

BEHIND THE WALLS

“An Outreach to the Orphan Children and Children at Risk in the Former Soviet Union”

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to share a brief update in addition to my last newsletter to you that I sent out in September. If you have not see it it is now posted on my website.

I had mentioned in the past the building we have in Suhinichi as a future rehab center site. At the present this building is being used as a church of about 12 members as well as a place to minister to about 10 children. It still needs much repair but at the present moment the greatest need there is a heating system. Since the weather has become colder, everyone has had to meet in small apartments and it is not very comfortable or convenient. We have priced a woodstove system for this building and it will come to a total of about 800 or 900 dollars. If anyone could possibly help financially with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Last week a Russian friend and helper of mine, Igor, travelled to an old city in Russia called Tarussa. We went there to see a few orphan kids that have left the orphanage and have gone on to further study. This place is sort of like a trade school. As I have mentioned in the past, once a teenager leaves the orphanage, this becomes a very difficult and dangerous time for them. Most do not have the knowledge or skills to survive alone in the outside world. We met the director there and she told us that there were 63 orphan children there that have many needs. I was surprised to hear of so many. I was also surprised that I saw a few kids that I have known from different orphanages in the Kaluga region. Many of them have no family whatsoever. Many times I feel so helpless due to the fact that I want to be able to help everyone of these kids. My first concern is always their spiritual needs, to teach them about a personal relationship with God, as well as to try and help them with their physical needs. I know that through prayer and trusting in God to work through us is the only way we can really reach these kids. Only a relationship through Christ can bring healing to all of their spiritual wounds. We are going to try to meet with an evangelical Pastor that Igor knows from this city and talk to him about the possibility of starting an outreach ministry to the orphan teenagers at this school.

Last week I had a team of students come down from Moscow to perform a drama show at a local orphanage I have been going to for 6 years now. (Boarding School #1) The age range of these kids performing the show were 12 to 16. They were from the “Slavic Anglo American School” in Moscow. This was possible due to the fact that I have become friends with the Principal of this school, a Russian lady, who has expressed a great interest in my work here in Kaluga. Her students are from “well off” families and she wanted to expose them and to “open their eyes” to children on the outside world that are much worse off than they are. After this visit SAAS school in Moscow wants to become more involved in helping this Boarding School in the future.

The last thing I will mention is that I had also wrote to you in the past about 2 young ladies from two different churches here that have begun the “Life Skills Training” in the orphanages. This teaching is designed to teach the kids that will soon leave the orphanage to be able to survive on the outside world. We have since added a new orphanage to this program and we hope to add one or two more soon. Last week we started this teaching in Kondrovo Childrens Home and will continue to do this on a weekly basis.

God is doing many great things here but there are also many obstacles to overcome. Please continue keep me in your prayers that God will continue to open the right doors and continue to give me clear direction of what I am supposed to do. Sometimes I seem to want to go off in 20 different directions and I know I need to stay focused and to pray and hear HIS voice and go only in the direction that the Lord will lead me.

I again want to thank you all once again for your financial support and your prayers. God Bless you all!



A few of the teenage girls from Kondrovo Orphanage involved in the “Life Skills” training. This will teach them how to survive on the outside world. This training is taught using christian based principles.



Some of the kids after the drama show performance put on by the Moscow students.



Boarding School # 1 just prior to start of Drama Show.



Igor with some of the kids after the performance.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6