



Program for Humanitarian Aid is "Being Family"

New Branch of the PHA Family Tree!

We are excited to announce that PHA's transition program continues to produce fruit and now has the opportunity to expand into another city, Kamenskoye, in the Dnipro region of Ukraine. PHA is partnering with a young Christian couple, Ilya and Zina Parhomyk, who currently serve at-risk youth in this city. They are longtime residents of Kamenskoye and have relationships with orphanages, trade schools, local Christians and government officials here. PHA's desire is to further equip their ministry so that they may serve a larger number of PHA's target population of orphans and at-risk youth. We feel blessed to have this opportunity to expand PHA's transition program into Kamenskoye. Please join us in prayer and celebration for this new branch of the PHA Family Tree!!!

-Chris and Christy Hill



"the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35-by Andrey Belokonnii



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

We say it's a golden verse of the Bible. Every time reading it we can find important information for us. God loves the world, he has one and only Son, believers in him aren't separated from eternal life, God doesn't want people to perish and gives them belief.

Now I want to pay attention to the word 'gave'. He is the Creator of everything seen and unseen, he has everything, but before creating the world he had prepared his First and Only to give. Give, so that we will gladly greet each other with the words 'Christ has risen!', so that we can declare to the world 'Christ is our Passover.'

Maybe it didn't hurt him and he wasn't upset? In Mel Gibson's movie 'The passion of the Christ' (2004) stage director was able to show in the moment of Jesus's death, as if the eye in heaven had a tear that fell to the bottom of the cross. There are such words in the novel «*Les Misérables*» by Victor Hugo, - '...one of those large tears which are the somber pearls of the soul welled up slowly in his eyes. He murmured: "That is the proof that God is good." Hugo called a tear a pearl of the soul.

Lord Jesus knew and was preaching resurrection (reading the Scripture I'm sure about it); it was hard for him to go through the pass of the full dedication. The human logic has a question – how this could be called the strongest love, how precious it is?

In our big family I was a beloved first-born grandson for three grandmas. We lived in my mother's mom's house; on the left, about 25 steps away was the house of my grandma's older sister; on the right, about 50 steps away lived my grandma's younger brother (his wife was my grandma as well). It seems that my strict bringing up was only my mom's vision, and three women and two men (my grandparents) were contesting in love for me. I often recall that I was raised in the paradise☺ that was not because I was an idler and always had what I wanted; I was working hard as a child and was dreaming about lots of things. That was because I was surrounded by unconditional love. The practice of my grandmas' love contest usually was to give more and more of the best things they had. This tournament lasted through their whole lives. Even when I got married and had kids, I had a pretty good income and was able to help my grandmas, they were always giving me what they had. Sometimes my mom was saying that grandma wasn't right giving out all of her money to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren; she was telling that she has to think about her death and funeral, was asking to start saving money for this. Grandma often during this discussions was opening her wallet and without excessive emotions was giving all the money to me and my kids, answering to my mom: 'You definitely wouldn't leave my dead body in the house, at least you'll bury me under the tree in a backyard, and now I still can give what I have.' In such moments I felt uncomfortable, I didn't need financial help and grandma's pension wasn't very big. Then in my conscience rooted the understanding of us helping and giving not to look good in somebody's eyes, the real reason for giving – is a strong love.

In Exodus, chapters 11 and 12, God is telling that Egyptians will have another plague. He gives advance notice so that every person would ask their close ones for the gold and silver. Through Moses and Aaron gave the Israelites the rules for the Passover offering, tells about the blood that will be the sign for the Angel of Death when Lord will go and slay Egyptian firstborn to get his nation out.

Thinking about some moments that were happening that night thrills me, truly ferocious. **'At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.'** Exodus 12:29-30

By that time all the Israelites were not sleeping, they were standing dressed and shod, with the belts, holding staffs; in a hurry, with the bitter herbs were eating baked lamb whose blood was the sign on the door head and posts. I'm sure they didn't even realize what was happening. Outside in the streets of Egypt the scream was heard, awful mourning. Just imagine, in the beginning it was heard in one or two houses, then, neighbors were lighting the candles to see what has happened and found their firstborns dead. Mourning and yells were becoming stronger. You think the ones that had this grief in their homes were able to give their gold and silver with gratitude and big love? They were giving because of the death fear.

'The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" ...The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.' Exodus 12:33,36

In Luke 6:36 Lord Jesus Christ calls us to be merciful like the Heavenly Father. In Exodus 12:36 God gave the favor to his people in the eyes of Egyptians. If looking closer at the meaning of this mercy and that favor, Jesus is talking about compassion and grace and during the exodus seems like God made a favor. I don't want to be given something out of favor. I don't want to give myself for the sake of approval or like Egyptians in coercion, to get rid of the problem. I want to have compassion, mercy and love.

