



Little Lambs Ministry

Fall 2011

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

Little Lambs Camps 2011



Little Lambs Mission

Statement

"Little Lambs Ministry is committed to provide the opportunity for abandoned children in the former Soviet

Union and Eurasia to accept Christ, to grow in faith, and to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society. Little Lambs is committed to assist churches in reaching the children for Christ."

Little Lambs Board

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Little Lambs Ministry is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit Christian corporation reaching out to orphaned children and assist churches in the former Soviet Union and Eurasia.



This summer has gone too fast! The camps are over and the teams are back, but the memories and the lives that were touched will live for a long time, some hopefully for eternity. We had six camps in Ukraine and ministered to six new orphanages. Over 1,000 orphans received love and hugs this summer. In the Onykivo camp in July we had 204 orphans from four different orphanages. What an amazing opportunity to work with 4 orphanages in one place! For the first time the orphanage workers worked alongside our leaders. At the end of camp they begged our volunteers to come back next summer. Even the camp director, after watching our volunteers said: "I never had volunteers who only give and don't ask for anything in return."

I am so proud of our teams. They did not only preach the Gospel, they lived the Gospel so children and workers could see the love of Jesus in them. Many children prayed to receive Jesus. Please join us in keeping those children in our prayers. Thank you for your support and your prayers for our ministry this summer.

Renate

Every summer and in every orphanage we are confronted with the stories of so many broken little lives. Although the stories are different most of them conclude with: "I want to have a family." When we arrived in Kirovograd's Onykivo Camp we met 204 children. It is typical in every camp that certain children especially catch your attention. This year there was a group of boys who looked tough and cool on the outside. They did not want to participate in any of the Camp activities and it seemed

to us that they did not care about anything. One evening I went to visit a few of those boys. I thought they would act the same as they do every day, but instead they were very talkative and told me their life's stories. Their stories were very similar: alcoholic parents, stepdad kicked them out and orphanage took them in. Then one boy said: "It was good at home." I asked him: "What was so good about it? You had nothing to eat, nothing to wear." He said: "I saw my mama everyday at home and now she can't ever call here, she has no money." I tried to picture his mother: an alcoholic woman who loves her booze more than she loves her son and does not even care to see him. And yet this boy still cares for her and every day he waits for her to come or call him. He remembers the time when he was at home, and though it was bad, at least he was still able to see his mama. I left the boys thinking about how often we are not content with our lives and choices. We always want more money, clothes, food or a new phone. This little boy was happy and content at home just because he was able to see his mother.

*Viktoria Gordienko
Camp Coordinator in Kiev*

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

Little Lambs Ministry - P.O. Box 87463 - Carol Stream, IL 60188 - (630)260-1947

Littlelambsusa@sbcglobal.net - www.Littlelambs.com

Reflections....

Memories....

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Memories....

It was a dream I never imagined I'd get to live out. We visit various orphanages to build relationships with kids and share God's love, and to help local Christians establish more of a long-term connection with the kids and staff, in ways we just can't. Planting and helping to water gospel seeds in these kids lives is often our only hope of ever seeing them again, when we are face to face with Jesus Himself! However, two days before flying to Kiev this summer, I was informed our



camp's location was changed to Shats'k... the first village I went to, five years ago! Some of the kids I'd worked with were now taller than me! It blessed me so much to hear some of their stories, and how the Lord has been working in their lives all this time, even without a camp since then. Please continue to pray for kids you've worked with, or children whose stories you've heard or pictures you've seen – the Lord is working and has not forgotten them!"

Amanda Blosser, Shatsk Camp

Leaving them was and is still so hard. I so badly want to be able to see them again and hug them and pray with them. I left a part of me with them and can't wait to see them again. A comfort that I have is the memory of our leader Andrey teaching us on the last day. He said, "Now we have to trust the Holy Spirit to do His work." I take comfort in knowing that God is with them.

*Mary Steenwyk,
Novomirgorod Camp*

When people ask how my mission trip to Ukraine was I tell them it was amazing. I think Andrey, our Ukrainian head team leader, explained it best. He said Jesus left Heaven with his Father and came down to earth because He loved us. And we too left our lovely homes, families and friends to come and live with the orphans because we loved them. This put everything into perspective, as we ministered to their spiritual needs and physical needs. To see their face light up after a skit or Christian movie or their smile when they got shoes and clothes was priceless. We gave our love and attention and they gave us back so much more-joy in serving them and our Lord. At my first mission trip with Little Lambs to Ukraine in 2000 I found my joy. I felt the Holy Spirit and He lit a fire in me to help others. I miss the orphans, their hugs in the morning and I know they miss us too, but I am comforted by the fact that now they have God in their life and He will be with them



always. It is so true that in giving we receive so much more in return.

