



Program for Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine "Being Family"

Summer Trip Report

Camp:

Camp gets better every year and we know the secret. Relationships! The longer we know the kids, the orphanage staff, and all the wonderful Ukrainian Christians the smoother things go. It's not because we've taught them something special. If anything, they've taught us at least as much as we have them. It's because we have a better understanding of each other. They know they are loved and supported. They know that PHA and more importantly Christ is there for them. Dale Wilson from Tyler, Texas has been to Christian camps in Ukraine many times and here is what he had to say. "All eight of my camps have been great. I love the people of Ukraine. Since I love children I love the children of Ukraine. They are why I suffer through 9 and 10-hour flights. I will miss the experience of loving and being loved at camps." Another one of our American team members was in Ukraine for the first time. Here's how she described her experience. "It was awesome. The kids were wonderful, the translators were wonderful, and I learned a lot about Ukrainian culture. It was definitely worth it." Thanks to everyone who helped to make the camp possible for our kids!



Seminar:



PHA also hosted a church seminar immediately following camp. This is our second year to host the seminar. There were Christians from 11 churches there to discuss family relationships. Greg Anderson from College Station, Texas had this to share about his time at seminar and visiting camp. "My time in Ukraine was one of the most humbling yet simultaneously encouraging experiences of my life. The difference PHA makes is evident in the lives of the children and their caregivers and is much appreciated by those who are sharing Good News with the Ukrainian people. I can't wait to go back!" Susan Fox and her husband Jerry of College Station, Texas also attended seminar. "It's hard to find words to describe the amazing experience of spending time with our Christian family in Ukraine. The

church there inspires me in so many ways. Their hearts are tender and full of love for the Lord, and their hunger and enthusiasm for His Word are beautiful to see. I feel incredibly blessed to call these people my brothers and sisters, and feel a shared bond with them that time and distance cannot break. I pray for many of them daily, and I know they pray for me as well. Even though Jerry and I just returned from there last month, I am ready to head back to Ukraine RIGHT NOW!"

If you are reading this and feeling moved or inspired we would love to talk to you about being part of the 2019 camp and seminar teams.

-Chris and Christy Hill

Family Time: by Andrey Belokonniy

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9 ESV

I was laying in my bed with eyes closed, the light turned off long ago, putting all the fuss of the day and evening away, almost falling asleep when my phone rang. I answered and after the usual greetings the person on the other end of the line shared his feelings about a video I sent him. "When I had an opportunity to watch the short video you've sent me, I've heard God telling me in my heart that He was next to me and kept me safe since the time of my childhood; there are so many mistakes made because of me refusing to see Christ and His love." Nothing unusual was filmed, this less than a minute video where you can see several lined books on the shelf (Soviet Union times furniture), old books, huge Persian carpet covering almost all the wall (it was fashion for it)

under which there is a covered sofa; narrow corridor with the entrance door, doors to the bathroom, one small room in this apartment and tiny kitchen, new window and a fridge.

Nowadays this is a home for an elderly woman, who is moving slowly and hardly in her dwelling, holding two walking sticks in her hands that have additional support for her elbows. She is not anxious about her health but only about having enough time left to see her imprisoned son being released from the jail. For more than ten years the son hasn't been visiting his mom's home. I made this one-minute video from his past and his mom's present for him with the hope that they will have a better future together.



As we continue to speak on the phone he tells me the video brought back a memory for him of being on the sofa in his mom's apartment where he slept. These unforgettable moments from boy's life who woke up in the morning but didn't open his eyes yet, hearing his mom moving in the kitchen, smelling the French toast being fried in the pan with butter. So unwilling to hear "it's time to get ready for school" yet so willing to taste the breakfast made by his loving mother. Usual morning for a family, unusual whole-life experience.

In my stories I've mentioned sometime that when I was little everybody was eating the same food in my house. My mom was telling me that I'm not special and I have to eat the same dishes as everybody and nobody will be cooking specially for me. This was my mom's law and my grandma was breaking this law. Every time when my grandma had an opportunity she was cooking something special just for me. I clearly remember the smell and taste of eggs or potatoes fried in butter. Usual food for unusual love recalls.

I have two daughters, you also know about Vika with who we've agreed I'm her godfather. I wish my girls lives filled with love and understanding. I especially want them to be happy wives and mothers. I understand that future understanding of unusual happiness could be hidden now, at the first glimpse, in the usual things. After school graduation last year Vika has entered a trade school and I don't give her rides to school anymore. She grows up and becomes more independent. Last school year not to be late and have time to get ready (very important for the girls), Vika started to wake up at 5 a.m. Every morning (we had previous agreement with Marina and Vika) I was waking up around six and cooking breakfast for Vika. I know that everybody living in our house, still laying in their beds, hear and smell me frying Vika eggs in butter. I thought I would get used to this process and it will be easier for me. No, I didn't get used to it in ten months and I still don't want to wake up early in the morning. My body and my brain oppose my spirit. But every morning my heart fills with my childish memories, full of love, that today gives hope for a good and kind future for my kids.

