

LITTLE LAMBS MINISTRY

Winter Camp Update 2011—2012

This winter we held six camps in Ukraine. A team of five volunteers from the U.S. went to help with one camp, but the rest were lead by Ukrainians only! As we look back on 20 years of ministry in Ukraine it is amazing to see the growing number of Ukrainians and orphan graduates that are leading these camps. We thank God for the way he works to bring healing and restoration to lives of so many children in Ukraine. Thank you to those of you that helped to finance the cost of the camps and Ukrainian volunteers. We are grateful for your partnership!

20 Years Later - Children from the first Little Lambs Camps Returning as Leaders

An amazing thing has recently been happening in the ministry. Children that we met at our first camps in 1992 and many of the children that lived in the first Little Lambs Home in Rovno are helping to lead the summer and winter camps in Ukraine! One of those graduates is Ruslan Haag. He was adopted to the U.S. at 14 and returned to Ukraine nearly 13 years later to help with our winter camps last month. Here is what he wrote about his experience:

What a joy it was for me to partner with the American and the Ukrainian team this winter as we all purposed to share the love of Christ with the children of Mala Vyska orphanage. My favorite memory from the trip was when we put together a special show for the kids and celebrated New Years with them. I will never forget those special moments with the kids as they were receiving new clothing, shoes and gifts. Leaving the kids was very tough, but I know that there is nothing that we could ever do for them that would outweigh what God can perform in their life. That's why we need to constantly pray for the children. Those kids need to know that they are loved and valued by God and that their life means something. So many of the older kids have a difficult time believing that their life actually has value. I am praying that God with His Holy Spirit will continue to transform their hearts, minds, and souls.

Ruslan Haag, Mala Vyska Orphanage

Here are some other stories from the camps:

For me personally, the camp was very special and very blessed and throughout the process I have seen God really guide. Our team needed enough gifts for 70 children at the orphanage. A week before we were to leave for the camp only a few people had responded to our request for help with these gifts. Then five days before the trip more packages appeared with socks, toys, and chocolates. Particularly memorable was when my grandmother brought gifts for the children and she told me that my grandfather has specifically wrapped the socks as a present for one of the children. When you see the kindness and genuine participation by outsiders in the lives of orphans, the heart fills with joy and you say indeed, "I want to live!"

Ukrainian volunteer, Uditsy Orphanage

Vova, a boy of 13 shared with me how kids at school had told him that he was too stupid to learn anything. He told me that after they said those things to him he decided at that point that he was going to do whatever he wanted and he didn't care if it hurt people. He said that he knew he was stubborn and hurtful but he just didn't know how to stop. We talked about how we have the power to either destroy or to build in this life. Vova said that he thought he was only capable of destroying things in this life. I told him that I didn't think that was true and that our friendship was proof of that. I spoke to him about God's love for us and how it allows us to love those around us. When I returned home I had a note from our Ukrainian translator about Vova. She said he was asking questions like "What does it mean that God is waiting and is He here with us but we can't see Him...?" Than at the last Bible lesson of the camp the leaders prayed with the kids and 5 or 7 kids prayed and asked for forgiveness of their sins and Vova was one of those kids who prayed.

Christy Hemstreet, Mala Vyska Orphanage

Many of these children can be seen like the remnants of Jerusalem in Nehemiah. They have been destroyed by their parents or family. They have been shamed by being forgotten and abused. But just how Nehemiah rebuilt the wall in Jerusalem we can help to rebuild the lives of these children. We can rebuild brick by brick—with every conversation, distribution of new shoes, warm clothing, and time spent playing, another brick is added. Most importantly though, when we choose to pray for these children many more bricks are added and the Lord also comes to strengthen and protect their life.

We want to thank you for all of your prayers and support this past year—because you choose to step out and help us, the lives and hearts of so many children were changed!



Ruslan Haag, Mala Vyska Orphanage



Join us this summer: 2012 Summer Camps in Ukraine!

Little Lambs has always had a commitment to come alongside Ukrainians and empower them to meet the needs of the children living in orphanages in their own country. Now, we have the unique opportunity to come along side orphan graduates that are returning to the camps in order to share their story with children that are growing up in orphanages just as they had. It is incredible to watch the graduates such as Ruslan speak to the children about what it was like for them growing up in the orphanage and what life is like now that they are out on their own. The graduates speak to the children about the difficulties that still lay ahead for them, but also about the love and strength they can find in Jesus and the hope they can have for a life.

The graduates are a living example of the value of investing in the lives of each child living in the orphanage. The camps are still such a vital part of our ministry. Please consider being a part of this life changing experience this summer and join us in Ukraine!

Dates: July 15 - 31 and August 1 - 15

Cost: \$2300

Download the application [here!](#)



Zolo Home Update

In our last newsletter we wrote to you about Sergey and Sveta's struggle to obtain foster care rights for a group of four siblings. Last month, those siblings that they have been fighting for, were finally able to move into their home! Sergey and Sveta have been able to take in all four children at once, including the oldest girl that has cerebral palsy. The picture on the far left is of Sergey with the youngest girl, Sonja. In the right-hand picture, Sasha is in the striped shirt, Anya is the oldest and, Tanya is in the yellow.

Thank you for the support you have given to the building up of this home, both financially and by your prayers. Please continue to pray for Sergey and Sveta as they now care for six children.

We would like to send a new wheelchair to Anya. If you have a youth-sized wheelchair that you are able to donate please let us know!



Container Update

Thank you for your prayers for the container. We are expecting it arrive in Ukraine any day! Please pray that the customs process would go smoothly and that none of the items in the container would be removed as it waits for clearance.