



PROGRAM FOR  
HUMANITARIAN AID

# PHA is “Being Family”

## POLTAVA THOUGHTS

by Fedor Chernichkin

Peace, mercy and God’s blessings to you, Christian families!

When the war started our family moved to Poltava and here we started evangelizing to make a new congregation, we ministered to the refugees and in a year thanks to you we started serving the youth from the orphanage. Different kids passed through, some disappeared in the earthly fuss, with some we are friends but they still do not see Christ in their lives, but some felt His Love and it is burning well within them.

You know Daniel and Karina well! Daniel is from the orphanage and Karina is from a difficult family. They haven’t just seen God’s Love but are showing it to people surrounding them.

Karina has a cousin - Nastya, she is 12 and now she lives with her other cousin as Nastya’s mother is a drug addict and she has never seen her father.



Karina and Daniel take her home for weekends, they show her with their own life the other world without drugs and all the uncleanness. A world filled with God’s love, mercy



and grace! They take her to church and through different activities (holidays, camps, communication with the kids) try to teach her and build relationships. This girl doesn’t know what parents’ love, care etc. is. That’s why Daniel, Karina, Nastya, Fedya, Lyosha, Zhenya... We all try to show Nastya what her mother deprived her of. Please pray about Karina and Daniel and the people that are close to them, especially about this wonderful girl Nastya!

With the Christ’s Love to you from the Poltava Church!

- Fedor Chernichkin,  
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Poltava

## STORY OF A CHILD

by Tanya Ilmeyer



I was fortunate to grow up very close to lots of orphans and for the last several years I work with kids/teenagers who even having relatives, are found to be in the hard life circumstances. Maybe you understand that orphan – isn't a social status or diagnosis, this is the world perception for the whole life.

Yes, depriving of parental rights isn't the best thing that could happen, orphanage isn't the best place to live and study. Yes, such institutions need lots of governmental support and finances.

But to grow up (read: to exist) in 'some kind' of a family, where nobody wants you, especially your relatives by blood – is a great basis for the healthy adult life, isn't it? It is a wonderful foundation for a strong family and strong social position. You could tell I am sarcastic here. But what we really face is infantile 17-20 year-olds. And do we have to be shocked that they can't clean up the room or even take a shower before they start smelling?

As an example here I see our life experience and understanding analogical to the dowry in ancient times. Some kind of a start-up for the life. The dowry originally consisted of clothing, linen, and bedding, different furniture and cutlery, jewels, gold, cut-glass wear, carpets, etc. Such belongings usually were kept in the chests and drawers that were valuable as well and were a part of dowry.

Dowries included big amounts of finances and paper holdings.

For the last years I haven't seen graduates with 'families' with the chests of belongings. While the government gave some kind of dowry for orphans, on the other hand, – a bit of money, couple blankets, towels, pillows, plates, etc. How they used it – is a second question, of course.

Russian writer, Mikhail Bulgakov, in his tale *The Heart Of A Dog* reflecting on what the Disruption is came to the conclusion it doesn't exist at all as a physical thing, the Disruption is in the heads and it reflects the people's behavior.

Unfortunately, we face a lot of disruption in the heads of our kids according to their upbringing and education, to the society, surrounding them. It is hard to get them out of this vicious circle but it's even harder to get this disruption out of their heads. Sadly, it's not only about the absence of the material belongings but the discarnate luggage, dragging on across generations: alcohol and drug addictions, refusal to change personal environment and succeed. Unliftable luggage of educational, life, environmental indifference; the suitcase of absolute irresponsibility, first of all for themselves.

Thanks to PHA family we're able to do our best in changing the situation. Please, keep praying about every soul that is trying to get rid of this generational luggage.

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

## DOMIK KAMENSKOYE

by Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk



The communication wasn't long... But it was the first time in 8 months for this girl to talk about herself and her feelings. Meet Tatiana, 15 years old, will graduate from Kamenskoye shelter-care next year. Very pretty but at the same time rude and insolent. When we were taking a group

of kids to Domik for the first time the teachers advised us against taking her, so that we won't have problems... but nevertheless we invited her.

Everything happening during these months were mockery and protest. Though we were trying to communicate and find out as much about her as possible. Two weeks before the youth conference about love and relations, after the meeting in Domik she came up to me saying she wants to change her life, she doesn't want to be like her parents, wants to quit bad habits and become a hairdresser. I was trying to give good advice from my personal life, cheer

her up and offered to pray about it. She agreed. But truly I thought it was just a good day and she was in a good mood.

During the youth conference day after me speaking she came up to me crying. I asked her what has happened. 'I'm in love... he... loves me... too... he's from the shelter... we couldn't be a couple... the police are watching us... he is older... I don't know what to do... so many questions... if I had a Mom these would have been answered... but...' – looking into my eyes after all that has been said and being afraid that she opened herself to me, added: 'I'm dreaming about a family. Everything would be easier for me if I had one'. I was shocked and puzzled, the first question was how to help?

I answered it immediately – asking her to come for a visit and spending time together, maybe even a weekend. We're praying for her and believe in her happy future! It's hard for Tatiana but I thank God for the work he is doing in the hearts of these children and for the opportunity to be in the right place on the right time!

**- Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk,**  
**PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Kamenskoye**



## FAMILY TIME

by Andrey Belokoniy

September 22, 2019 marked 40 years of marriage for my parents. When I shared this during the worship of the Christian seminar all the people, smiling started to applaud. My following words were – this year in May I turned 45. Silence came into the hall, the eyes of some older ladies started to sparkle with tears, some men looked down to the floor, all the faces became serious. The same as the week before during the worship in Zaporizhia I took people into my happy childhood with my memories when I just turned 5. I lived in the best family in the whole world, surrounded by mom's and grandparents' love, without feeling the need for the father, that was visiting me once a year, as I remember, for my birthday in May, bringing the bucket of ripe cherries.

Those days a policeman stood in front of our house, he took a gun out of the holster, taking the bullets away, gave it to me. It seemed that I was happy enough to 'wet myself', feeling the heavy weapon in my hands. My mom asked me then: 'Do you want to have a policeman dad?' At that moment I thought that I am the one to decide and trying to comfortably hold the gun, being happy and amazed, I agreed for the policeman to be my dad and live with us. Very soon I learned a phrase that I uttered my next birthday meeting my biological father: 'Don't come here, you're not my father anymore, I have a dad,' – that's what I said watching the tears running over his cheeks. Good job, I thought, sitting on the wooden bench of the neighboring house watching the man leaving...

Recently my wife's father died, and you know, that we spent most of our life in Donetsk as well as our parents, this territory isn't under Ukrainian government control now. Marina, following the law, started to confirm the death of her father in the Zaporizhia court. You know, that after getting married Marina had taken my last name and to confirm her blood relations with her father, she showed her birth and marriage certificates. These two papers made the decision of the court positive for Marina. Waiting on her in the corridor I was thinking

about my father. More correct to say about the man that calls me 'son' for 40 years already, about the policeman from my childhood, whose last name I took and shared with my wife and our kids.

Forty years ago, I was sure that I agreed to live in a family where mom, dad and sister had the same last name, and I was the one who had another. I lived in the same house with my family, we had wonderful relations but from time to time I was thinking

about my non-affiliation to the family. In public transport, hotels and recreation bases, people looking at me were asking my parents if they took a boy from another family. Pleasant heaviness of the real gun in the kid's

hands became the ugly heaviness on the heart because of the overheard talks. My questions of the last name difference weren't answered then. For some reason my relatives were not able to change it, so I decided to do it on my own, but it was only possible when I reached full legal age.

In the court corridor I was thinking that if I'll have to stand in front of the judge to confirm my relations with this person that I call father for 40 years, it won't be that easy as for my wife. In my birth certificate my father is a man that with tears in his eyes after hearing from me – you're not my dad. And me changing the last name was my personal decision but not the way to confirm blood relations.

When I was sharing my memories during the worship in Zaporizhia I was looking in the eyes of adults, teenagers and kids trying to explain them the love of the Heavenly Father that shouldn't hear from us 'you're not my dad'. I was trying to look into the souls of the ones there, to put in the hearts the willing of the Creator to be one family. I was calling them by names, recalling about our relations, how they got into our family, how they lived in the same house with us, somebody for couple days, somebody for several years.



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Anya, who has two kids and who was an orphan 17 years ago, lived and studied in the orphanage; the ones that lost their relatives and being in tough life situation continue to study in the orphanage; Alisa and Katya; a little 9th grader Zhenya; Natasha that had recently graduated; and graduates that are out of the orphanage for several years now: Vika, Vova, Vlad, Yegor, Zahar. I was telling that not everybody for whom our family became their family as well was present in church that day. I reminded how they heard me saying they must learn to be self-determined, because they won't be able to live with our family forever. But I continue repeating that notwithstanding

different last names their participation to the Heavenly Father and PHA family isn't artificial or temporary because it is based on Lord's love not human willing.

Romans 8:5-17; 9:8.

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

## OCTOBER TRIP REPORT

by Kent Dale

In October Kent Dale, Matt Dale, Greg Anderson, Jerry Fox, and Susan Fox traveled to Ukraine. The University of Educational Management in Kiev had asked Kent if he could speak to a class of students about "Christian Business Ethics". Kent, Greg, and Matt prepared materials for the class and spent one day at the University with a group of Master Students discussing ethical issues that come up in business and education.



Next the group traveled to Kamenskoye. Several Churches in the region were hosting a youth summit and Kent spoke at this event. In addition, the group spent time at the third PHA Domik and discussed the work with Ilya and Zina. On Sunday they attended a church service in a nearby village where Kent and Matt spoke. Later that day Greg and Jerry spoke at a church service in Kamenskoye.

Kent and Matt traveled to Zaporizhia and spent time at Domik. While in Zaporizhia they enjoyed conversations with Andrey and Marina as well as renewing friendships with the children PHA serves. God's Kingdom is continuing to spread in Ukraine and PHA is changing the lives of children every day.

**-Kent Dale,  
PHA Board Member**



## FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Marina Belokonnaya

### Verguny

#### Ingredients:

Yogurt- 500 ml

Eggs- 2 pcs

Sugar – 50 grams

Dry yeast – 7 grams

Sour cream – 2 tbs

Sugar powder – to cover ready-made Verguny

#### Dough:

All the products should be room temperature, so take them out of the fridge beforehand. Add sugar and yeast to yogurt and leave in a warm spot for 30 min. Yeast should start working, when the bubble 'hat' will raise you can add in eggs, sour cream and mix not a stiff dough. Cover the bowl with the food wrap and put it into a warm place with no drafts (ideal place – oven). In 1.5 hours roll out 1 cm dough and cut it into stripes, make rings and twist them. Deep fry Verguny until

they get a golden crust. Richly pour sugar powder over the ready Verguny. We cooked these with the kids and for sure you can make it too! Bon Appétit!

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



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☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$500 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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