



Program for Humanitarian Aid is "Being Family"

November Trip Report:

Fast and furious fellowship! The November trip to Ukraine flew by...

Our trip began in Zaporizhia where we were joined by 5 men from the A&M Church. They played with the PHA Family of kids, led Sunday worship, handed out Christmas gifts at the Svitanok and Valnyansk orphanages and even led a seminar about church leadership. We were blessed to have these men see the ministry first hand.

After the men headed back to Texas we spent time with orphanage directors arranging for the March Teacher's Trip. This year's trip will be March 11th- 18th and more information about it as well as our Summer Trip can be found in this newsletter...Join Us!!!

Along with making arrangements for future trips we were able to spend time being a part of the day to day happenings at Domik in both Zaporizhia and Poltava. Every day orphans and at-risk youth are fed, loved, and taught at these facilities. PHA's Ukrainian staff in both towns does an amazing job of transforming lives!

More and more children are becoming a part of the PHA Family through participation in our Summer Camp, coming to Domik or living full-time in one of the PHA Family Homes. We want to invite each member of the PHA Family in the US to come to Ukraine and see for yourself the wonderful things God is doing through PHA!

-Chris and Christy Hill



"In November of this year, I made my first trip back to Ukraine since 2013. Even though I have been a member of PHA's board of directors for many years, personal reasons prevented me from going before now. I invited a group of men from my church to join me so that they could see the work PHA was doing. The trip was great. I have been a part of the planning since PHA moved into Zap, also, I have seen pictures. However, being there first hand reflected how much PHA is impacting orphans in the Zaporizhia area. Domik is home and PHA is giving hope to children without hope. PHA is expanding the Kingdom of God one child at a time."

-Kent Dale, PHA Board Member

Story of a Child: by Andrey Belokonniy and Tanya Ilmeyer

How does a child become an orphan? The stories are as unique as the children. Below is the story of one of our kids. How her mother struggled to keep her. Struggled to survive. Struggled, yet failed, to keep the label "orphan" away from her child.

So, you are 39 years old and you don't even know whether that is a blessing or a curse coming to your life. You have a newborn daughter in your hands, but a husband with whom you've spent almost half of your life works on the divorce documents and practically throws you out of the apartment.

You're standing in the yard of the house where your family is in the past and everything you have now is your clothes and little warm cuddling baby. Thanks to the neighbors' appeals and administration's understanding you and your baby are given a room in the two-storied house where you used to live. This room has never been an apartment, this was a

housekeeping area on the second floor. The garbage was taken away and you were allowed to live there. In the documents that confirm your right to live in this room it is said you have 10 square meters! You understand that is not the best option for you and your baby girl but it's better than the street. You don't have water, toilet, bath in your room but it's not scary, you can't even think that your baby girl is an orphan.

Years go on, you continue to work, try to keep in order what you have and to bring up your beloved daughter. Finally you understand you'll feel a bit easier if you send your daughter to the orphanage that is 5 minutes away from home. Not denying the child, of course. She would go there in the morning and will come back for night like all the kids do in all the schools. She is not an orphan. She has a loving mommy.

It becomes harder everyday as you become older. But your daughter grows up and becomes more beautiful every year. She is your whole life. You approach the retiring age and it is hard for to find a well-paid job. Everything that was new and nice in your room became old and miserable, but it this is unimportant as your child is not an orphan. She has food to eat and clothes to wear that are not worse than her peers. Most of your earnings are spent on your growing daughter. The bills for utilities grow with her as well as bank credits.

You praying to God hiding as you are a strong woman and good mother. Maybe, you don't understand your shyness. Several times you attend some kind of church, trying to hide from everybody this fact. You bring differently colored and sized books named Bible to your room, displaying them on your only shelf.

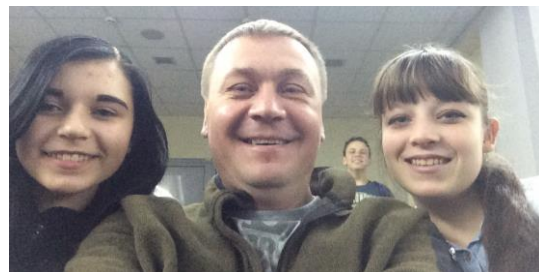
You become more courageous and in spite of the people talking about you, next to the shelf, right above the place where you sleep you put a saying 'Jesus Christ is the owner of this house'.

You have to gather the documents approving you're a single mother so that your daughter will be able to eat at the orphanage for free. So what if there is no dad and only mom? Your child is not an orphan!

There is no room for two beds in your dwelling. That's why when it became too tight to sleep together on one small convertible sofa, every evening you unfold cotton mattress on the floor. This impromptu bed may be left on the floor if you're in a hurry or if you're sick and staying in bed.

Your daughter entered the 9th grade this year. This is her last year at school. She's 14 already and not only you think she's a beauty.

