A PUBLICATION TO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF GOD'S HIDDEN TREASURES

# **News From GHT**

AUGUST 2014



By Nita Hanson

#### God's Faithfulness

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Every year when our annual city-wide picnic comes, God gives us an opportunity to grow our faith! And He spreads that opportunity to many people in our city from the mature Christians to the new Christians and to those who don't know Him yet.

In the 14 years we've been doing this, we've only had rain once - and the people came anyway. Now you have to realize that this is a group of people who live much of their lives in fear of the weather. If it's cold, they won't go out - if it's too hot, they won't go out - if the wind is blowing too much, they won't go out - and especially if it's raining or supposed to rain, they won't go out!

But God has been at work teaching all of them (and us) a new thing. For God is faithful and worthy to be trusted in ALL circumstances. And no matter the outward evidence, if we believe and trust in Him, He will make a way where there is no way.

This year was no different. The weather forecast for the 10 days leading up to the picnic was for it to rain. And every day the chance of rain increased.

As I drove to the park, it began to sprinkle and before I got there it was raining. **The picnic hadn't even started and it was raining**. I must admit to getting a little bit down.

Then my staff told me that many people were calling to say that they weren't coming. How awesome to hear my staff reminding people of God's faithfulness throughout the years, even asking them how they could worry when God has provided EVERY year!



God has been busy sprinkling faith & hope among my staff!







Once again we had so many volunteers from the local churches, that the meal was served in record time. The food was wonderful. And it was cooked by The Boy's House Orphanage.





The entertainment was fantastic. Pastor Scott led the kids from our camp in many fun songs and everyone got infected with their joy. We even had a professional mime perform for us.





The next day my staff asked me if I knew when the sun had come out. I said no, I wasn't aware of when, just that it had. They said that when I began to speak about God's faithfulness in the midst of terrible times, the sun broke through the clouds! How amazing is our God!



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By Nita Hanson

#### **Pastor Scott**

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news." (Isaiah 52:7)

In June Pastor Scott Yount joined the staff of God's Hidden Treasures. Many of you have read some of Scott's articles written after he came with The Sending Place to put on our annual camp for the disabled kids and their moms.

I like to call Scott the Christian "Pied Piper" as he has such a special gift with all the kids. Wherever Scott is you will find kids surrounding him and basking in the wonderful and genuine love he has for them.





Last year when Scott told me that he felt called to Ukraine full time, he talked about a dream he had to have the Ukrainian people put on the camp and the VBS at the Boys House. Well, that became a reality quicker than he or I could have foreseen!

This year was the first time that God's Hidden Treasures didn't have any mission teams come. We understood that, due to the war in the East of Ukraine and the constant threat of being invaded by Russia, it was not prudent for them to come. But it left such a void in our hearts as we missed seeing our good friends and meeting new ones.

Scott stepped up to the challenge of putting on the summer camp, using all Ukrainian volunteers (with the exception of one American from Iowa). The Sending Place generously provided the funds for the camp and Scott's church in Iowa, the crafts and all the other supplies needed. Not only that, Scott's Ukrainian team put on the VBS at The Boys House orphanage, again with the assistance of Scott's church in Iowa. See Scott's article for more. Needless to say he and his team did a wonderful job!

### God is Able

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"

For many years now I've been coming to Ukraine in the summers. I've had many opportunities to share with people about what I do there and the ministry of God's Hidden Treasures (GHT). Every time I told people I was going to Ukraine the reaction was always the same: "Where is that?" "Is that Russia?" However, this year as I told people I would be going to Ukraine, the reaction was a little different: "Are you crazy?" "It is a war zone!"

I knew it would be a challenge. This summer we wouldn't have any American teams coming to run the camp for handicapped children in Volodarka or the VBS for children at the boys' orphanage in Bila Tserkva. However, both Nita and I had an idea that we could run both with teams of Ukrainians. A friend of mine, Greg Wood (a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa) was willing to come this summer and help out with the camp and the annual summer picnic for the disabled.

#### Camp

The team's willingness to do the tasks that needed to be done for camp blew me away. They did an excellent job with the kids and were able to minister to the children in a powerful way. The passage in Ephesians that tells us God is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine proved itself true once again for me this summer.



Ukraine Team



Water Fight

Even with the challenge of a whole team of first-time Ukrainian volunteers (many of them disabled young people who had attended camp in years past), God was able to work in powerful ways. Our team of young Ukrainians was willing to step up out of their comfort zones and do whatever tasks I assigned them to do. We even had two 7-year-old volunteers on our team who would pray for our meals. Luba, who was put in charge of the mother's Bible studies, did a wonderful job with all the moms. One of our new mothers came to faith in our camp for the first time through the hearing of God's Word in our camp.



Camp 2014

God worked as much on the hearts of our volunteers as he did the kids in the camp. This summer I had asked two young men from our team to lead the Bible study on the third day. One of them was Sergei, who began attending the camps when he was II. Another one was Alexsei who came as a helper for his special-needs cousin, Anya, last year. I told them what passage they would be doing and read through the story with them. I could tell they were really nervous and didn't feel like they knew enough to teach the children.

They did such a terrific job. They even asked if they could lead another one! Seeing the growth in these two men has touched me so much. Both of them would also help out two weeks later at the VBS for the Boys' House orphanage.



## VBS at the Boys' House Orphanage

I will never cease to be amazed at how close you can become to someone in just one week. Just being there with these kids meant so much to them. Every day we would get endless hugs and high fives as we left. GHT has been working at this orphanage for many years and it was great to see how well these kids know the Bible. God has worked powerfully to change this orphanage to a place where these kids are looked after and educated by teachers who truly care.



VBS at Boys' House



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#### **Picnic**

The other major event for this summer was the GHT annual picnic. I spent the morning going out with two guys in a van to pick up people in wheelchairs all over the city and help bring them to Alexandria Park. This was my first time at the picnic. It was amazing how many people with disabilities were able to gather together and get out of their homes for a time of fellowship and worship.

My favorite part was getting to see all my kids from camp and gathering them together to form one super band to sing our worship songs for all the people.



Even with all the challenges we faced this summer and all the challenges Ukraine has faced as a nation, God did immeasurably more than I could have imagined.

Nowhere do we see what God was able to do for us than at the cross. Through one man who was born a little peasant child in a manger in a small insignificant town - a man who never had any wealth or worldly possessions - a man whose followers were a band of nobodies and misfits - a man who died a wretched criminal's death on an old rugged cross, God was able to bring forgiveness and salvation to all who believe in Jesus Christ and confess him as their Lord.

This God will continue to outdo our expectations and bless people through the power of His Word, and through the willingness of servants like our Ukrainian team and through generous supporters like you.



God's Hidden Treasures P.O. Box 4276 San Clemente, CA 92674 www.godshiddentreasures.org

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God's Hidden Treasures is a ministry that serves the needs of the poor, the disabled and the orphaned of Ukraine and brings God's love through personal relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.