

News From GHT



By Nita Hanson

God's Provision for our "boys"

It was already January and we had no team for the annual Vacation Bible School for the Boy's House for the mentally retarded. What could we do? The boys would be so disappointed. The team presenting VBS is an event they look forward to all year long. It was too late to ask Impact if perhaps they could send a team – all the destinations had long been determined.

As I prayed and petitioned the Lord, He gave me a sense of peace. I knew that I was not to make any additional efforts to get a team, but just wait on Him. Toward the end of February I received an e-mail from Bree, the Director of Impact, asking if there was any possibility God's Hidden Treasures could host a team in July. The ministry hosting the Impact team in Romania had had to cancel the trip. I e-mailed Bree back and said, "I see God's hand all over this one. How soon can we meet?" We met a couple of days later and within one hour had put together a trip.

Once again, the Lord showed me that He is never too early or too late! And what a wonderful team He provided. They touched everyone's heart with their message of love. See Rose's story on pages 4-5.



L to R: Katie, Lindsey, Faith, Quincey, Andy, Rose, and Bill.

Picnic

E-mail from Nita, the day of the annual Picnic

Another beautiful day dawned for our 11th annual picnic. We had been praying not only for no rain but for cooler temperatures and a slight breeze. Of course it was predicted to rain today - what's new!! Yesterday was so very hot - over 90 and a high humidity too. Suddenly last night a cool breeze came up out of no where and in 5 minutes the temperature dropped about 10 degrees. I knew that was God's promise for our day today!

We had a wonderful day! God's beautiful day for so many grateful people who came to be honored for at least 1 day in the year! Thank you Lord! There was NO rain (of course!!) and while the temperature was still high, strangely enough, it was cooler in the Park and we had a "slight breeze" just as we had been praying for.





Impact Team

By Rose Patch
Templeton Presbyterian

In the month of July a mission team from Impact Missions; a missions organization for Santa Barbara, California Presbytery, traveled to Ukraine to work with Nita Hanson's, "God's Hidden Treasures." The mission was to teach a one week vacation Bible school at the Boy's House Orphanage and to assist with GHT's wheelchair ministry and stroke rehabilitation ministry. The team consisted of five students and two adults: Bill Crout, Rose Patch, Faith Stephen, Katie Wright, Lindsey O'Tousa, Quincey Ornellas, and Andrew Tingley, all of whom brought different talents and backgrounds to the mission group.

On arrival in Ukraine our team went immediately to the Boy's House to observe the facilities for the vacation Bible school we would host that week. Our team was excited and eager to meet the boys; however it appeared that the boys were just as eager to meet us. As we walked through the beautifully painted steel gates of the Boy's House we were greeted by a handful of the boys we would be spending the week with.



What we didn't know at that time was how much each of these boys would teach us and how they would steal our hearts. Our VBS had a bug theme and as we sang together, played games, and shared Bible stories we got to see the boys in full character. We learned their stories and so enjoyed their talents. What a joyful week we had together!

We were challenged emotionally and inspired by the work that God is doing through God's Hidden Treasures' staff and volunteers. Throughout our mission Nita shared many stories about how God is working in her ministry and we were in awe of her vision. Nita and her staff of kind and hard working people hosted a daily lunch where we all met before heading out to our home visits. Every day we sat in the order of Ukrainian, American, Ukrainian, American and although we didn't always have the same language we all knew we were there sharing the company of people working for an important and common cause. Our team enjoyed trying to sing along as we ended our lunch with a beautiful Ukrainian song of prayer and thanks.

Many of our home visits brought us to the hundreds of towering apartment buildings covering the city. During these visits we went to the homes of people who were in need of mobility aids as well as stroke victims in need of assistance with rehabilitation exercises. Many stroke patients had been sent home from the hospital with the chances of minimal recovery. The patients we saw were given hope and were making progress in their recovery with the prayers and treatment they received from God's Hidden Treasures. At the end of one particular visit we were honored by a ceremonious walk down to the front entrance of a gentleman's apartment building. The gentleman who was confined to bed from a stroke just six months before stood proudly with his wife and his cane. As we stood with him saying our goodbyes and I peered up at the towering building, I visualized the hundreds of people who still needed a second chance at hope and recovery. At that moment I think I understood what Nita saw when she first came to Ukraine. There is a tremendous need, and what is happening in her ministry and in each visit was so incredibly valuable.

Reflecting on the time we spent in Ukraine I would like to share Psalms 147:3, "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." The ministry we did in Ukraine not only healed the people we worked with physically, but it gave them the support of fellowship and prayer. There will always be a place in our hearts for this ministry as well as for the boys at the Boy's House. Some of us will return and others know that there is a plan in our future for the lessons and experiences we had at God's Hidden Treasures.



