



# PHA is “Being Family”

## FAMILY TIME

by Andrey Belokonniy

### *Hugs!*

Recently I had a phone talk with my acquaintance that about fifteen years ago was sentenced to life imprisonment for crime. I was sharing with him the story of us visiting the orphans at the governmental camp and was comparing our governmental camp system for the kids to the prison system for adults. I was telling about the vivid difference in the kids and adults' behavior and mood as they stay in groups in the systems of the government.

I see the kids dreaming about their future having no personal experience and knowing nothing about the successful life of the older graduates. They are still sure about their life management, not understanding that the governmental system is providing them carefree existence. Adults are able to analyze past personal experience and observe people around them. That's why it's harder for the adults to believe in their bright future and life success. Adults for sure know about the personal responsibility that starts when getting out of the government systems.

I also reminded him how important it is for the kids and adults to have close people, maybe not even relatives, but the ones that are being the support and fortification for the dream about the future and the feeling that they are not alone, that somebody needs them. We were discussing that because of the disappointment and deception kids experience and the passing of time, minds change to the imprisonment life rule 'Don't trust, don't be afraid, don't ask'.

When I was telling him that orphans of all ages were surrounding us and waiting for the moment to come closer and hug us, that they were almost ready to wait in the line, looking into our eyes and waiting on the moment when we will reach out to hug them. My criminal friend said that at that time he was doing the thing not allowed in prison, he was crying...

He shared with me the thing that I knew already, that there are no hugs for between the prisoners and why that's not allowed. Then he said: 'You know, Andrey, my mom loved me, at least she was sure in this. She gave me everything needed, food and clothes, some gifts, she was telling me that she lives and works for me and my sister, and that was truth, but she never hugged me. I think and I am sure that my life could have been different if I was hugged by the close one and if I was told that I'm loved.'



My mother was always proud that she never brought a man in our house, and I lacked having father, though not related by blood, maybe even alcoholic, but father... I'm grateful to you that I can at least say right now 'hugs' waiting for a moment of our meeting and real hugs, put me on the list for the hugs. Don't take away the love from the kids, continue to hug them, show them the Father's love'.

It seems that I haven't heard anything new, but I started crying too and the next morning it was hard for me to keep the prayers during the morning prayer with the family, and now I'm almost crying again.

My mom also loved me as all of the Soviet moms, not hugging and not repeating the phrase about her love to me. My wife Marina, looking at my tears said that her mother didn't pamper her with hugs either.

So, I embrace every reader of this note, waiting on our meeting and real hugs. I thank God and you for the wonderful time and our common abilities to show at least a bit of love to the kids, waiting on their turn to receive hugs.

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

## DOMIK KAMENSKOYE

by Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk

God for sure has a sense of humor! From the early childhood I was always willing to get acquainted with the people whose roots aren't from Ukraine. My first best friend – Armenian Artyom. Second – Azerbaijan Eljun, some of you know him. People often think I'm Turkish or Arabic... it turned out that on my father's side my great grandma was... as you might have already guessed – a Romani! So... in the previous story I was telling about a family with whom we're friends, this story has its continuation... as some of you noticed this family also has this Romani line. And this story would be about the kids in whose father's families were the same group of people, Romani... I hope the following stories will be a bit different if God wouldn't want to joke again!



Since the month of January one girl started coming to Domik Kamenskoye alongside with the other kids from the children's home. In the process of communication and getting to know each other, she told about the problem her family has faced without sharing many details. She told that she and her younger brother are in the children's home now. I thought that the plot is pretty similar to the other lives we know before the series of events that took place...

Since the month of April some kids stopped visiting Domik due to quarantine and restrictions in our town. By the end of May when kids were getting ready for the Domik camp we were able to take 6 kids from the children's home. Anzhela was one of them and her younger brother was in the hospital for that period!

She really liked camp, how everybody interacted with her, games, lessons, everything is great! And by the end of the camp, when it was time to leave, Andrey Belokonnyi decided to make her a present, gifting her a used iPhone6 that one of the American team members brought. Her happiness knew no bounds, she was nicely shocked... and we came back to Kamenskoye.



