



PROGRAM FOR  
HUMANITARIAN AID

# PHA is “Being Family”

## FAMILY TIME

by Andrey Belokonnii

For many years in a row I encourage people to repent. I explain the meaning of the biblical word ‘repentance’. I wish from the bottom of my heart to all the people surrounding me to change their thinking not just to acquire new knowledge.

I can say for sure that I’m in the constant process of my thinking process change. Yes, at the beginning of my ministry in PHA I had a vision and thoughts, maybe even conviction that I’ve refused by today. I remember myself not understanding to the full extend why almost adults should receive help. At that point I was sure that orphans by the age of 20-25 years old become developed personalities, real man and independent women, though still young. At that time I was a bit amazed by PHA family’s plans for five, ten years. I couldn’t believe then that some projects in the orphan ministry could be long-termed as they seemed to me then. I was reading the Bible, was preaching about the freedom from slavery, the trip through the desert, I was sure that long (in terms of the time) way is not our fate.

I was born and grew up in the average Slavic family where kids were becoming grown-ups and independent in default, and permanent adults’ correction and participation wasn’t seen, nobody paid attention to this, everything was ordinary. For almost ten years I was working as a rescuer in the deep coal mines of Donbass, where our main aim was to shorten to the possible minimum the time of accident elimination and saving people. Later, for more than 10 years I was working in construction, developing from the little order executive

to managing and being in charge of the big projects. In that sphere of my occupation the main aim was the fastest possible putting in operation my ordering customer’s visions that just started showing on the paper.

I was sure that in PHA’s ministry my God is an ordering customer whose project is to change kids’ lives who were left in the orphanages without families. I believed that God Himself will eliminate this emergency situation and save kids, making strong families and churches out of helpless orphans, we just need to participate a bit in his project.

I came to repentance, my thoughts and actions changed. I lived the last 10 years in a close contact with the orphans, everyday getting deeper and deeper in their life troubles. Now I can tell that five, seven or even ten years in helping orphans are just the first steps in PHA’s ministry. There is no expiration date or limits in the life that is dedicated to the orphan ministry, if we’re filled with the love of Christ, we fully give ourselves, lay our souls to save and keep safe at least several kids.

For example, this year is known for the whole world through the pandemic and quarantine, there are many restrictions and new forbidding rules. You might think that there are huge obstacles for our orphan ministry, but vice versa we have to put more strength and pay more attention to individual relations and support for the youth. The quarantine didn’t stop the flow of the orphanage graduates and they’ve made their first independent steps on life. They were sent to the trade school dormitories, where they’ll have to obtain their new profession. Now they’re one-on-one with their

## Family Time continued



stipend and their troubles, the idea is that they'll have to learn to use their money and time right. But we know for sure that the project of moving towards independence would last for several hard years. Pandemic didn't cancel trade school graduations for orphans, didn't make them free from the tough choice for the further way, there are still attempts to continue studies in college and institutes.

Who would have a keen sense of the pulse for these young people, if they have nobody except us? Who would visit lawyers or enrollment board with them? Who would offer to find courses for the better exams passing? Who would go with them to get their documents in their native villages that they've already forgotten and from where they were taken to the orphanage? Who would take their hand and bring them to the personal home, church, rehab center, would help to find a place to live, when they're really left outside in the street? Who with tears in the eyes would look into the teared eyes of the young lady, pregnant again and not knowing the father, when she's asking for help?

They seem so, they're not minors anymore, they're adults, independent men and young women, I thought so at some point. Now I realized, that the age after eighteen, twenty and even twenty-three for the grown in the orphanages kids could be more fatal than losing parents as a baby. Now all the surrounding society tells them: "You have to... you need... these are your problems...we don't care... bring a paper... show a document... explain why this is that way." And they seem to be adults that are not willing to accept and agree that they're still helpless kids, that need permanent care and guidance of the close ones. This is both so sad and so good that we can be those close and loving people that these kids are in need of. That is so wonderful not just saying 'We're PHA family' but truly live as a family, that is blessed by God and filled with mutual love and support. Our ministry, our life isn't a period in the orphanage or the first couple years after graduation, our project is forever.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

**- Andrey Belokonnii, PHA Director of Ukrainian Operations**



## SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

One Christmas, a wealthy businessman provided winter coats for children at an elementary school located in a poor area of the city. The principal escorted the special guest to each class so he could meet the children and tell them about their new coats.