Luke 6:27-38

-Andrey Belokonniy

Poltava Thoughts: by Fedor Chernichkin

This time I want to tell about Vika. She is 13 years old and her life is very different. She doesn't know her father as mom is telling her that she doesn't remember her father's name. She has never seen her mother being sober. Last year she was sent from the orphanage in Gadyach city (Poltava region) to Poltava orphanage #2. Vika is a reserved, shy kid without smile, but meeting her you could feel the willing of you coming closer, hugging and kissing her and then she starts blooming!

In conversations with her asking why she is sad and tries to stay away, she says she couldn't understand why everything in her life is happening with her: she doesn't know her father, she has mother, but she's not there for her. In such moments you can only hug her and say that everything is going to be okay and when she grows up she will be able to build the family of her dreams! She is grown beyond her years, and when we were celebrating her birthday at Church, having only two cakes with candles, she started crying saying that this was her best birthday ever! The same day in the evening she called her mother asking why she didn't congratulate her. Mother answered: 'You called me in a wrong time, you're bothering me! Right now I'm drinking vodka for your health!'



Thank you that through your prayers and help we can show her the other world where Jesus Christ is reigning! God's love to you all!
- Fedor Chernichkin

Story of a Child: by Tanya Ilmeyerova



Once Vanya and I went with Yegor and Zahar to the scary quest room. There was an actor that was trying to drive us crazy and in the beginning there was no light that we were able to control. You get into the dark unknown room and you for sure couldn't see who is there and what is happening. That's where more understanding of "be the light to the world" comes. In the second room we found a candle and surroundings became more pleasant. Even though everybody knew that the candle should be put to the highest peak in the room, still this light was very fragile and we were afraid to lose it. Finally, when we found a flashlight in the last room we became more confident.

PHA family tries to be the light to the young lady that lost her mother two years ago; to the gentleman whose childhood was over at the age of 3; whose drug addict uncle was stealing teenager's money and belongings; whose mother didn't have money for the new outfit, so he had to wear his older sister's jeans; in whose head stuck the words "you worth nothing and you'll end up in jail"; whose father was beating him till faint; whose, whose...

So many stories, so many broken hearts and minds.

«"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.»

Matthew 5:14-16 ESV

For some it's still barely seen light, others found a candle, there are the ones that were presented torch-lights already.

Glory to God for the Light we have in our lives and for the Light we can show and share with the others.

-Tanya Ilmeyer

Family Time: by Andrey Belokonnii:



We first met Anya 15 years ago. The other day she texted me this message:

"Good morning. I just read the story about the sense of life and for some reason our first meeting popped up in my head. God is truly sending different people in the lives of every person. Just thinking what would have happened if my parents wouldn't have died and my brother and I wouldn't get in the orphanage!!! I can only imagine it with a fear, it turns out that God has saved us in such a way, taken away such parents and sending a wonderful family, the Belokonniye family! You taught me forgiveness, you told that there is a God, you showed and taught to enjoy life and thank God for the good and bad. So, your visit 15 years ago to Zaporozhye orphanage with the huge bag of ORANGES wasn't in vain! Thank you for this acquaintance!!! Every life of every person is God's scenario. That's how God organized our meeting with him through the orange!!! Love you Andrey."

-Andrey Belokonnii

From the Domik Kitchen: by Marina Belokonnaya

Deruny (potato pancakes)

Deruny is a dish made of grated potatoes. I want to offer you my recipe. So that they will be very tasty, fluffy and delicate. This is a very simple dish. There are several secrets in making deruny, and as it is said tastes differ.

Ingredients:

Potatoes 700 gr

Onions 2 pcs

Eggs 1 pcs

Some oil

Salt

Pepper



Grate potatoes and onions on the smallest grate and mix so that it will not become dark. It is good to have sort of potatoes that have a huge amount of starch. Deruny taste better with this kind of potatoes. Take the liquid away. Add 1 egg, pepper, salt and mix again. For deruny to keep form, continue to mix the ingredients as each fries, so that starch will be spreading in the mixture and won't fall on the bottom. Fry on a middle heat both sides till it gets brown.

You can add sour cream or fried mushrooms to the ready dish.

Enjoy your meal!- Marina



**Program for Humanitarian Aid is
"Being Family"**

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PROGRAM FOR HUMANITARIAN AID (PHA)

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Donations can also be made through the PHA website: www.programforhumanitarianaid.org