

Greetings to all!

Hope you and yours are doing well. Our July trip went extremely well with 2 teams catching the mission fever. Team 1 from Val D'Or saw the needs of the innocent and left their hearts in Ukraine. They continue to talk and work for Ukraine. Team 2 from the Montreal area fell in love with baby orphans and met many young adults in Korosten. They too want to continue the work. Both teams had life-changing experiences and each team wants to sponsor either a handicapped orphan or young adult. A humanitarian trip overseas makes you appreciate what you have here in Canada but it also tugs at your innermost being. It makes you want to help and pursue the cause.

In a nutshell, team 1 (July 5-15) and team 2 (July 16-29) both missed the last flight from Kiev to Dnepro so we had to bus it (9 hours). However, they saw the countryside, the poverty, the scenery and the people they would never have seen by plane. It was the beginning of their journeys, yet they were humbled by the experience. Both teams, independent of each other, decided that they were going to make a difference in people's lives. Going to 3 different orphanages opened up their eyes to the needs of these children. Many of our team members cried at what they saw, and felt a desire to do more.

Team 1 wants to sponsor another surgery for a little boy, Slavic, whom they met. They also want to buy some big items for the handicap orphanage. Team 2 wants to help a baby orphanage and sponsor some young adults whom they became very close to. We build relationships that can't be forgotten. Everyone leaves Ukraine feeling the way Sue and I did many years ago. We need to do something and these people can't be forgotten.

As for BOLI, we continue with our projects. We will renovate a third drug rehab center with 5 men already living in it. Two buildings will be done and the men who live there are going to do the work. You have never seen 2 dirty, dilapidated structures as these, but they'll succeed - they're determined. They're also growing potatoes and cucumbers as a business, to support themselves. We're helping to change lives.

BOLI is buying 10 double-sized desks for a classroom and new chalkboards in a village orphanage near Korosten. We also need to buy 230 pairs of boots for the winter (the shoes have been bought). Our feeding program has expanded to 4 different locations in Dnepropetrovsk and the number of people being fed has doubled to 80 or more. Five of our kids who have received life-changing operations under the "Operation Can Be Done" program, were treated this summer to an amazing program of physiotherapy at the Hadjibey Sanatorium in Odessa, Ukraine. These children were told they would never walk. We thank God for these miracles. Our son Matt, and his bride, Daria, sponsored 2 of the 5 children. Instead of giving wedding favors as gifts at their wedding, they provided one month of physio for these orphans. We're also looking into 2 more surgeries for children.

The recession hit Ukraine with a THUD. It seemed to be getting better 2 years ago but now is a different story. We'll continue with our programs, drug rehab centers, feeding the homeless, surgeries and physiotherapy, seniors and youth and needs for the orphanages. If you have given recently, we appreciate it. If you want to donate, please send cheques to Bearers of Love, 8 Lido, DDO, QC H9B 2T1. You can also donate online at our website at www.bearersoflove.org through Canada Helps. All tax receipts will be sent at the beginning of 2011. Thank you and God bless.

Mike and Sue

