



PHA is "Being Family"

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- Stories to Pray About
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PHA is “Being Family”

FAMILY TIME

by Andrey Belokoniyy

My head! I have a headache!

Now and then we all hear someone saying their head hurts. This is either a real pain or a metaphor describing some problem that a person has. For sure that’s not just a Slavic saying when people are talking about badly behaved kids, an angry manager at work, a not finished or unsuccessful deal – saying that it’s their headache.

Every time I say or hear somebody saying they’re having a headache I recall 2 Kings 4:8-37. Every time when I read this part of the Scripture, I can hardly avoid tears. The reason of the headache that brought a kid

to death is not the only one that calls my tears. I think over many moments in this story that touch heart and mind. This is the description of prophet Elisha’s part of life route and ministry. The wealthy lady that was pleading with Elisha to come in her house for bread sharing is mentioned. It is written that every time he was in that city he would

come to have meal with her. Why was she asking Elisha to have food in her house? She knew that he was a man of God, she was calling him a saint. Probably she was visiting Elisha in the other city several times per month. This lady talked her husband into building a place for him, almost making it a part of their house, having everything needed for the prophet’s life in it. Elisha was ready to discuss help for this lady even with the king because of the kindness that she showed him. Though she was neglecting this offer and didn’t want to believe in the prophecy of giving birth to her son. The prophet’s word came into life, the woman delivered a boy, but after a while the kid was complaining about the headache and died. The woman didn’t start to get ready for the funeral, she went to the one that always helped to believe and feel the God’s strength. She got her son back alive.

I was born and grew up in a private house on land instead of the multistoried buildings where all the district habitants moved to from the different corners of the USSR. After WWII people were receiving 600 sq meters of land where they were building their



houses and leading adjacent housekeeping. These are tiny areas that were so close to each other that by the smell in your yard and you could guess what meal your neighbors are cooking in their kitchen. I clearly remember the time when growing up I couldn’t believe that people living next to us aren’t our blood relatives or at least a distant member of our family.

When I was little, all the houses and all the people living there were the part of my family and my life. People’s communication, their interaction, mutual assistance and support were the proof of the family relations when I had no understanding of the salary and family budget. I could have visited any yard and home as well as my friend could have visited mine. We saw the smiles on the adults’ faces, especially the ones that had their own kids. I’ve heard one babushka telling the other one that she’s going to have tea with the third babushka and when I was coming into the yard where they were drinking tea. I saw five and more people sitting at the table with different food instead of the three mentioned.

There were homes where you could get a cup of hot tea in winter or summer, fresh tea with candies, sugar and sandwiches. The ones that seemed to be wealthy, having good clothes, owning apartments and even cars, seemed to have no needs at the first glance. They, coming to their relatives (to us or our neighbors) were still receiving treats at the table and the bags with homemade goods that they had to take with them. This left a huge footprint in my childish perception of life that till today I can’t stay without a tea party. Many of our guests partially jokingly say that tea in our house makes them fuller than a lunch meal.

Why are we always calling orphans to have meals with us in Domik or at home? Why are we always calling social services and orphanage boards and workers to give orphans the permission



to stay with us, and for us to be with them as long as possible? Why do we ask all to help in building and settling rooms for them? We also understand that ideally these rooms are the part of our home.

No, for sure these orphans aren't prophets or saints and most likely aren't God's people like Elisha! But God is clearly telling us through the Scripture that clean and pure piety in front of him is visiting orphans and widows in their oppressions. These orphans are like the kids we never had. They appeared thanks to God's participation in our life. We are aware of the headache that is waiting in them. We can't, we don't have the right to, wait for their death and funeral even if we think there would be no life.

For almost two decades our family is participating in the life of the orphan kids that found themselves in the orphanages and children's homes (believe me, all the reasons are tragic). I noticed long ago that the kid's life in the orphanage system isn't a headache for them, more often this kid could be the reason for the headache of the orphanage teachers and board.

Most kids are fast to adapt and start to accept all the people surrounding them as a part of their life as I was seeing my neighbors being a child. They spend all their time together and all the people (including us) try to make their life in the orphanage as comfortable as possible.

