



Together we can  
help change lives

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**Dear Friend and Partner,**

Six weeks in Ukraine! The experience is over but the people and memories will last much longer. Hello to all our friends and supporters. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers from June 4 to July 17. Our annual trip brought us to the orphanages, towns and villages, and of course, our home away from, Dnepropetrovsk. Our blogs are still there to be read but in a nutshell, our time overseas went like this: We arrived in Dnepro on June 5 with our first group from Montreal. We were able to visit and bless 5 orphanages. Our team members were superb with the children and once again all the little ones stole our hearts. We ran a day camp consisting of singing and dancing, arts and crafts, games and we gave a music workshop led by one of our team members. The children had a blast! We brought gifts for all (including the workers). The workers remarked that we were the only group to think of them. We stayed in a wing of a dorm, all to ourselves. Five of the 7 members were veterans of Ukraine, while the other 2 left their hearts there as expected. We also experienced a flash flood which felt like a river gushing around us. We were able to reach higher ground and had to wait it out. The Montreal group left on June 18 while Sue and I travelled to Kiev, Korosten, Nova Borova and Irshansk. We met up with old friends and pastors. We surveyed the needs

and conditions and we are planning to support a youth group in Korosten. Ruslan Kucherenko literally goes out in the streets, talks to groups and to date over 25 young adults have made their youth center a place of hope. They play music, sing, dance and work in their community such as visit orphanages to encourage and participate with the children. They need a sponsor to keep the center and activities going. Those youth members were former drug addicts and delinquents. We met them and what a change has happened in their lives. Ruslan is their pastor and together they get to talk and share their testimonies with other youth who are searching for something better. We came back to Dnepro by train on June 30. We waited for the Toronto group and our son Matthew who joined up with them. Except for Pauline (her 3<sup>rd</sup> time in Ukraine), all the team members were new to the culture and our work overseas. They adapted very quickly and brought another new dimension to the orphanages. They did some mime and play acting which were understood in any language. As with all our teams, they jumped right into anything that needed to be done. They interacted with the children, hugged them and spent much time chatting with the help of our 2 translators, Denis and

Marina. Marina's sister Sveta, is learning English and she was of some help also. The Toronto team stayed only 1 week but to a person, their experience was overwhelming and there's talk of coming back soon. From July 11- 15, Pastor Yura and his family, Denis and our family went for a little R+R to Yalta on the Black Sea. It is a resort town with beautiful scenery surrounding the area. We left on July 16 with great memories but sad to leave our Ukrainian family.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Our cherished moments were the times we spent with the children who had surgeries supported by BOLI and its donors. Tanya is walking with braces. Kirill had one arm done and for the first time in his 9 years of life, he is able to touch his nose and head. To date about 15 children have had major or minor surgeries done. We marvel at our Canadian missionary and agent Ed Dickson, who lives in Ukraine with his family and has time to make sure these physically disabled children are tended to. More good news is that Kirill and Tanya may be adopted in the near future. We thank God for that miracle in their lives. Also the feeding program for the street kids and the homeless is on hold because the building the church was using was condemned. They do not have the facilities so in the meantime they are giving food bags to many of the poor and needy in another part of the city. Many of



**Mike & Sue with Kirill**

the poor seniors are also being helped on a weekly basis. Pastor Yura received our container with humanitarian aid and has been able to help the poor and many young boys ages 13 years and older in the prison. They lack basic necessities and blankets. They were able to supply over 70 young boys with our aid. Many of them are orphans and entered a life of crime. They were touched by the gifts they received. We are anxious for next year already but in the meantime, our work at home has just started again. Thank you.

**Mike & Sue Nardoza**



**Your donations have provided surgeries for these and many other orphans**