*Natalie Cepynsky,
Novomirgorod
orphanage*

"...my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." These words from Isaiah gave me an assurance that no matter how or if I was able to communicate with the kids, God's words would not fail. Having a grasp on this truth allowed me to approach the kids with a boldness I did not expect. It did not take long for me to make a friendship with one of the older boys in my group named Kolya. Kolya is sixteen and has been in an orphanage for eleven years. On the second day of camp, we were playing a game that required the American volunteers to stand at different stations around the camp. I found myself way in the back of camp, not entirely sure how the game worked, and with no means of communicating with the children that would come to my station. Just as I was feeling rather uneasy Kolya walked up to me. He asked how I was, I answered, and then, our conversation was over because that was basically the extent of his English. But as we stood together a



peace came over me. Then I saw a group of kids running toward me. I was about to be swarmed by children yelling at me in Ukrainian and sticking their hands in my face, wanting the game's card, when Kolya stepped in front of me and put out his arms to keep the kids from rushing me. After the children ran off to the next station Kolya looked at me as if to say, "I've got your back." After not much more than a day of knowing one another, we had a deep trust of one another. It did not take long for me to know that the Spirit of God was within Kolya. He was a light for me on the trip. Our relationship is my highlight. His kindness, quiet service, and ability to stand up for the right thing, whatever the cost inspired me. Kolya has been dealt a rough hand in life, but he looks for joy and is an example of Jesus Christ for the other orphans of Kirovograd. I am honored to know him, and I look forward to seeing his smiling face again in the throne room as we praise our Father together.

Tia Millikan, Onykivo camp

Reflections.... Memories....

God worked in my heart to see, feel and live life with these orphans. I know better how to advocate for them at home and how to

pray for them. A few of the children will be forever ingrained in my mind. Luda is four years old. It took a few days for her to warm up to me but eventually we were talking and laughing together. Seeing joy in her eyes was a beautiful gift for me. Victoria was one of the girls most picked on. I called her



my sunshine. We talked about God and heaven, Jesus and life. She was my precious little shadow. Vitally was an amazing little boy! He was so good at soccer,

drawing, art and every craft we put in front of him! When we left I just held him and we both cried for a long time. I miss him dearly. Without Little Lambs I would have never known what I know now. I will never be the same after this summer.

*Cassie Ransleben,
Novomirgorod Camp*

One day a little 3 year old boy came up to our director and said to him:

“Andrey could you to be my dad today?” The other little kids around this boy said to him: “You know that he cannot be your dad! He is not your real dad!” But this boy said back to them, “I know that he is not my real dad! But I still want him to pretend to be my dad just for today.” So Andrey stayed close to him that day, held him and took his hand as they walked. What these children want more than anything is to be a part of a family. I believe that the children I met in Ukraine have not been abandoned by God. For God has said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18. And yet, that promise is not yet fulfilled. So we find ourselves in this place of waiting for God’s promises and receiving them simultaneously. As we seek to love the children and one another I believe we take part in the fulfilling of His promises.

Christy Hemstreet, Onykivo Camp



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Summer VBS Projects helping the church planters

Exciting News From Eurasia

During the months of June, July and August LLM and the Bible League of Canada have been working together with many church planters in Armenia, Romania, Belarus, Russia, Serbia and Moldova helping them organize VBS camps. In all of these countries children are often left to themselves with little to do during the summer and the interesting and exciting programs were welcomed by many. This new ministry program was a great hit. We were able to help our partners in Eurasia to organize

289 camps with a total attendance of over 12,000 children. The thrilling thing is that the children not only had fun, but many of them met their Savior Jesus Christ in the process.

Pray for wisdom for the church planters and hundreds of their assistant volunteers as they organize the ongoing discipleship programs during the following months for those who started to attend churches as a result of this program now. From places where the camps are already over we hear that many of the children started to attend Sunday school

classes and even many of their parents came to church. Praise God! Pray that the fruits of the labor of these church planters and lay leaders may be persevered for eternity!



Return Service Requested

Letter from the orphanages



Our Dear friends!

This is a sad and happy moment of saying "goodbye" for you, our dear counsellors. you became so close to us. We'll never forget days spent with your sincere smiles, friendly hugs, warm words will warm our hearts for a long time. This summer will be unforgettable for us. We'll remember interesting game trips, crafts time, sport competitions, presents, sweets. Our hearts were filled with love, mercy, friendship thanks to you. We are so thankful that you've left us parts of your hearts. We wish you health, happiness, inspiration, good luck. Let fire of God's grace never fade in your eyes.

Thank you! (together)

Thank you dear volunteers
You are sent by God
Every day and every minute
Every day and every minute
you could have kids souls
you found key for every kid
in this camp.
For sure it wasn't easy
sometimes.
Kids and we are so grateful
for your love and affection
you were first to help, share
joy and pain.
That's why we can hear
kids laugh everywhere.
Games, competitions, entertain
shoes, clothes were grate.
But the most precious for us
were your smiles and warm
words you generously gave
Have a nice trip and let
all your kindness be multiplied
for you.
We want to say you a lot
nice things.
We are sure we will miss you
See you later!
Administration and teachers of
the camp "Forest song".

Our next container November 15, 2011

Dear friends, thank you so much for all your donations of clothes, shoes and care packages. Those items make a big difference in the orphans lives and open doors for Little Lambs Ministry to many orphanages. THANK YOU! Thank you for praying for this program. For the first time, our last container arrived at our warehouse in Kiev with the original seal that we had put on here in Carol Stream. God protected this shipment! Thank you Jesus!



Our next container is scheduled for November 15. We have received a donation of 16 pallets of new hats, gloves and scarves from friends in MN. The items are amazing and will make great Christmas gifts for thousands of orphans. Thank you so very much! We still need shoes and care packages. So please if you are able and like to help look for great back to school sales to help the orphans. Thank you for caring for the children.



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littl lambsusa@sbcglobal.net
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