For several days already you feel bad. You deny neighbors' offers to call a doctor making reference to your age, clothes and room condition but everybody understands the real reason – lack of money. One of the neighboring ladies that always helped you with your daughter calls the ambulance despite your excuses. The doctor calls the morgue. The same day police and morgue workers come to your room to take your dead body lying, as usually, on the old mattress on the floor.



At the moment when you're carried out of the room one of the neighbors steals your phone that you hold in your still warm hand. The neighboring lady calls your daughter that just dined in the orphanage dinning-hall and says that she is an orphan now...

-Andrey Beokonniy and Tatiana Ilmeyerova

Update: This young lady is now living in the PHA Family Home in Zaporizhia, Ukraine with Andrey and Marina.

Family Time: by Andrey Belokonniy



Can we see orphans the way God sees them?

When we were congratulating Valnyansk kids on their birthday we met a little girl from the pre-school, Melania. After we left the room where the kids were one of the vice directors of the orphanage told that Melania was asking whether Andrey was her father. I asked whether she has a father and found out that she lives in the village and she calls almost every man that passes next to her 'dad'.

When does God put the status of orphan upon a child? Does He see as an orphan the little girl whose small heart is beating under her mother's heart? When hands and feet movements inside of mom's womb provokes smile on the mother's face, does he know the child's status?

My stories are almost without names but many who hear or read them can understand about whom I think, pray and tell. The one below is no different...

As much as want to I can't make a mother to be mother. In the moments of thinking about this topic my thoughts and feelings are so controversial that this affects not only my inner condition, people around start asking me what has happened.

For several years (from the moment when we moved to Zaporizhia) I know a young father. Almost for a year I know a girl (can't call her in a different way, only a girl) that he 'made happy' to become a mother. For a bit more than 6 months I have the opportunity to look into the big blue eyes, with a lump in my throat and heart clenching, as I hold the baby of these parents that lives in the juvenile center without mom and dad.

I think that in this child eyes I read the questions: 'The place where I live now is my home? The people I hear and see are my family? How can I find my mom among them? Maybe her hugs and kisses are the strongest and her voice is so dear to me as I've heard it when I hadn't been in this world yet...'

***'I will not leave you as orphans;
I will come to you' (John 14:18)***

Where are this child's grandparents? – unknown. His dad's dad is missing. His grandmother from his dad's side was deprived of her parental rights. His mom's dad died when she was 12. His mom's mom was deprived of parental rights.

God, who is depriving this child's parents of parental rights? Is it possible that you've seen this child being an orphan while having parents before being born?

Once the young father of this child told me: 'I wanted to live with her the way you live with your wife Marina'.

The description of the Fall of Man takes a very small part in the Bible but has the answer to lots of questions. We remember how the serpent tempted lying, questioning the truth and convincing that not following the rules and without any efforts it is possible to gain a great knowledge and become like gods (Genesis 3:1-5). The man saw a great model of gaining knowledge and skills as the serpent has put God as an example. But a man was deceived and led astray that without any efforts and not following rules one may become wise and assimilate gods.

Don't think that I try to put the model of 'me and my Marina' as an ideal of life in the Eden garden. I want to pay attention to the fact that God's opponent didn't change his lying tactic – children, young people (as well as adults) continue to think that they could get a high quality life and experience without any efforts, without keeping and sometimes even breaking the rules.

Also all ages now have the same problem as a man had after the Fall – unwillingness to be responsible and accusation of everybody except for myself (Genesis 3:12,13). Children surrounding us, graduates and adults (sometimes we) try to find the person on whom we can shift the responsibility burden.

What is the PHA Family doing with the vicious circle that seems to be unbreakable? Orphans – parents of the kids that become orphans – grown-up kids – orphans...

The life and ministry of the PHA Family may be called in different ways – life skills, lessons of Geography, Math, English, Music, Spelling and Reading. Christian ethics, mentoring, socialization, adaptation and evangelism.

Our life is based on the love and care for the kids. PHA appears in the lives of these kids to offer help and support at the hard moments of understanding personal mistakes. We teach cooperation in developing the ability to be responsible for what was done as well as a willingness to work on following the rules to change the life for the better. We do everything what we can to break the vicious circle so that blessings would enter the lives of these children.

Notwithstanding the age, social status, full family or being orphan we ask God to change the lives. He sees and knows everybody from the moment of conceiving until the eternity entrance.

‘I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you’ (John 14:18)

-Andrey Belokonniy



Upcoming Mission Trip Opportunities:

March Teacher's Trip: Ukraine for Spring Break: March 11th-18th 2017

Orphans in Ukraine face bleak futures. Futures that contain words like suicide, homicide, prison and prostitution. These bleak futures are the result of many things that their young lives lack. A quality education is one of them.

Around the age of 16 orphans in Ukraine “graduate” or leave the orphanage system. Program for Humanitarian Aid (PHA) works through our Transition Program to help them make the transition from orphanage life into successful adulthood. Impacting the educations of these children is a way to expand the reach of how this program works to improve their futures.

