

LITTLE LAMBS MINISTRY

Reaching out to those who need the most but have the least - the orphans in the former Soviet Union

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"...for in you the fatherless find compassion" Hosea 14:3

AUGUST 2009

Dear Little Lambs friends,

We are so glad that God blessed us with the opportunity to do ministry again this summer! Little Lambs sent eight teams out during June and July to Ukraine, Russia and Moldova.

Six teams were sent to Ukraine this summer, ministering in orphanages, four of which were new orphanages. Many lives and hearts were touched by God, and we ask you to pray that those who received his salvation would fervently continue their pursuit of Christ. We rejoice with the angels that so many children have chosen Jesus!

Our ministry in Moldova took on a little different format this year. About a week before our team was scheduled to depart from the States, Little Lambs received word that there was no longer an orphanage available for this team to go to. We prayed and God provided ministry sites for this team! We were able to do four 1-week camps alongside local churches to reach out to poor village children. We worked with gypsy children, single parent children and a group of children whose parents are in prison. It was amazing to be able to partner with local Christians to reach children in their own communities. Pray that the ministry in Moldova continues to develop, and that God would bring many more people into relationship with him.

Our Russia team had the opportunity to go to Klinty Russia. Not only was the location new to Little Lambs but the ministry itself was different. In the evening our team coordinated an English camp with local teenagers and traveled each morning to the nearby orphanage for a VBS style day camp. The orphanage had never allowed a Christian group to come and God really opened the hearts of the staff members there. Not only was the camp a success and the director invited us back next summer, but the orphanage director shared a huge need with the team. The building did not have a roof since it was damaged during last winter's storm. The government hired construction workers to work on the roof but they ran off with money and supplies. Having no roof is a huge problem and the



children were not able to sleep in the facility. We left some money with the local church for this project and we are hoping and praying that God will provide needed materials. Please keep this need in your prayers as you think about Little Lambs

Ministry and the orphans. Please pray that this connection will build a stronger relationship with the orphanage director and Little Lambs.

Little Lambs would like to thank all of our volunteers who faithfully served in our camps this summer. Thank you for your eagerness and joy in serving with us! God has used you to plant seeds in many hearts; we must pray for those seeds to grow! Thank you, for your support for the orphans and the Little Lambs Ministry.



Just 3 days before I left Ukraine, I met with a group of kids from orphanage #21, who I did not see for 11 years (Oksana, Artem, Anya, and Vitalik). Today they are 25 years old. All are working and staying out of trouble. All of them believe in God and go to church sometimes, they said. Oksana and Artem are married but are getting divorced. Both have 2 year old boys. Oksana said that her husband drinks and physically abuses her. I told them I was very concerned about their children and that no one knows better how bitter life can be without a parent. Oksana said: "Renate I will never leave my child. I know he is a gift from God. I will marry a saint next time, who goes to church, because the Christians we met at the camps were the best people." I smiled and thanked God that many of us were part of those children's lives even if it was for a little while and the seeds that were planted will bring much fruit if not now maybe one day soon. God, who calls you, is faithful; he will do this. (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Renate Kurz, president



Little Lambs Mission Statement

"Little Lambs is committed to provide the opportunity for orphans and abandoned children in the former Soviet Union to accept Christ, to grow in their faith, and to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society."

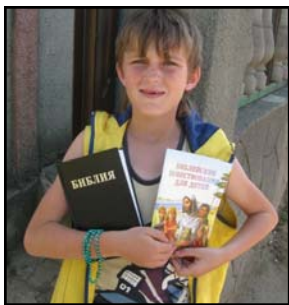
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Little Lambs Ministry is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit Christian corporation reaching out to orphans in Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova.

STORIES FROM CAMP

M O L D O V A



A real encouragement to me was the response to the Bible and Bible storybooks that were distributed to each child at the end of each VBS session we held in Moldova. Styopa, a boy about 11 years old with straggly hair, attended VBS at the Komrat Baptist church every day. He probably, like most of the children, was from a poor family with no church experience. After the final program, he was the only one left in front of the church after the other children had been picked up. He was eagerly reading the Bible literature as

he waited so I began to talk with him. The openness of Styopa and the other kids to the Word showed that our efforts would produce fruit. We also knew that the church would visit the family of each child who had attended. ~ *Larry Webb - McHenry, IL*



This year I had the chance to lead a team to Moldova. About a week before our team was to depart from the U.S., we were informed that we would not be able to go to the orphanage we had been planning on. Though this was disheartening news for our team, we prayed that God would lead us where He wanted us to go. Our team ended up splitting into two smaller teams and working in two different areas with some local churches. God knew what He was doing and He put us in those places for a reason. I am so glad He used our team to reach kids with His wonderful love! ~ *Sonja Anderson - Glendale Heights, Illinois*

Our trip overflowed with unknowns, and as a person consumed with planning and organizing every detail, I thought that this was the recipe for



disaster. Nothing could have been further from the truth. These children were craving love more than anything. Every encouraging word, every kind touch was received with insatiable delight. They are so hungry for affirming relationships. Sure, they enjoyed the crafts, had fun with the games, and listened (somewhat) attentively to the Bible lessons, but that's not why they greeted our van with smiles, shouts, and hugs every morning. I'm fairly certain that the times they'll remember, the memories that will keep their hearts open to God's call are those spontaneous moments in which God allowed us to be vessels of His love, poured out on His kids.

