

News From GHT



By Nita Hanson

Another Beautiful Day

"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

We are called to rejoice and be glad in each and every day the Lord gives to us, but there are some days which call for special rejoicing. Such a day is our annual city-wide picnic for those with special needs in the Bila Tserkva Region. Prayers have been lifted up for weeks, beseeching the Lord for a day filled with sunshine, cool temperatures and a light breeze.

Since our first picnic in 1999, the Lord has graciously provided us with wonderful days for our picnic – only once did we have light rain and even then the day turned out to be awesome.

Each picnic is always the best one we've ever had! And this year was no exception. Everyone comes with a sense of anticipation and expectation, which is rare in many of their lives. Smiles break out on every face, and lots of love is poured out on everyone and by everyone! And best of all, God is glorified throughout the whole day. This year we had a little more than 400 come. It's wonderful to see the deep relationships that have formed as a result of meeting at one of the picnics. And we all truly honor those with special needs on this their special day.

I wanted to just show you via pictures the joy that takes place and to say thank you for helping make this happen – your prayers pave the way. I believe that all of our picnics have been so blessed because of them. And thank you to IMPACT for donating the funds to pay for this wonderful day. So enjoy the love!





Dear Ones,

Last April I asked you to pray for many things. For God to provide:

1. Money for shipping wheelchairs as we were running out
2. Sponsors for our children, especially those with childhood on-set diabetes because they can no longer get their insulin from the government.
3. Money to buy food as we now see many of our disabled people going hungry and having to choose between buying food or the medicine they need to live.
4. For the Rotary Club in Thousand Oaks to raise enough money to buy us a container of new wheelchairs and money for the shipping costs which GHT has to pay.
5. To get the pastors in Bila Tserkva involved in reaching out to the disabled. We are told in Scripture to ask for what we need and that God will give it to us (and even more than we can imagine). God has used your prayers in mighty and miraculous ways and there has been such an outpouring I am beyond amazed. Just see what God has done:

1. **The container of wheelchairs from Joni & Friends is on its way to Ukraine,** having been picked up last week. Thanks to your prayers and the generosity of so many.
2. **More than 10 new sponsors have been added to help our kids.** The young woman I wrote about, Inna, has been sponsored!
3. **Money has poured in to help us with buying food.** We now keep 30 bags of food staples on hand at all times, and as our office staff goes out to make home visits and they see food is needed, it is immediately provided. On a recent visit our Luba was told that the woman she went to see didn't even have money to buy bread. A food package was brought to her that same day.
4. I am told that **the Rotary Club in Thousand Oaks expects to have enough money raised by the end of summer to order a container of 320 wheelchairs from China.** And we have the money for the shipping costs already. Again, God has poured out His bounty on us in response to your prayers and generosity.

By Pastor Scott Yount

Mission Impossible

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
“We don’t have enough room for you. You should cancel your camp.”

These were the words I heard three days before our second camp in Volodarka, Ukraine was set to begin. Even though we had booked the camp eight months ahead, a camp that booked later with 200 teens from around our region in Ukraine had priority. I remember listening to the director say these words and just praying “God, I know this camp is something You desire - Lord please make it work.” **So we crammed eight to ten people in each room**, moved our meal times to 9am, 2pm and 8pm to work around these other campers’ schedule. We only had two classrooms to use for half the day instead of three all day long.

Yet somehow God took a recipe for disaster and transformed it into an amazing week better than we could have ever hoped for or imagined. Even with the crowded rooms and odd meal times, at the end of the week the mamas told us they had felt like they were in Egypt at some all inclusive resort! This was mostly because our Ukrainian volunteers did such a wonderful job of caring for these kids, wheeling them up and down the ramps, and taking them everywhere they needed to go, so the moms were able to sit back and relax (something they never get to do at home).



This was the first year we have had the opportunity to offer a second camp in the summer. Every year we want to have new young campers join us for the first time, but how do you say no to older campers with disabilities who wait all year for this camp. This year offering a second camp, allowed for two amazing things. At our first camp we had some new young children who were involved for the first time. And at our second camp we had some older campers in their 20’s and 30’s who had never had an opportunity to go.



One of those campers was Yura. Yura is 32 years old, he walks on crutches with great difficulty. Every year he and his mom called our organization to ask if he could come to camp, but he was told he could not because he was too old. To see the joy that this camp brought to this young man was absolutely amazing! As Yura sat in crafts making a bracelet he began to ask one of our volunteers Alyona, "Will they take me to camp next year too?" "Will they let me come?" Alyona answered "Yes, they will let you come." Only to be asked the same question a minute later. In the one hour craft time Yura must have asked around 40 times if he would be allowed to come to camp next year. Each time Alyona told him yes, he smiled and rejoiced like he heard the news for the very first time.