In a week I came to the children's home. Two young guys with beards met me at the entrance (we look alike a bit I thought). In the process of communication the following information pops up. 3 young men came to the children's home and they're Anzhela's brothers that she was not telling about earlier. So getting them all together I asked: how many of you are in your family? The answer was five! The youngest is in the hospital and here are four of us! Okay, now I understand! Arkadiy 16, Georgiy 15, (reminds of the actor that played a werewolf in the 'Twilight' movie) Dmitriy 13.

In couple days after this meeting I found out what these guys like (basketball, volleyball, football... Romani's... they are for sure are my brothers) I brought them gifts, took them to the park with the teacher to the basketball ground, and offered them to come to the basketball camp!

In the process I find out that these guys were born and grew up in the same district where I lived, about 100 meters from the place where I lived as a child, where I met my foreigner best friends! The process of the start of their trainings turned out to be very hard! There were lots of unwillingness and obstacles from the children's home board, but we managed to get them for this camp!

They're happy and pleased! They're training, getting tired... but they're never stingy for the smiles and communication! We hope and believe that our communication will continue and will bring the necessary fruit into their life.

I want to say a huge thank you to the sponsor and PHA participants for the financial participation and prayer support!

**- Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk**

**PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Kamenskoye**

## POLTAVA THOUGHTS

by Fedor and Nastya Chernichkin

Blessed time to you Lord's family in Jesus Christ! In this note I want to share with you about a young man named Aleksander. We started our relations last September and this year he was in the Domik camp.

Sasha (short for Aleksander) is from the multiple kids family, he is the youngest in the family, he is 13. He doesn't have any other legal status except for the status of the multiple family kid. Sasha has an older sister, she is 18, she works as a waiter in the restaurant and middle brother, Daniel, he is 16. Their mother is taking Daniel out of the police all the time as he is leading the incorrect lifestyle. But the family has another problem.

The father isn't working and is drinking alcohol all the time, none of the kids have ever seen him sober. He lives in the summer kitchen, a building next to the private house usually used in the summer as a kitchen, usually with no heating/ utilities. When I was talking to Sasha's mother she was saying

that she feels sorry for him and doesn't kick him out being afraid he would die somewhere or somebody will kill him.



The fact is that the husband isn't helping. He makes her work 14 hours per day. That's why she couldn't pay attention to bringing up her kids. Looking at Sasha I think that it's better to be an orphan in the orphanage and be at least somehow protected. Or here: there are no words. What example? Whom to follow? Whom to imitate?

Thanks God that Sasha's heart is open for our ministry and he is with us almost every day! Please pray with us about his fortune! He is a good and kind boy!

With love to you Chernichkin family and Domik Poltava!

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

**BBQ LUNCHEON**

# SAVE THE DATE!

You are invited to a BBQ Luncheon to hear how PHA is "Being Family" to vulnerable Ukrainian youth!

September 26th | 12:30pm  
Pirtle Hall, Marvin United Methodist Church  
300 W Erwin St, Tyler, TX 75702

There is no cost to attend.  
Please email [pha@programforhumanitarianaid.org](mailto:pha@programforhumanitarianaid.org) to RSVP  
or call 979-220-5691

**PHA IS "BEING FAMILY"**  
**WWW.PROGRAMFORHUMANITARIANAID.ORG**

## SUMMER CAMP DREAMS CAME TRUE!

Summer Bible Camp is always a special time for everyone involved, kids, councilors, and volunteers alike. But something about this year seemed extra special. Maybe it was due to the uncertainty leading up to camp, maybe we all felt extra blessed to be there, or maybe after missing out last year we weren't taking the experience for granted. It very well could have been the amazing group of kids who after a year of social distance and isolation were just hungry for personal connection. Whatever it was it's easy to say that thanks to all the support from the PHA family, summer camp dreams most certainly came true this year.

We had a great group of about 70 kids, a mix of kids who had been to camp before, as well as many new faces. We spent 8 fantastic days together learning about the fruits of the spirit, playing games, making friendships, and sharing in God's love. Our phenomenal mission team from the US endured many challenges and poured their hearts into the kids with every chance they had. One of the highlights from camp this year

was having some kids from the Gulyaypole orphanage join the camp for the first time. We love our kids who come back year after year and we can make deep lasting relationships with them, but there's also something special about getting to meet and hear the stories of new campers and walk alongside them as they experience camp for the very first time.