~ *Christiana Wismer - Wheaton College*



The director of the orphanage said she was nervous about us helping them out. She said the teachers were even more skeptical but after our time at the orphanage was up, the

director said she saw that we left a piece of our hearts there. She said the teachers had fallen in love with us because they saw that we loved the kids. They saw that the love was authentic and actually changed how the kids inter-

acted with one another. My wish is that they will understand that everything authentic about our love came from Jesus Christ. Maybe they won't understand this right away but maybe if we continue to love them...year after year...they will begin to see how our love comes from our Father in heaven, who is love and who changes people by His mercy. ~ *Jimmy Newman - Wheaton College*

R U S S I A

U K R A I N E

God led me to develop a special relationship with a young child named Elijah, a 12 year-old boy with a kind and precious heart. From the first day of camp, we connected on a deep level as he held my hand tight, bringing me a bouquet of wildflowers. Above all else, I prayed that I would serve Elijah with love under the direction of God's enormous presence and be an example of God's love and grace. By the end of the trip, I could see a renewed sense of hope and love within him, as he cared for others above himself. I will continually think and pray for Elijah, a child with kindness beyond his years who radiates God's love and has impacted me in more ways than I could ever imagine.

~ Melissa Hale - Seattle Pacific University



I came into the camp wanting to work with the older group, but getting placed with the youngest group. I thought, "I am not going to connect with these kids on a deeper level." But immediately I fell in love with these kids. I loved playing with them every night, getting in trouble with them because of our water fights, and chasing them for hours around the camp. To my biggest and most wonderful surprise, I fell in love with these kids, just like I fell in love with my kids last year. I am so grateful for Little Lambs and for this amazing trip.
~ Kim Schwannecke - Seattle, Washington

I went to Ukraine in hopes that I would teach the children so many things. However I quickly realized that the children had so much to teach me. I got to work with a group of about 10 teenage girls and I was able to really share my life with them. Because my parents abandoned me throughout my life, I was able to connect with them in a very special way. They taught me how to be more generous and how to be patient. What amazed me most about these children is that they have so little of everything and whenever we would do a craft or activity, they never hesitated to offer us what they had made or their time. They were so loving and it really taught me more about God and the love He pours out into us.

~ Shauna Curtis - California Baptist University

Igor was mentally disabled, and therefore acted quite immature for his age. I prayed that God would draw him to Himself, and that he would understand what he would hear. One evening, he asked for a Bible, and about an hour later, he came to my room and knocked—Igor wanted me to come read the Bible with him! I was so excited! So I went with him and sat while he read aloud to me from his New Testament. During the last Bible study group, Natasha talked with the kids about salvation and asked if any would like to accept Jesus as their Savior. Igor was one of those! It was so amazing to see God at work!
~ Janine Atkinson - North Carolina

I met Valya a few days after camp but it was not until the next week when I ran into her in the girl's bathroom that we had a civil two-way, broken English, conversation. It was during that conversation that she told me about her family and the baby boy growing within her. Our conversation ended in a long hug and then she slipped off the black-beaded bracelet around her wrist and tightly secured it on mine. I promised her that my prayers for her and her baby would never cease and reminded her that she has a Heavenly Father who is watching out for her and wants a relationship with her that will last for eternity. Her eyes filled with tears and she said, "I love you, Shannon, and will never forget you and your God." ~

Shannon Tuohy - Seattle Pacific University



While physically things might have looked ok, spiritually and emotionally these kids CRIED OUT to be loved, listened to and valued as ordinary human beings. While the conditions of the camp were not what I expected, this was all in God's perfect plan for us. I shared my own growing up story with the kids and they were amazed by the many similarities in their lives. I could even see some hope in the older kids that managed to stay out of trouble, and I was always eager to hear their plans for the future.
~ Seth Gillespie - San Francisco, California



Little Lambs Ministry

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Return Service Requested

CONTAINER UPDATE

The next container is scheduled to be shipped late October, 2009. If you would be interested in helping us, we would be very blessed by your assistance. As usual we are looking for children's clothing, carepacks and peanut butter. However, our greatest need for this container is shoes. Collecting shoes would be an easy project for any church, small group or school class. If you would like flyers or more information on how to help with this need, please contact our staff here in Carol Stream. Thank you for your support and help as we continue to reach orphans in the former Soviet Union with the love of Jesus Christ.



We also want to share news about our container that was shipped to Moldova. We shipped it this past April, and it arrived in Chisinau in early July! Though there were a few bumps along the way, we praise God that it finally arrived there!

LITTLE LAMBS WELCOMES DAN AND IVANKA MYERS TO THE KIEV STAFF

Hi, We're Daniel and Ivanka Myers. We have been working in the Ukrainian orphanages for the past three years. Ivanka is Ukrainian and fluently speaks English and Ukrainian. I have been involved with Little Lambs since 2001 when my US church spent four weeks at a camp, and Ivanka has been involved with Little Lambs since 2005 as a translator. Our life mission is to work with youth in the orphanages, and over the past year felt God calling us towards Little Lambs Ministry. We are looking forward to our change in organizations and can't wait to serve our Savior even more.

~ Dan & Ivanka