On our last night of camp we decided to have a big picnic outside. Pastor Kostya and I went to the city to buy everything we needed. Having the opportunity to all eat together outside before our big bonfire made our last night of camp even more special. Following the picnic we had a huge bonfire where our Ukrainian volunteers gave speeches about each of the kids and presented them with awards their mothers had made for them. The moms each received a certificate from their child saying what they loved about their moms.

Dima's Story

Do you ever doubt that God has a plan for each life He has chosen? I would like to share with you a true story concerning our Ukrainian grandson. So many of you know all about Dima as you journeyed with us through His story for the past 16+ years. As I look back on how God wove it all together I see His hand through it all.

It began in 1992 when Don and I were challenged to move to the Soviet Union soon after the collapse of the system there. It was an incredible adventure for us as we spent 4 years living and working there with the teachers of Russia and Ukraine. When we would return home and speak to various groups we would challenge individuals to go on a 3 week mission trip to hold these teacher conferences where we introduced a curriculum "Christian Morals and Ethics, a Foundation for Society". Our western participants would work in small group settings with a number of Russian and Ukrainian teachers who had the opportunity and invitation of their government to teach the curriculum to their students. We saw God do miraculous miracles during our time there and they are continuing to this day.

One of the individuals who responded to go on such a trip was a dear friend from our home church in Thousand Oaks, CA, Nita Hansen. Nita was a fairly new believer but when she gave her life to Christ, she gave Him everything. She attended a convocation in Ukraine in 1995 and immediately felt the call of God upon her life to return on a Co-Mission team that would do further work with and discipleship training of the teachers. She was assigned to Bela Tserkva, just south of Kiev. Almost 20 years later Nita is still there working with the disadvantaged and handicapped people of the nation of Ukraine. She completed her assignment with Co-Mission and then started her own ministry there called God's Hidden Treasures. Nita has such a heart for the hurting and forgotten people and in that capacity she did a lot of work in the orphanages there.

One day while she was volunteering at the Baby House there a young baby who was born without his two feet and missing one leg, was brought in. Nita was drawn to him immediately and knowing what his life would be like there, no future and no hope, she determined to get this little boy help. Through a series of miraculous happenings, one of Nita's friends, Sherry Shaffer, a nurse, traveled to Ukraine, got temporary custody of Dima and then took him back home to Thousand Oaks and got him treatment at the L.A. Shriners hospital. The doctors there did 5 surgeries on Dima, fitted him with prosthesis and taught him to walk. Our church in Thousand Oaks considered Dima one of their own and lavished him with love and care.

This is where our family entered into the picture. I had been following the story and had gone and met Dima at Sherry's home and could not bear to think that he would now have to return to Ukraine where there would be no further help or follow up care for him. Nita had been praying that someone on in the US would adopt Dima and give him the loving home and care he deserved. This is where our daughter and son in law came into the picture. They felt called of God to adopt Dima and he joined an older brother and sister in the family. Another miracle is that there is also a Shriners Hospital in Portland, OR where they live that would continue his care until he is 21 years old.

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Fast forward 16 years until today and Dima now is over 6 feet tall, graduated from high school and doing very well. His graduation gift from his parents was a trip back to Ukraine. So last week he and his dad traveled back and met Nita and her staff and were given the opportunity to reconnect with his roots there. Yesterday he traveled to a small village outside that city and there he met with his Ukrainian mother and father, his older brother Yura, and his Ukrainian grandmother. It was a very emotional time for everyone involved. The family resemblance is amazing and many tears of gratitude and blessing were shared by all. Dima looks so much like his older brother there and he was amazed to learn that his father is an Electrical Engineer, his brother is in university studying electrical engineering and that is the path that Dima had chosen also.

Dima and his brother had an immediate connection and they have exchanged email and Skype addresses and we all believe they will become close friends. The family welcomed him with open arms and Dima was able to tell them that he had no hard feelings regarding them placing him in an orphanage and that he sees God's hand in all of it in bringing him to the US and giving him a loving family that could extend the care he needed. He even was able to go back to the orphanage he was in and some of the nurses there remembered him.

I just see the guiding hand of a loving God in all of this as He reached down in an orphanage in an obscure part of the world and had the right people at the right time in place to be His servants in the life of one obscure little boy. How could we ever doubt His love and care for any of us? Please keep Dima and his Ukrainian family in your prayers as the story is far from being over.



Dima's Family



Dima's Ukrainian Family



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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.