The team on a home visit

Summer Campers' Team

PAGE 6

By Pastor Scott Yount

Bila Tserkva and Volodarka, Ukraine



Team members Top L to R: Phyllis McGuire, Judy Brown, Janet Deuel, Mike Orteiza, Barbara Britton, Scott Yount

A seminary professor once told me “God sometimes calls you to do things you do not want to do ... well get over it!” For many people an overseas mission trip can fit into that category. Their minds fill with images of remote places, obscure foods, and unforgiving accommodations. With this in mind, I wanted to share my experience this past June in Ukraine working with the ministry of God’s Hidden Treasures (GHT). In our two weeks there, God accomplished some amazing things.

Departing on my journey from Waterloo, Iowa, I linked with the rest of my mission team at the Munich airport before heading off to Kiev. From Kiev we traveled to Bila Tserkva where we stayed with our host Slava and his family. This family truly blessed us with their gift of hospitality. They provided us with wonderful rooms to stay in and some delicious meals. (Slava’s sister is an excellent cook!)

Our first week provided us with some exciting ministry opportunities. With some of the GHT staff we visited homes of people with various needs. With Dr. Tamara and Luba we visited recovering stroke victims. We had the opportunity to provide encouragement as we participated in rehabilitation exercises with them. Through Scripture we shared with them the hope found in Jesus Christ. Each visitation ended with a prayer led by a different team member.

There were many powerful moments on our trip. People were so grateful that we were willing to travel so far to come to their homes and spend time with them. Many of the people we visited had significantly improved since their last visit by Nita’s staff. In the homes we visited we saw lots of need and lots of hurting. God is bringing tremendous healing to the people of Ukraine through GHT’s ministry.

Of all our experiences that first week, nothing compared to seeing bed ridden people regain their mobility through the gift of a wheelchair. These gifts are received with tears of joy. It was very humbling being in the room and being thanked by hugs and kisses from family members. The wheelchair and stroke rehabilitation ministries of GHT are just a fraction of all they do. Their other ministries include outreach to orphanages, diabetics, handicapped children and many more.

The second week of our trip was dedicated to running a camp for children with various disabilities. We had 25 wonderful campers each accompanied by a parent or grandparent. All of these children face extreme challenges in their lives. Living in a wheel chair in Ukraine is not easy. The ability to get around is very limited by the poor roads and lack of elevators in many buildings. For many of the children this camp is the highlight of their year.

NEWS FROM GHT

This year some of our campers were struggling with the death of their friend Vika. She had attended the camp on my first trip to Ukraine back in 2007 and taught me my very first Ukrainian words. Vika's warm smile and kindness blessed many people. Our team held a memorial service for her which took place in the midst of a powerful thunderstorm. During the service we not only shared memories of her life but also proclaimed to the children God's wonderful promises in the midst of our mourning: He is our refuge and strength an ever present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1), that He hears our prayers and encourages us to cast all of our anxieties upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). Most importantly, God showed His love for us in sending His son Jesus Christ that whoever believes in him might have eternal life (John 3:16).



Pastor Scott Yount and campers

Low self-esteem and loneliness are issues many children deal with. For handicapped children, especially those in wheel chairs, the struggle is even worse. They are isolated and not able to leave their flats very often. Satan and the world tell them that they do not fit in and that they have no value. Encouraging these children with the hope of the Gospel became our focal point for the week. We wanted to get the across the message that they were treasures in God's eyes. Their lives were so valuable to God that He was willing to pay the greatest price of all, that of His son Jesus Christ.

God worked in powerful ways our last night of camp. Nita Hanson, the founder of God's Hidden Treasures shared a potent message about fighting against the darkness of Satan and his lies with the light of Christ. That night many of the children and their parents confessed Jesus Christ as Lord, repented and asked God to remove the darkness of sin from their hearts with the light of Christ. Later that night each camper received an award and was told by a member of our team in Ukrainian "You are not alone, Jesus loves you and so do I." Many hugs were given and tears were shed as we said good bye that night and the following morning.

I will never cease to be amazed by how much God was working on our trip. His plans for our team were far greater than what I could have imagined. Christ in Mathew 28:19 calls us to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." It is my hope that you would prayerfully consider going on a mission trip as well as supporting others who are willing to go. Most of all, pray for God's Hidden Treasures and that the Lord would continue to provide for their ministry and use them to bring healing and the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Ukraine.



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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN CLEMENTE, CA
PERMIT NO. 191

Return Service Requested

Opportunities for Involvement

I would like to:

- Join the prayer team. Put me on the e-mail list to receive prayerr requests.
- Make a monthly contribution.
- Make a special donation.
- Invite Nita to speak in Sep/Oct 2011.
- Receive my News From G.H.T by e-mail
- Sponsor a Family

Please mail to:
GHT
P.O. Box 4276
San Clemente, CA 92674

Name _____
Contact info _____

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.