and allows us to see the growth in people whom we've had a chance to disciple. Here in Ukraine I've been blessed beyond belief to see how God has been working in the lives of our children from summer camp.

During the time of the Soviet Union people with disabilities were often kept out of sight. Parents were told by doctors they should put children with special needs in an orphanage "with their own kind" because it would be too difficult and shameful to raise them. The thought of being able to go to a university and get a job was an impossible dream for these kids. Thankfully, things in Ukraine are changing.

Although people with disabilities are becoming more involved in everyday life, they still face tremendous challenges. For people in wheelchairs the city is impossible to navigate alone. There are stairs everywhere you go - very few ramps - existing ramps are much too steep - elevators are often too small for wheelchairs - limited public transportation for the disabled, and more.

Despite all these challenges, many of the kids who have attended our summer camps are doing great things. I wanted to share with you a few stories about what some of our former campers are doing now as young adults.



Sasha Tsvintarny is working a job in Kiev while studying to be a lawyer. Every week he rides a van to Kiev for his job. He studies law and the English language. In spite of being incredibly busy, he still finds the time to visit the orphanage for boys with special needs every Friday to help interpret for me. He volunteers three weeks of his summer to help with both of our camps for special needs children as well as our Vacation Bible School at the orphanage. Sasha has been involved in my Bible studies as well as our youth group that meets on Friday nights.

Sergei Sheptitsky is one of my closest friends in Ukraine. He has recently started to train in wheelchair fencing. He studies English online and is very gifted in working with computers. He does IT work for an online English language school. He too has spent his time being a volunteer at our summer camps. He often helps interpret for me at the orphanage and when I make home visits. He even spends hours with me on Skype helping me practice my Russian language.





Anya Oliynik and Alyona Stuznaya, two more of our former campers, have begun scheduling visits to people with special needs. It is difficult for those we visit to leave their homes and go places, so I know how much a visit means to them.

I'm so encouraged by the community that has been developed among those from our camp. They are a family and they really care for each other. They long to see one another and we try to schedule events throughout the year to make that a reality. Every month we have both a "young campers" and "big campers" meeting at the CP Center in Bila Tserkva. There we study the Bible, sing worship songs, play games and lots of other fun activities. Fridays, many of our young people meet at one of the local churches for youth group. These young people also volunteer as Father Frost (Ukrainian Santa Claus) and Snegurochka (Father Frost's Granddaughter), going around the city to visit the disabled. Every Christmas we visit every family that is new to our organization (close to 300 people). It is a big undertaking, but these volunteers do a wonderful job bringing hope to these families.

For me, it is such a wonderful privilege to see these young people grow as children of God, and the work they are doing to help others in need. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to use this next generation as we train them up in the work they are doing to help others in need.

This winter we are planning a Christmas celebration for all the children from our camps and even children from past camps. Our young volunteers will provide entertainment for all the kids and help serve the meal. We will also take some of the children from the Boy's House Orphanage to Kiev to visit the Oceanarium as well as share a meal at McDonalds. God has blessed us to be a blessing to these children this year, and it is all possible because of the Lord's provision through the support from churches around the world.

["Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6](#)

Our native Ukraine...Blue sky, cherry gardens in blossom, golden fields of bread, sincere and frank people. It's our Ukraine. But unfortunately the world found out about Ukraine by different means.

It is the year of 2014...thousands of people are in Maidan in Kiev. There are fires, smoke from burning tires, and the first deaths; leaving a trail of pain, tears, and grief. It was supposed to be the revolution of dignity. But things went so wrong - the annexation of Crimea - war in the east of Ukraine, economic chaos and the continued threat of all-out war with Russia. This is the way the world sees Ukraine.

God's Hidden Treasures works with the most unprotected contingent of people – the sick, handicapped, and old people who are alone - who live on their small pensions and don't have any support from relatives. These people are the most vulnerable at the time of financial instability – the prices for the basic necessities: food, utilities, and medicine, go up. When people get their small pension, it's hard to make a choice. If you buy medicine, you won't have money for food, electricity and gas.

**There are over 1,500 people under our care. And half of them are in such condition.**

People who are under our guardianship were in despair. We were heartbroken because it's hard to see people in such a situation and be unable to help.

**But God never leaves those who trust Him.** In December 2014, we received a miracle and an answer to our prayers from a Christian organization in Norway we work with. They sent us over \$7,000 to help us make a blessed celebration of Christmas and New Year for the people under our care.

**And our team started working.** We bought food, sweets, and presents. Two people played the role of Father Frost and Snowgirl and started congratulating our special needs community. Many tears of joy and words of sincere gratitude were received! **The congratulations, presents and food packets were not just relevant but necessary for life.** Many people, with tears in their eyes showed us their empty cupboards. We helped people but then we ran out of food and the question was what next...

The Bible says "...for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him!" And it's really true. When Nita told all of you about the situation in Ukraine, we were blessed again! You helped with money for food, and again we were able to support people who need it so much. Our food packets contain the basic necessities for 1 month: rice, buckwheat, oatmeal, flour, oil, sugar, canned fish, sausage and tea.

"casting *all* your cares upon Him for He cares for you"

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:7



## NEWS FROM GHT



It's hard to be indifferent to the story of Maria Kononets. She lives in the village. She has asthma, and she is crippled. Her son died and left debts she has to pay. She retired but she has to take care of a sick lady to earn money to help her daughter's family because she has two handicapped kids. She doesn't have enough money for even basic necessities.

Maria Yaschuk has two degrees. She had good positions, but now unfortunately she is sick and alone. The retirement she has from the government isn't sufficient for life. And there is nobody to care for her. Because of her condition, the door of her house is always unlocked, and anyone can come in. Unfortunately one night thieves broke into her apartment. They demanded money but having seen that she had nothing, they left.



Recently our Luba Humeniuk visited a lady Ephrosynis Klymenko. When Luba got there, she asked her, "Who sent you?" and then told Luba that she had intended to commit suicide that day because of the burden of all the problems she had. She lost her disability retirement even though her sick leg didn't become healthy. She has a huge debt for electricity. Her son was wounded in the East of Ukraine. She is alone and nobody needs her. It's good that God by himself directs us to such homes. She got food, she was listened to, they prayed together and life now had a different meaning. Luba calls her regularly and keeps visiting.

Every visit has a sad story, but we have a big privilege to tell people about the infinite love of Christ, about His care, and that He won't leave us if we invite Him into our hearts. During the year again and again there are people who donate money so we can continue to provide food packets to those in need. So far this year we have given out more than 600 packets of food. I think our story is like the Bible story of the loaves and fish. Work which is done through God's blessings will never finish.





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San Clemente, CA 92674  
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- † Join the Prayer Team. Put me on the email list to receive prayer requests
- † Receive my news from GHT by email
- † Sponsor a family
- † Invite Nita to speak at your church

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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.