When they arrived at Tommy's class, the teacher asked if she could take a picture of the businessman and the children. As the principal was getting everyone in place, Tommy refused to stand with the rest of the children. The principal tried everything she could, but Tommy would not cooperate.

When the teacher saw what was happening, she went to Tommy and whispered something to him. Tommy looked up at his teacher and smiled. He went over to the businessman, hugged him, and stood right next to him.

As the businessman was leaving, he asked the teacher how she had gotten Tommy to stand for the picture. The teacher explained, "Tommy comes from a family that has a number of problems. Because of that, he doesn't fit in very well with the other children. He is withdrawn and often depressed. Tommy doesn't know that he is loved."

The businessman responded, "But what did you say that convinced him to stand for the picture?" The teacher smiled and said, "I told him that you had asked for him to stand next to you." The businessman said, "Well, that was a good trick." The teacher replied, "No, it wasn't a trick. If you had known about Tommy's situation, you would have wanted to help him feel special and loved by standing next to you. Wouldn't you?" The businessman looked at the teacher with a tear in his eye and said, "Yes."

As I read about Tommy, all I could think about was the children in Ukraine. Children not knowing what true love is about, not knowing the never-ending love of a mother or father. Children not having anyone who would ask them to stand next to them and knowing how special their lives truly are.

Through PHA we have been given the opportunity to stand by these young people letting them know how special they truly are. Letting them know that even though we are miles away, and will probably never meet, that we love them. I am thankful for the PHA family in that they express the love of the Father for us.

Thank you for being a PHA partner and helping all the Tommys of the world.

**-Bob Martin, Elm Street Church of Christ**

## POLTAVA THOUGHTS

by Fedor and Nastya Chernickiny

God's blessings to everybody reading these lines, praying and making our Father God glad working at His vineyard. Every time we write the stories of different kids and I couldn't say if one fortune is better or worse than the other.

Today I want to tell you about Nikita and Nastya, they're twins. They were 13 in September, they also have a younger sister Yulia, she's 8 years old. They never knew their father and their mother is deprived of parental rights. Nastya and Nikita live with their grandmother, who is their legal guardian. Their grandmother is 68 years old. Recently Nastya started living with us according to Nastya's and her grandmother's request. When we were helping Nastya to pack her stuff and move in with us and we heard her asking her grandmother to come see her on weekends but she refused saying she doesn't want to see her and wants to have some rest.



Lots could be written about Nastya and Nikita, who also wants to move in with us, but their grandma is more sympathetic to him and is saying that he could stay with her.

I think that it is easier to face your enemy on a battlefield. There is a frontline and people on the sides are ready to fight and destroy each other. The danger is clearly seen in each other's faces! But living as a minor in what it supposed to be a peaceful time the danger is harder to see. Ultimately it isn't the body that is destroyed but the spirit. When the home is bad, minors are constantly fouled and yelled at. As a child you do not know much about life. You don't know much about anything but those adults around you are doing everything so that you would know only one thing – that you're 'NOTHING'. That you cause harm. Why are you even alive?

I recall myself, my childhood, everything's repeating exactly to a T. We're being killed as a personality when we don't know anything about love, peace and mercy! As a woman making an abortion doesn't



give the right for a kid to live, and the same is when we're born, we lack the main thing in this world – love. And here is our community, community of the handicaps and mentally disabled not knowing what is love, mercy, support and help.