Romans 15:13 says "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope". We spent two days at camp learning about joy and peace, and I can't think of two better words to describe what camp means to our PHA kids. It's a week for them to be away from the harsh realities of their world, a week to hear the good news, make new friends and spend time with old ones. It's a week to spend time with the PHA family and receive the love that they often miss. Thanks so much to each and every member of the PHA family for your support, prayers, and hard work. We couldn't make those summer camp dreams come true without you!

**-Wes Hawthorne,**  
**Development Officer, PHA**

## FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Marina Belokonnaya

### ***Baked Pyrozhki with Cherries***

Cherry is an available and good berry here in Ukraine. You can cook many tasty things (cakes, vareniki (dumplings), pyrozhki (dough cakes with fillings), pies, casserole), it prevents blood clots, strengthens the body and cardiac muscle. Cherries are full of antioxidants. Cherry juice is a good way to quench your thirst during the hot times. Cook and enjoy with your family and close ones!

Get ready with the filling. We need to take the pits out the berries, pour sugar over the cherries and leave for a while to let the juice come out. Sieve the liquid and pour starch rolling berries in it. The filling is ready.

The dough should grow twice bigger. Split it into 16 pieces, in 10 mins we can start making pyrozhki: make a cavity, add some cherries in, cover it with dough making a sphere. Bake after anointing with the egg yolk 200 degrees Celsius for 15 mins.

Bon appetite!

Milk 300 ml  
Sugar 100 gr  
Egg yolks 3 pcs  
Salt 1 teaspoon  
Sunflower oil 2 tbsp  
Butter 30 gr  
Flour 700 gr  
Yeast 8 gr  
Starch



I want to say all of you a HUGE THANK YOU! 2020 was a hard year for me, but you were close, and we could have taken this route. Your prayers supported me! My tests say that everything is okay. Thank you that I can see my grandson growing and enjoy his first steps and words.

I was able to participate in our camp this year, see the kids' smiles, meet new friends and see the old ones. These are wonderful feelings that I was able to experience thanks to your sacrificing hearts.

Thank you!

**-Marina Belokonnaya,**  
**PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhia**

Mix 50 ml of warm milk and yeast, 2 tablespoons of sugar. Leave for 10 mins for the yeast to activate. In the other bowl mix salt 1 teaspoon, sugar that is left. 2 yolks, 250 ml of milk, butter and then add milk with activated yeast and flour. Make dough adding oil. Leave the dough to rest for 40 mins.

# DANDELIONS

by Tanya Ilmeyeva

Have you ever thought of what superpower you'd choose if you had a chance to? I'd prefer a teleport. It was my dream many years ago and it is still my best choice. Mid July 2014 I had to leave my home city. Being a student, it was easy for me to get used to changes. However, it was heartbreaking. We had to leave because of the war conflict and not because of our own will.



A bunch of great events and stories took place in 7 years: picked up my favorite dog, got my Master's degree, enjoyed work becoming close with many kids from the orphanage, got married, changed cities of dwelling, got pregnant and gave a birth to a perfect God's creature.

But many of my blood relatives are still in my home city, it was too hard for them to leave their whole life. After the pandemic burst out we didn't have much opportunities to see each other. I really miss my family and the ability to see and hug them, the ability to show them our son and let him play in my grandparents' yards.

There are two things that pop up in my head parallel to these feelings. The first one is understanding that many orphans I know do not have relatives or have the ones that were deprived of their rights and could not understand me and live through the same emotions. They are like dandelions, when the wind blows, they fly many places but do not have the place where to root. Having no help or support hurts. And the second thing – leaving your home city is hard especially in such conditions but leaving family, no matter what kind of relatives you had – is a pain for a lifetime.

I thank God for the Heavenly Kingdom that is a home city for all the believers and a place of comfort for the ones suffering and struggling. May our Lord show us the best way to serve and minister our kids.

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



## Program for Humanitarian Aid (PHA)

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### I WANT TO JOIN THE PHA FAMILY:

Prayerfully  
 Financially through a one-time donation       I would like to be contacted with more information about PHA  
 \$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](http://www.programforhumanitarianaid.org)