Despite people telling the kids about the difficulties of the adult life that they're going to face after graduation, teaching them math and other school subjects, children aren't much worried

about this. After graduation they're brought to the educational institution where they have all the needed care again and pretty good stipend in addition. They don't have the headache, again it shifts to the new educational institution teachers from the orphanage workers.

While orphans are still minors nobody and nothing provokes their headache. They live like Adam and Eve in the paradise garden, succumbing to the temptations and sins, not suspecting the following exile. First getting out in the adult life doesn't seem to be a problem for them. They're so used to the love and attention from the others that they still are expecting to get this from the people surrounding them. They didn't come to the understanding of what is personal or family budget, how the financial flow appears and what kind of the responsibility adult life involves.

Their headache starts with the progressive realization of their helplessness and uselessness. They understand that they don't have a family, relatives or even friends, but their mind can't and doesn't want to accept it. If this headache doesn't lead to the fast physical death, death comes in the form of the gradual soul death and there is a possibility of the rapid spiritual death.

Disappointment, open rejection by society, and the absence of any help provoke the unwillingness to develop, find out something new, or change their lives. In such moments we can feel their headache and show up close like a real support from the Lord. We don't lose faith and hope, showing the youth that they can live a full life filled with God's mercy and blessings.

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

MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear PHA Family,

We continue to be thankful for God's blessings in this ministry. However, even in ministry, sometimes things do not go as we have planned or prayed for. It is with deep sadness that PHA has closed our Domik Day Center in Poltava, Ukraine for the foreseeable future. This decision was not based on the financial situation of PHA, it was based on specific challenges associated with this location.

Ministry in Poltava has struggled to thrive for several years from a variety of aspects. After years of trying to right the ship we have decided that this is no longer the best use of your resources. We are grateful to the Chernichkin family and how they have shown Christ's love to others in Poltava. We pray for their continued service in The Kingdom.

PHA will continue to minister to our graduates in Poltava. However, at this time we will no longer operate a Domik Day Center in that city. Please join us in praying for the healing of the heartache this certainly creates. Please also join us in praying for other opportunities to serve and expand PHA's reach.

PHA's funding base and other Domik Day Centers in Zaporizhia and Kamenskoye continue to serve and thrive even as we have seen a recent surge in the COVID pandemic. Thank you for your support and prayers during our highs as well as our lows.

**Sincerely,
Chris and Christy Hill
Co-Executive Directors, PHA**

DOMIK KAMENSKOYE

by Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk

One more amazing story...

Nastya, a lady from our church loves basketball and during the moments of the city competitions she was asked to watch the game and make notes of every match. At one of such game, she saw and got acquainted with the young basketball player Daniel. Eventually she started telling him about Church, her life, and about Domik as well. Then she started asking him to join her for the meetings and that's where we got to know him.

We were playing basketball and communicating out of Domik and Church walls. During this time, I found out many interesting events from his life (I can't highlight the details) but only in the process I found out that he's an orphan. He only has a grandma, who he calls mom, and who is helping him in his life. He used to live in the trade school dormitory where he studied and often he was saying that his only aim is to bound his life with basketball. He's a very good sportsman and human. Communicative and open for the discussion that was needed to tell him the Gospel of Salvation.



After one of our spiritual lessons, he recalled one story from his life. His grandma's sister from his childhood was telling him: "All my life I'm praying for your salvation, and I believe the moment would come, and you'll be ready to accept Christ in your life."

The time was passing, there were lots of meetings and communication with Daniel, he knew and understood many things, and probably was getting ready for something, but I didn't know for what.

When we were having a camping in the forest for a couple days this August, there he told these words: "I want to be saved, I want to accept Christ into my life". This spot in the forest is famous for me for the fact that for 17 years of camps and trips there more than 50 people were baptized. These are the people that live in our city and in other regions of Ukraine.

Daniel is studying in Zaporizhia now, every weekend he goes home or comes to Kamenskoye. I'm sure that God has prepared many blessings for this young man. For me it's a huge joy to know that

even being an orphan he has a spiritual family and Loving Father.

- Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Kamenskoye





CHANGES

by Tanya Ilmeyer

I'm getting older! Well, the age doesn't bother me much. The real question that arose in my head and then in this article is related to building relations with the teenagers. We're now getting close to where we're almost totally on different planets — ten to fifteen years difference matters. We like different music, they can spend all day on their phone, I can't stay up all night (I can, but I won't feel as good the next morning). I realize that when I'm becoming grumpier, I need to choose to act out of wisdom and experience instead of emotions. Our relations are changing to where I'm more like a parent/older sister to them than a pal. But that's still a needed relation for the kids. They see me being a wife and a mom, they reach relational conclusions, so to say.

What I wanted to share is a recent event that melted my heart. One of the orphan girls, who lives with my parents now, presented my son a hat (you can see it in the photo). Many people may think that there's nothing special about it, but for me getting a candy, craft or a gift from an orphan means a lot- they don't own many things and they share from the heart.

Myron (our son) knows the name of this girl and where she lives - Nastya in "Apoyozha" (he means from Zaporizhia). He asks to see her and is eager to see her during the video calls with our relatives. It seems like I gave a birth to a kid who, being only 18 months, is already a helper and a point of contact for a new stage of relations with the orphans.

Thank you, Lord, for this miracle!

-Tanya Ilmeyer,

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Kiev

2022 SUMMER MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

It feels like yesterday we were wrapping up our 2021 summer camp, but it's almost 2022 and it's time to start planning for PHA's Summer Bible Camp. We are working with our Ukrainian ministry partners, and they have been in talks with the orphanage staff. We are planning a full summer camp this year. While dates are not set yet we are expecting camp to be in the second week of June. Right now, it is a challenging time for Ukraine as they are dealing with the Delta variant, but we and our Ukrainian ministry partners expect the situation to be much better by summer. We are making plans now in hopes there are few restrictions by summer. Please be aware though in this ever-changing COVID landscape change is always a possibility. While we still have lots of details to iron out, we would like to ask for your prayers over this planning process and that camp would be a beneficial time to all involved. If you have gone as a part of one of our teams before, or want to join us for the first time, we want to ask you to begin praying about that decision and to be looking for more information to come out soon. We are so excited to be planning a full camp with full teams as it's truly one of the most special times for our kids, our Ukrainian partners, volunteers, and all involved. Thank you PHA family for continuing to make PHA's Summer Bible Camp happen for vulnerable youth in Ukraine!

-Wes Hawthorne,
PHA Development Officer

For more information about the 2022 summer mission trip opportunities please contact Wes Hawthorne at wes@programforhumanitarianaid.org.



FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Marina Belokonnaya

Napoleon

How do you celebrate a birthday? If we're cooking cake at home, it means it's somebody's birthday soon. I enjoy presenting such happiness to the kids especially orphans. They're always waiting on this day and have a huge willing for somebody to celebrate them. I think we're making their dream real- to become a part of the family. All of them dream of family, celebrations in the family circle, joy when relatives are gathering. Our favorite cakes are honey cakes with different fillings and Napoleon. I want to share with you the recipe of Napoleon.

Mix ingredients for the dough and place it in the fridge for at least 40 minutes. There will be 10 shortbreads out of this amount of dough. Rolling thin shortbreads on the parchment we bake each one at 180 degrees Celsius until it's ready.

To make a custard cream take a thick bottom sauté pan, whip eggs with sugar and starch, add 1 tablespoon of milk and leave on the slow heat. Boil the leftover milk and cream, add to the sauté pan. Cool till starch makes cream thick and leave on the heat for 5 more minutes.

Cool the cream till 40 degrees and add in 100 gr of softened butter. Leave cream to cool totally, covering with the plastic wrap right on the mixture, to avoid film on the cream.

The next step is to make the cake itself. I put 3 tablespoons of cream on every shortbread (everything must be cooled) and spread the cream all over it. Repeating this with every shortbread.

-Marina Belokonnaya,
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner:
Zaporizhia



Dough:
Partially melted butter - 200 gr
Sour cream - 250 gr
Salt - 1/2 teaspoon
Flour - 500 gr

Cream:
Eggs - 2
Sugar - 150 gr
Starch - 3 tablespoons
Milk - 500 ml
Cream - 500 ml
Vanilla
Butter - 100 gr
Your favorite berries (optional)



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