We're very glad to know Jesus Christ and getting to know you through Him. Thank you for your ministry in our country. We hope that soon we'll all be together in the Heavenly Jerusalem, seeing each other, hugging, speaking the same language and glorify the Lord for His miracles in our lives. With love to you Chernickiny family and Domik Poltava.

**-Fedor and Nastya Chernickiny**  
**PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Poltava**

## DOMIK KAMENSKOYE

by Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk

What does the kid that lost a mother feel? As a mother, cutting the umbilical cord we don't feel the loss, vice versa we become closer. We can look into the eyes, watch the lips movement, hug. And with the age the connection becomes stronger, and the support is needed even more! And what if mother left? Forever?... Valeriya (Lera), 17 years old is visiting Domik for 2 years now. She lost her mother 4 years ago and now she lives with her father. Lera is closed, it's hard getting her to talk, but she is very inquiring and asks lots of questions about family. About how to be an ideal wife, mother, etc. Thanks to the communication and prayers Lera became a Christian and helps a lot in the Church and at Domik. She takes mentoring classes and pre-nuptial consulting (with Ilya). She is trying hard to be effective and she reads a lot! She gladly thanks God and Domik sponsors for the opportunity to be the part of the big Christian family and find many new friends that God presented through PHA!!!

- Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Kamenskoye



## FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Marina Belokonnaya

### Vareniki with Potato



Ingredients:

For dough:

Flour 8 cups

Water 2.5 cups

Butter ½ cup

Salt 1 teaspoon

Filling:

Potato 2.5 pounds

Salt

Onion 1

Butter

Put mixed water and butter on the stove, wait until it boils, take off the fire, and add flour and salt with a wooden spoon. Leave the dough to rest for 30 mins.

Let's make the filling. Peel and cut potatoes. Boil till it almost falls apart in the salted water, mash potatoes. Chop onions

and fry them till they receive golden color. Mix potatoes with onions and the filling is ready!



We can start making vareniki. For this we roll out the dough, don't forget to put some flour on the table

before you start. Take a little cup and make circles, take dough circles and put filling on one half, cover it with the other half and stick the borders together. Put vareniki aside on the surface covered with flour.

Boil vareniki in small parts with lots of salty water, stirring often, especially right after putting vareniki in the pot. When vareniki get on top of the water, boil for 2 more minutes. Ready vareniki should be covered with melted butter and stirred, so they don't stick together.

Vareniki are also good if you freeze them and boil when needed.

Ask your family to join you by the table! Enjoy your meal!

-Marina Belokonnaya,

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhia

## BEING A MOM

Yes, you might think what a mom of a 6 month old child could talk about. But it's not about me. My story today is about my sister in Christ, friend and almost relative Ksusha. Our birthdays are same day and same year, so we're even like twins, haha. Many of you know her personally or have heard stories about her. She is Donetsk orphanage graduate and was sent to the orphanage in the middle school. She lived with my parents since 2010 and almost till she got married. We're often asked if we are successful in our ministry and for me Ksusha is a great example to answer this question. She graduated from the trade school after the orphanage. She tried to enter Donetsk medical college but failed. She worked till the next try and enrolled. She studied through the beginning of the conflict and a bit after, then moved to Zaporizhia and continued her studies there. Ksusha graduated and got a job as a nurse in Zaporizhia Regional Childrens Hospital. She got married and is now a great mom to a one-year old boy named Yevsey.

She breaks the hardly unbreakable circle of orphans giving birth to orphans.

Of course, Ksusha doesn't know yet I'm writing about her this month but as we love each other I hope I am out of trouble. I'm just so proud of her and I hope we both will be great grandmas someday still having fun together.

**-Tanya Ilmeyerova,**  
**PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Kiev**



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\$50 \$100 \$500 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Financially through monthly recurring donations

\$50 \$100 \$500 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I know someone who would like to hear about this ministry

Donations can also be made through the PHA website: [www.programforhumanitarianaid.org](http://www.programforhumanitarianaid.org)



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College Station, TX 77842  
(979) 220-5691

## DECEMBER 2020

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