This March, our desire is to help improve their education and through that improve their futures. Through the Spring Break 2017 mission trip PHA will be overseeing a group of American teachers and administrators as they work one on one with Ukrainian teachers. We will be working with them in their classrooms, through strategy sharing, with their students, answering their questions and serving them and their needs.

There are 2 orphanages in the city of Zaporizhia, Ukraine in which we plan to serve. Each of these orphanages house 200 children. We will spend time with teachers and children at both orphanages. Additionally, we plan to travel to Poltava where PHA is also serving orphans and at-risk youth in the orphanage there.

The cost of this trip is \$1500 per teacher. This price includes all aspects of the trip excluding flights, which teachers will need to pay for on their own.

Teachers, we hope you will prayerfully consider joining us this March to improve the futures of orphans in Ukraine through education and Christ's love.

“If it is serving then serve, if it is teaching then teach,” -Romans 12:7

Questions?

Contact: Chris and Christy Hill 254-541-7188

pha@programforhumanitarianaid.org

Summer 2017:**2017 Summer Ukraine Mission Trip!**

Love serving? Love kids? Love travel? Love Growing God's Kingdom?

10 Day Summer Bible Camp for orphans and at-risk children in the PHA Orphan Transition program.

Last year's camp videos:

<https://vimeo.com/172760479> <https://vimeo.com/170661970>

Typical Day at Camp:

8:00am: Team Meeting/ Devo.

8:30am: Morning Exercises

9:00am: Breakfast/ Get ready for the day

10:00am-12 noon: River time

12:00-2:00pm: Big Group Time Followed by Class time with groups

2:00pm-4:00pm: Lunch followed by rest time

4:00pm-4:45pm: Group Time

5:00pm-6:45pm: Sport time

7:00pm: Dinner

8:00pm-10:00pm: Movie or Disco

10:30pm: lights out/ sleep

**Approximate Cost:**

\$4500-\$5000 Includes flights and all other costs associated with the trip.

Summer 2017 Mission Trip Timeline

Trip Dates Approximately June 1st-16th

Verbal Commitment - January 1st

Initial Deposit to cover flight - February 1st

Purchase Tickets – Approximately February 8th

Total Trip Funds Due – May 15th

It is not too late to shop the PHA Christmas Catalog!

Go to the "Current Events" Tab on the PHA Website to view this year's catalog.
www.ProgramForHumanitarianAid.org

From the Domik Kitchen: by Marina Belokonnaya

Borsch is one of the most often served first courses in our country.

For 4 liter pot:

2.5 lbs beef shanks
 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
 1 onion, chopped
 1 bell pepper, chopped
 1 carrot, peeled and grated
 1 beet, peeled and grated
 2 cups of tomato juice (or substitute 1 8 oz can of tomato sauce and 1 cup of water)
 3 bay leaves
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 Salt & pepper
 4 potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 inch pieces
 ¼ of a head of cabbage, roughly chopped

For serving:

Fresh parsley and/or dill, chopped
 Sour cream

*In an 8-quart pot, boil the meat in water for 1 ½ hours, skimming off the foam. The meat should become soft, and the broth thick and clear.

*In a large frying pan, fry the onion and bell pepper until the onion becomes translucent.

Add the grated beet and carrot and cook until all the juices have evaporated.

Add the tomato juice and cook for 5 more minutes, the vegetables should taste sweet and sour.

Turn off the heat and add the bay leaves, garlic, and salt and pepper.

*When the meat becomes soft, take it out and chop it. Strain the broth and return the meat to the pot and bring it to a boil again. Add potatoes, and salt to the broth. Borsch should have enough potatoes and cabbage, so that it won't be thin. When the broth will start boiling again – add cabbage and cook boiling for about 7 mins more. Put the vegetable mixture from the pan into the pot. Taste it, add salt, pepper if needed. Leave it for 15 mins. Serve with the sour cream and herbs.

-Enjoy your meal!



What your donation means to
your PHA Family:

HOW YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

You, our donors and prayer warriors, are a vital part of the PHA Family.

You are making a difference in the lives of orphans and at-risk children in Ukraine.



\$25 Donors

Nutritious meals are served everyday at our day centers. Each time you donate \$25 you are providing for 35 meals.



\$50 Donors

\$50 keeps the lights and heat on at a PHA Day Center for one month.



\$100 Donors

\$100 provides for one month of sponsorship for the housing, food, and basic needs for one of the PHA Family House graduates for one month.



\$500 Donors

PHA currently has 2 Domik Day Centers. A \$500 donation keeps the doors open on these facilities where PHA serves for one month.



Prayers and Encouragement

Thank you for your endless prayers for this ministry. Through God all things are possible! .

THANK YOU!!!



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

**P.O. Box 93794
Southlake, TX 76092
(979) 220- 5691**



PROGRAM FOR HUMANITARIAN AID (PHA)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

I WANT TO JOIN THE PHA FAMILY:

_____ **Prayerfully**

_____ **Financially through a one-time donation**

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: _____

_____ **Financially through monthly recurring donations**

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: _____

_____ **I would like to be contacted with more information about PHA**

_____ **I know someone who would like to hear about this ministry**

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