Who if not God knows the best time for a girl, holding hands or feeling the hug, together with her earthly father (even if he's a made-up godfather), to ask in prayer the blessings for the whole day from the Heavenly Father? What do the guys that live in our home think about this prayer that they overhear while still staying in bed? The guys from my house, I believe, for sure will become wonderful husbands and fathers, girls in future - are wonderful wives and mothers!

Maybe somebody reading these lines thinks that there won't be unusually drastic changes in teenagers' lives from a usual breakfast. I will for sure agree, but I will also say that the whole life is made of usual, sometimes even small acts that together make an unusual and full view of family love. I call to remember that one person, maybe living in the other continent, seldom looking at the photos of the teenagers in whose lives they're taking care of with their donations; gathering of people that call themselves God's Church and preaching Christ's love and sacrifice; family or a person taking part in PHA's ministry, holding kids hands in prayer or eating by one table - we all are doing unusual things in the lives that seem to be usual.

May God bless us!

-Andrey Belokoniy

Poltava Thoughts: by Fedor Chernichkin

Daniel and Karina.

You know a lot about Daniel from us, what a wonderful young man he became in Jesus Christ! I want to share about Karina with you. She is 18 now and before she met Daniel she didn't know anything about God. She lived in a one-roomed apartment with her mother, her mother's gentleman, grandmother, mom's sister, mom's sister's daughter, plus a dog.

After getting acquainted with us she asked our permission for her to move in and live with us. In a year while she was staying in our family she was baptized and started to help actively in the ministry with the kids from the orphanage and the church ministry as well.



In May Karina and Daniel got married and now they live on their own (renting apartment thanks to you) and being God's light for their friends and relatives. Their home is always open for the guests, people come for tea and they have wonderful Christian evenings: discussing God's Word, games and of course cheerful communication!

May God Bless you! Peace and Love in your homes!

- Fedor Chernichkin

Story of a Child: by Vanya and Tanya Ilmeyevi

Once upon a time there were kids named Yegor, Zahar, Daniel, Lyosha, Vova, Vika and Nastya. Some used to be in the same schools, classes or groups at camp, others weren't at our camp before, some made troubles all the time, others refused to participate in any kind of activities. They all were kids, boys and girls.

This June we were able to witness and be amazed by their growth into young men and ladies.

Junior counselors. Some tried on that role last year and were brave enough to come back and do it again. Some were scared to try but agreed out of interest :)

One of the most entertaining parts of the camp for me this year was to watch junior counselors: them being responsible, involved, caring about the kids and about each other, having passion to what they're doing and how they're doing it, mentoring little ones and being friends to the older kids. They did a tremendous job.



Here are the fruits. They're not perfect yet, who of us are? They're growing surrounded by the love of God and Christians and now are able to start spreading that love to others.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9 ESV

P.S. you should have seen them when all the campers left - nobody to watch them behaving, they're acting just like all teenagers would act ;)

Love each one of them just the way they are.

-Vanya and Tanya Ilmeyevi

From the Domik Kitchen: by Marina Belokonnaya

Pirozhki with Potatoes

Let's start with the stuffing: Peel 2 kilos of potatoes and boil it till done. Mash it, put in salt. Fry 2 onions, previously chopped, in the pan with butter. Add fried onions to the mashed potatoes, mix it, let it cool down.

For the dough: Pour in the bowl 0,5 liter warm water, sugar 1 tbs, yeast 1.5 tbs, salt 1 teaspoon. Leave for some time for the yeast to start working. Don't make a tough dough, use oil on your hands to make it.

Put the dough in a bowl covered with saranwrap and put it in the fridge for 1.5 hours. The dough should grow, it becomes soft and it's comfortable to work with. Put the dough on the table, tear a half-hand sized portion, put potatoes inside (about tbs size), cover it with the dough. Fry pirozhki on hot pan with oil.

Ingredients:

Stuffing

Potatoes 2 kilos

Onions 2 pieces middle sized

Butter 50 gr

Dough

Hot water 0.5 liter

Sugar 1 tbsp

Salt 1 teaspoon

Yeast 1.5 tbsp

Oil 2 tbsp

Flour as much as the dough would need

Enjoy your meal!- Marina





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

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PROGRAM FOR HUMANITARIAN AID (PHA)

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\$50 \$100 \$500 **Other:** ____

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\$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