

Hello my Dear Friends-

June 2009

Have you ever noticed how sometimes it takes so long for God to make one whole picture out of things that we do. Sometimes we wonder why it takes so long without understanding how He is working behind the scenes. Sometimes we are doing something when we should be waiting for God to bring fruit out of it.

We have not sent many updates but we have not been idle. I would like to share with you some encouraging things that are happening so you can pray for us and for all God is doing in this time.

1. **Seminar CCTI:** When I received an invitation to this conference, I thought that it would be a meeting where many people say and do nothing. This thought filled my mind because of past experiences. Some people beat their breasts and say that they really want to help with the problems that exist in work with children. In truth, these people actually bring more traumas for the children whose lives are already not sweet. Because of this view, I didn't want to participate. I am grateful to God for providing a fellow brother in Christ to encourage me to take part and I am thankful for two unforgettable (I hope) lessons I learned there. First, do not measure all with one measure. Namely, we often have negative thoughts and opinions and because of that we experience hopelessness. We must pay attention and notice. We must be careful not to miss something very important in our life. Second, at the conference I received many tips on working with and parenting traumatized children that will be invaluable in the future with my ministry. Also, please let me say that I was healed from my own wrong thoughts, not even suspecting that some existed. I am grateful to God for the people who put on the conference and my opportunity to attend.

2. **Ministry at orphan school:** This ministry has reopened and it is very good. Our relationship with the director is at the higher level. I want to emphasize that through serious circumstances, that God brings into our lives, He truly leads us (if we allow Him) to a new level. Thanks to many people, there have been many physical improvements at the school - a laundry room, heating system, repaired sewage system, improved classrooms, new beds, a sports fields etc. But the important part was lost - such as personal hygiene, health and development of each child. Currently our mission or project is to improve the situation of these children on a personal level. We thank everyone who has taken part in this mission through prayer and finances. We ask for your continued support as we work to improve personally each child who is growing up without parental warmth and caring.

3. **Successful Fund Raiser!** Glory to God for people who burn for Him and want to help orphans in Ukraine! This April in Corvallis, Oregon, there was a fund raising for our ministry where people could buy handcrafted items, such as quilts, etc. They gathered \$ 2700! This money is helping to build a Father's House - A house where children who graduate from the orphanage and have the desire to achieve something in life will be able to realize their dreams. The greatest amount of work on the house is done! We are near completion and now start to the paint each room. This will be a home where everyone who lives will feel the care, protection and warmth of family and know the love of Christ.

4. **Women's Conference:** I want to note another thing that God impressed on me. A month ago I heard about women's conference in Kiev. I felt in my heart that my wife, Andrianna, should attend. She needed rest, recovery and simply being alone and away from the children and me. Agreeing, I sent her to the conference, thinking that it's not so hard and I could replace her at home. On the first day I thought that everything was normal, no problems. But the next day, I understood and evaluated all of Andrianna's hard work. I wanted her to return back home, but she was far away. So, I focused my attention on everyday things and barely made it through each day! Although these tasks take all of her attention, time and energy – Andrianna makes them look easy. Being a “man”, I

thought a woman's job was not complicated. But, now I think differently. I want to ask forgiveness especially from my wife and all women in general. I thank God for this opportunity of relaxing for Andrianna and for the nice lesson for me to appreciate my wife and pay more attention to her needs.

5. **Sasha Kitso:** Working with orphaned children can be difficult. Sometimes I have encountered children that do not want to achieve anything in life. Some smoke and behave like animals. For a long time I could not understand why some behave like this, but thanks to this history, I have learned a lot. This is the true story of a boy named Sasha Kitso.

Sasha does not remember how he got into the orphan school in Chaslivtsi; he has no memories of his relatives. When he talks about the school one cannot hear either heavily negative or a good impression about the institute where he had lived the greater part of his life. He leads a passive life but he is quite a cheerful child. In the beginning it was not clear why his mood is so strange but then after a long series of personal conversation it turned out that he was afraid of the future. He does not know what the future may bring for him. Most likely these stresses made him behave in a strange way, for example, consuming tobacco in his early teenage years and wrong handling of his younger fellow pupils in school.

Last year he often expressed negative feelings and talked of being scared about the uncertainty of his future life. He did not know what he will do after having graduated from the school and being alone and responsible for his own life. During personal conversation, Sasha expressed no desire and no wish to learn nicer habits or follow a better way of behaviour just as every well-raised person. Instead, there were many complaints against persons he considered 'opponents'. He was unwilling to listen to teachers, attend classes or strive for something better in life.

Throughout the past year, we have been trying to influence his life by giving him help and support and an understanding of what plan God has with his life. The transformation has been amazing! Now Sasha is a serious student. He has learned to speak almost fluent English, is active in school life and sings in the school choir. He decided to trust God and began actively studying the Bible and spent much time in prayer. Through this personal improvement he started to see his own life and life in general from another point of view and with hope for the future.

Frankly speaking, I am amazed at how precisely God keeps His promises. Sasha has been filled with hope and knows that everything can be good. God brought into his life a helpful man who is willing to give support and take him under shelter after graduation from the orphan school. True trust and honest keeping of God's commandments helped Sasha understand the principle of God's blessings. Sasha gave up smoking, made his education a priority and he is much friendlier than before, and more sensitive to others.



Because of our experience with Sasha, we are positive it is necessary to give each child trust, love, encouragement and care.

This summer, we would like to take some of the children to a camp where they can learn more about Jesus and grow in their relationship with God. But we would need prayer support on this. Could you please pray with us?

With love and respect in Jesus name-
Arpie

If you have been encouraged by our news and would like to support this worthy ministry, please contact me by email or visit our ministry partners at www.mynorthsidechurch.com .

Again, thank you for your financial and prayer support.